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> ### Nikhil Banerjee DISCOGRAPHY (LPs and CDs).mws
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Mohan Nadkarni began his ILLUSTRATED WEEKLY OF INDIA, MARCH 9, 1986 assessment of Nikhil Banerjee

- An August Requiem (https://mohannadkarni.org/an-august-requeim/) - as follows:

" *What is it that makes most of us – especially those of my generation – claim that Nikhil Banerjee was a cut above all other sitar virtuosi of our time?* "

and ended his substantial analysis thus:

"*The half-a-dozen commercial discs he has cut for the Gramophone Company of India are now all that we have to cherish and preserve as mementos of his greatness and, let me say it again, of the best sitar maestro of our time.*"

Happily this is no longer the case, as there are very many commercial recordings - LPs, cassettes, CDs - now available, not to mention a huge number of Youtube recordings that individuals have posted over the years (I am not going to name them, leaving it to interested persons to seek out themselves):

A list of all my Nikhil Banerjee LPs (with dates/places on which/where I bought them, or was gifted them), CDs, and just one cassette recording:

1. *Malkauns* and *Hem Lalit*, Kanai Dutt (*tabla*).

EASD 1318. Gramophone Company of India (1967).

Bought on 30 Dec. 1981. London.

Autographed by Nikhil Banerjee - here in our home - on Saturday 22nd June 1985.

When Nikhil Banerjee was here with us (he and his family dined with us after his concert on FRiday 21st June 1985, and had lunch here with us the following day) he sat in a chair just beside some of my record collection.

Of course I couldn't resist asking him to autograph some of his recordings, *some but not all*, as I didn't want to have him spend much time signing his name.

I have been asked over the years: *did you take any photographs of him in your home*? And the simple answer is I didn't; I didn't as I didn't want to intrude into his life. Of course I took photos of his dear sister Swati and niece Sheema, but they were different. They had slept here in out home for two nights, and were - by the time they left on the morning of Sunday 23rd June - family members. Those photos are up in my NIkhil Banerjee tribute page:

https://johnbcosgrave.com/archive/Nikhil_Banerjee.htm

2. *Piloo.* Anindo Chatterjee (*tabla*) and Ratan Mukherjee (*tanpura*).

ESP 165504. Sonodisc (1978).

Bought on 17 April 1982. London.

3. *Desh*. Anindo Chatterjee (*tabla*) and Ratan Mukherjee (*tanpura*).

ESP 165540. Sonodisc (1980).

Bought 17 April 1982. London.

4. *Momomanjeri*, *Manj Khamaj*, and a Bengal Folk Tune.

Anindo Chatterjee (*tabla*) and Ratan Mukherjee (*tanpura*).

Sonodisc (1975). ESP 155 53017

Bought in London, April 1982.

Autographed by Anindo - here in our home -on Saturday 22nd June 1985.

5. *Jaunpuri* and *Mand.* Swapan Chowdhury (*tabla*).

Gramophone Company of India (1973). EASD 1378.

Bought on 20 May 1982, Manchester.

Autographed by Nikhil Banerjee - here in our home - on Saturday 22nd June 1985.

6. *Hemant* and *Bhatiyar*. Keramatulla Khan.

Gramophone Company of India (1969). EASD 1342. 9 Dec. 1982. ABC Records, Southall (London).

Autographed by Nikhil Banerjee - here in our home - on Saturday 22nd June 1985.

7. *Komala Rishab Asawari*, *Maluha Kalyan*, and *Mishra Gara.* Kanai Dutt (*tabla*).

Gramophone Company of India (1966). EASD 1305. 9 Dec. 1982. ABC Records, Southall (London).

Autographed by Nikhil Banerjee - here in our home - on Saturday 22nd June 1985.

8. *Soheni* and *Megh.* Swapan Chowdhury (*tabla*).

Gramophone Company of India (1972). EASD 1377. Bought on 19 Sept. 1983, ABC Records, Southall (London).

(On 22nd October 1983, the very next month, I heard him for the first time in concert - in London.)

Autographed by Nikhil Banerjee - here in our home - on Saturday 22nd June 1985.

9. *Sinduhara.* Kishen Maharaj (*tabla*).

FROM THE CONCERT HALL (from a concert organised by Mallhar in Calcutta, 1978 Gramophone Company of India (1979). ECSD 2600. April 1984 Triple Earth London.

