

# \*media release\*



MAY 2005

## HINDUSTANI VOCAL: Piu Sarkhel and Amit Mukerjee (double bill)

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The real Indian music is to be found in the voice – the basis for all music in India. Hindustani vocal music is recognised for its incredible virtuosity, technique, intonation and melodic beauty. To listen to these two first class singers of North Indian Classical music is an experience not to be missed, one which can be spiritually uplifting as well as awesome. Both artists sing in the Amir Khan *gayaki*, a tradition named after the legendary late Ustad Amir Khan.



**Piu Sarkhel** has been making an impressive impact on discerning audiences everywhere. She is one of the rare artists who represents the Indore gharana - made so famous by her own musical mentor the magnificent USTAD AMIR KHAN. It is by way of paying a tribute to that most outstanding of musicians of India that Piu is performing in the UK. Her father – Sri Kamal Bannerjee was a close associate and beloved disciple of the late Ustad Amir Khan for more than twenty years. Amir Khan used to stay with her family thus giving the young Piu a unique opportunity to listen to the Ustad and imbibing his style and technique. Her father was uniquely placed to teach the young Piu and train her into this beautiful Amirkhani style but at the same allowing her talent to develop its own personality. Piu is blessed with a tuneful voice and is very “*surila*” indeed: in the true Amirkhani tradition she has a certain graceful steadiness in her rendition based on “*badat*” and “*vistar*” – the step by step development of the *raag*- contrasted by powerful “*sargams*” (solfege) and “*taans*” (fast passages).

**Amit Mukerjee** was trained by Shri Shankar Mazumdar, a senior disciple of the legendary late USTAD AMIR KHAN. He was fortunate to have listened to the maestro practice and talk about music, and in this way Amit Mukherjee was able to grasp the essence of Ustad Amir Khan’s unique style. This style was characterised by abstract expression, the development of the music based on the concept of “*merukhand*”, “*sargams*” and “*taans*” and was intellectually invigorating. Amit Mukherjee had his own personal approach to the music he learnt and has received much praise and acclaim for his performances. He is a regular broadcaster on radio and television and has toured all over the world. He is currently the Executive Director of the ITC Sangeet Research Academy (SRA) in Kolkata.



For further information, interviews and photos please contact:

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## Notes to the Editor:

SUN 15 MAY 5pm	<b>ESSEX</b> James Hornsby School	Box Office 01702 715 843
SAT 21 MAY 8pm	<b>BATH INTERNATIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL</b> Guildhall <a href="http://www.bathmusicfest.org.uk">www.bathmusicfest.org.uk</a>	Box Office 01225 463 362
MON 23 MAY 7.30pm	<b>LONDON – LITTLE CHILLI FESTIVAL</b> Purcell Room	Box Office 08703 800 400

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