

0370.12.6

THE MAGIC SHEHNAI OF BISMILLAH KHAN

Of all the Indian indigenous musical instruments "Shehnai" a wind instrument similar to the oboe in tone but having seven holes on its staff in place of keys has perhaps the sweetest tone. Its music is very closely associated since times immemorial with the temple music of India and it has therefore the widest appeal to the masses. Possibly for the same reason the music of shehnai is an essential accessory to most Indian weddings and other auspicious occasions.

Bismillah Khan who gives two brilliant expositions on this disc is widely acknowledged as the finest shehnai player in India today. He has reached the pinnacle of fame after years of hard work and determined effort, and the crowning achievement of his art came earlier this year when the President of the Indian Union conferred on this celebrated artiste the title of Padma Shri.

Born in a small place in India forty six years ago, Bismillah Khan's musical years past made his home in situated on the banks of the river Ganges that as a youngster he was famous for his art of shehnai playing by his own hand. He was a shehnai player at the time of the Temple. Later he attracted thousands of people by playing in concerts, on the Radio, and today there is no concert or conference where he does not perform.

Bismillah Khan is equally brilliant in classical, or popular melody. In his second L.P. release he offers a performance which will provide a rich experience.

SIDE ONE

RAGA POORIA DHANASHRI

This is an evening melody and is sprightly in character. This "raga" permits all the seven notes of the scale in the ascent and descent. The second and the sixth notes (Re and Dha respectively) are flat and the fourth note (Ma) is sharp. The frequent use of the phrase Ma-Ga-Re-Ga distinguishes this "raga" from other "ragas" having the same notes. The artiste starts the exposition with a short "alap" or invocation and goes on to give a masterly performance of the basic theme in a rhythm consisting of 16 equal beats ("matras") known as "Teental". Throughout the performance the artiste's brilliant workmanship and astonishing control on his blowing are evident.

SIDE TWO

RAGA BHAIRAVI

Bhairavi is essentially a morning melody. All the notes of the scale are permissible in this "raga". It is rendered to render this "raga" as the concluding note of the day regardless of the hour. Its mood is serene and theme and treatment accorded to it is in keeping with the spirit of the day. The artiste's exposition is on the classical form, in a rhythm of 16 equal beats and the performance is replete with variety from the lighthearted to the serene.

"Cover Photo : Dhiraj Chawda"



REGD TRADE MARK OF
THE GRAMOPHONE CO. LTD

LONG PLAY 33 ¹/₃ R.P.

Manufactured By
THE GRAMOPHONE COMPANY
(Incorporated in England with limited liability)
DUM DUM • INDIA