Autographed by Nikhil Banerjee - here in our home - on Saturday 22nd June 1985.

10. *Purabi Kalyan* and Zila-Kafi. Anindo Chatterjee (*tabla*). Chhanda Dhara (1981). SP 5881. 24 Nov. 1984, Logan Hall, London

(I bought this when I attended his concert in the Logan Hall, my second time to see him. I was seated in the centre of the very front row, he was directly opposite me. What a memory to have...)

(autographed by Anindo - here in our home - on Saturday 22nd June 1985)

11. *Jogiya-Kalingada.* Anindo Chatterjee (*tabla*), Ratan Mukherjee (*tanpura*). SONO DISC (1983). 24 Nov. 1984, Logan Hall, London (as with #10)

12. *Nat-Bhairab*, and a Baul Melody. Anindo Chatterjee (*tabla*), Ratan Mukherjee (*tanpura*). Chhanda Dhara (1982). SP 7082. A gift (in the post) from Ratan and Swati, 4th August 1985.

13. Patdeep. Anindo Chatterjee (*tabla*), Ratan Mukherjee (*tanpura*). SONO DISC (1983). ESP 8414. A gift from Ratan and Swati, Saturday 28th June 1986. I was visiting them at their home in London for the first time since Nikhil Banerjee died. A memorable visit... (Purabi...)

14. *Kirwani* and *Mishra-Khamaj*. Anindo Chatterjee (*tabla*), Ratan Mukherjee (*tanpura*). Chhanda Dhara (undated) . SP 4179 d. In the post from Shefali Nag (of Chhanda Dhara), 27 August 1986.

15. ***Hem-Behag.*** **Kishen Maharaj (*tabla*). IN MEMORIAM. Gramophone Company of India (1986). EASD 1450. 25 August 1987. A gift from Arvind Srivastava of the Gram. Co. of India.**

(I have written briefly about Arvind Srivatsava near the end of my Nikhil Banerjee tribute page at

https://johnbcosgrave.com/archive/Nikhil_Banerjee.htm).

16. A double LP (Live recordings made at the Ali Akbar Khan College of Music, 12th October 1985 (two days before Nikhil Banerjee's 54th birthday):

Record #1. Marwa. Swapan Chaudhuri (*tabla*)

Record #2. Puriya-Kalyan. Swapan Chaudhuri (*tabla*)

Gramophone Company of India (1990). EASD 1473/74. 9th August 1990, London

(These are also available on Chhanda Dhara, SNCD 70600. LIVE CONCERT VOL. 3. See below.)

And now a list of all my Nikhil Banerjee CDs.

Every lover of Nikhil Banerjee's contribution to *world culture* should be grateful to Raga Records (http://www.raga.com) - the wonderful New York based company - for their *extraotrdinary* contribution to Nikhil Banerjee's discography.

Raga Records have a Nikhil Banerjee discography (which covers not just their remarkable contribution):

http://www.raga.com/discographies/discobanerjee.html

Here I only give the briefest details (complete details of every CD are available at the Raga website) of those that I myself have(all, of course). Any comment in square brackets [...] is my own.

17. RAGA-201. *Chandrakaush* and *Khamaj.* Mahapurusk Misra (*tabla*). Live-to-air broadcast, KPFA Berkeley, 1967

Only here, just to show the level of detail which Raga Records give at their website, I give them for this first recording of theirs:

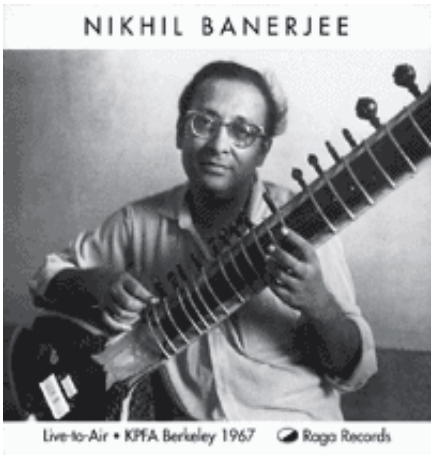

photo (by) Ira Landgarten

Raga-201: NIKHIL BANERJEE sitar MAHAPURUSH MISRA (*tabla*)
Live-to-air broadcast, KPFA Berkeley, 1967

"My approach to music is very deep. I do not compromise with anybody or anything else in the world. I do not care. I want to really go beyond this materialistic world...not for the sake of enjoyment, entertainment, no. A musician must lift up the souls of the listeners, and take them towards Space.

I think when any musician is recording, he becomes self-conscious and he cannot give his best. But it is also true that we have lost many great musicians; now at least the next generation can get some sort of idea of their music from these recordings. I think that recording live concerts is a much better way." -- From the Interview with Nikhil Banerjee in the Purabi Kalyan (Raga-207) booklet.

Raga CHANDRAKAUSH...20:13
alap
jor
jhalla

Raga KHAMAJ...30:23
short *alap*
***gat* in *rupak tal* (7 beats)**
***gat* in fast *tintal* (16 beats) Total Time 50:36**

Stereo ADD. UPC: 70448 20201 2 8. Also available on cassette as Raga-101. Booklet text and graphics reproduced here copyright ©, (P) 1988 by Raga Records, POB 635, New York NY 10014.

18. RAGA-204. *Misra Kafi* [continuous preformance, time 74:25] Swapan Chaudhuri (*tabla*). Berkeley 1982.

19. RAGA-207, a double CD. [This includes an invaluable 26-page text of an interview by Ira Landgarten with Nikhil Banerjee, an interview conducted in New York on the 9th of November 1985, the day before his last U.S. performance in Carnegie Hall; indeed it was his last performance outside India.]

***Purabi Kalyan* [continuous performance, time 100:15, including a truly beautiful *alap* lasting 47:58].**

Swapan Chaudhuri (*tabla*). Berkeley, 1982.

20. RAGA-211. [This includes a touching 4-page article MY MAESTRO [the legendary Ustad Allauddin Khan] AS I SAW HIM] by Nikhil Banerjee.] *Bhimpalasri* and *Multani.* Kanai Dutta (*tabla*). Rotterdam 1970.

21. RAGA-212 AB, a double CD. [This includes a lovely 3-page note by Ira Landgarten telling of - amongst other things - his first meeting with Nikhil Banerjee in the autumn of 1972.]

Disc A. *Mamomanjari* [continuous performance, time 75:12, including another beautiful *alap* lasting 19:37]

Disc B. *Sindhi Khamaj* [continuous performance, time 70:49]

Zamir Ahmed Khan (*tabla*). Rosina Wirsdorf (*tanpura*). Amsterdam 1972.

[Question (Please let me know if *you* know). Was it this Rosina Wirsdorf who interviewed Nikhil Banerjee here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Ow_4Dg3QEI ?]

22. RAGA-214. [This includes a reflective 3-page essay by Nikhil Banerjee: *Indian Classical Music in the Western World.*]

***Hemant* [continuous performence, time 60:09]**

Kanai Dutta (*tabla*), Ratan Mukherjee (*tanpura*). Amsterdam 1970.

23. RAGA-216 AB, a double CD. [This includes a touching 1-page *Tribute to Nikhil Banerjee* by Nikhil Ghosh, the legendary *tabla* master. "*... He (N.B.) has left his mark on the sands of time...*" Indeed.]

[It also includes a tribute to Nikhil Ghosh by music critic Mohan Nadkarni (whose writings are preserved here:

https://mohannadkarni.org/]

***Bilaskhani Todi* (50:34), *Jogiya Kalingra* (54:00) and *Bhairavi* (54:04).**

Nikhil Ghosh (*tabla*). A complete concert, Bombay 1965.

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24. RAGA-217.

***Malgunji* [continuous performance, time 78:54, including a beautiful *alap*, timed at 26:20]**

Anindo Chatterjee (*tabla*), Ratan Mukherjee (*tanpura*). Munich 1980.

25. RAGA-218. [continuous performance, time 77:6, including yet another beautiful *alap*, timed at 25:00]

Gawoti.

Abhijit Banerjee (*tabla*). Amsterdam 1984

[From the RAGA website: "In the initial release, the tabla playing was incorrectly identified [as being Anindo Chatterjee]. In fact, Abhijit Banerjee was the musician. Raga Records apologizes to the musicians and our customers for the error." When I saw Nikhil Banerjee for the second time - in London on 24th November 1984 - he was accompanied by Abhijit Banerjee, with Sheema Mukhereee (*tabla*).]

26. RAGA-225 (From Ira Landgarten of Raga Records, arrived in post 29th June 2023)

Shree.

***Alap* & *Jor* 36:09**
***Gat* in *Jhaptal* 22:28**
***Gat* in *Tintal* 9:00**
Fast *Gat* in *Tintal*: *Jhala* 10:49

Swapan Chaudhuri (tabla). Munich 1976

27. RAGA-227 (From Ira Landgarten of Raga Records, arrived in post 29th June 2023)

***Kaushi Kanada* (*alap*),**
***Bhairavi* (gat).**

Prem Vallabh (*tabla*), Madras 1964

Next, another wonderful label: CHHANDA DHARA. All recordings produced by Bharat Natyam dancer Shefali Nag:

First see "Chhanda Dhara - Label Discontinued":

https://www.india-instruments.com/chhanda-dhara-label-discontinued.html

but a web search will give outlets from which some of their remarkable catalogue may still be bought.

I begin with their 5 volume series *The Genius of Pandit Nikhil Banerjee*:

28. SCND 71294. LIVE CONCERT SERIES 1.

***Shyam Kedar*, time 68:33**

Zakir Hussain (*tabla*). Live concert from Canada [no further information given]

[I bought this in London, 26th May 2002]

29. SCND 70595. LIVE CONCERT SERIES 2.

***Shree*, time 61:24 [Notes by Ratan Mukherjee.]**

Anindo Chatterjee (*tabla*), Sheema Mukherjee (*tanpura*).

"Recorded LIVE from a concert in London."

30. SCND 70296. LIVE CONCERT SERIES 3.

***Rageshree*, time 73:41 [Notes by Partha Chatterjee.]**

Anindo Chatterjee (*tabla*), Sheema Mukherjee (*tanpura*).

"Recorded LIVE from a concert in London."

[I bought this in Dublin (where?!) on 20th March 1997.]

31. SCND 71096. LIVE CONCERT SERIES 4.

***Announcement by Nikhil Banerjee* [15 secs]**

***Kalashree*, time 49:12**

***Abhogi*, time 27:27**

Anindo Chatterjee (*tabla*), Ratan Mukherjee (*tanpura*).

"Recorded LIVE from a concert in Stockholm."

32. SCND 70198. LIVE CONCERT SERIES 5.

***Puriya Dhanashree. Alap* & *Jor* (38:04), *Gat* in medium & fast *Teental* (40:22)**

Abhijit Banerjee (*tabla*), Sheema Mukhereee (*tanpura*).

"Recorded LIVE from a concert in London."

Next, Chhanda Dhara's 2 volume series Nikhil Banerjee, ALLTIME CLASSIC WDR *India's Maestro of Melody*:

33. SNCD 70203. India's Maestro of Melody - Vol. 1 (Special Birthday Anniversary Release)

***Bageshree. Alap* (17:39), *Gat* in medium tempo *Rupaktaal* (3+2+2) & fast tempo in *Teentaal* (4+4+4+4) (40:15).**

Notes by Ratan Mukherjee.

Ustad Faiyaz Khan (*tabla*). Ratan Mukherjee (*tanpura*).

"LIVE recorded by WDR Köln (= Cologne), Germany, November 1971"

34. SNCD 70803. India's Maestro of Melody - Vol. 2

Notes by Ratan Mukherjee.

***Behag* (28:43)**

***Pancham-Se-Gara* (19:34)**

***Pahadi* (14:53)**

Ustad Faiyaz Khan (*tabla*). Anindo Chatterjee (*tabla*). Ratan Mukherjee (*tanpura*).

"LIVE recorded by WDR Köln (= Cologne), Germany, November 1971"

Next, Chhanda Dhara's 7 volume series Nikhil Banerjee, *India's Maestro of Melody* LIVE CONCERT, of which I have Volumes 2 through to 7:

35. SNCD 70499. LIVE CONCERT VOL. 2

***Hemant. Alap* and *Jor* (21:29), *Gat* in slow & fast *Teental* (38:00).**

Notes by Ratan Mukherjee.

Anindo Chatterjee (*tabla*), Ratan Mukherjee (*tanpura*).

"Recorded LIVE in Tübingen, Germany, November 1971"

36. SNCD 70600. LIVE CONCERT VOL. 3

***Marwa. Alap* and *Jor* (43:12)**

***Purabi Kalyan* (34:52)**

Notes by Ratan Mukherjee.

Swapan Chaudhuri (*tabla*), Ratan Mukherjee (*tanpura*).

"Recorded LIVE at the Ali Akbar College of Music, San Rafael, California, 12 October 1985"

[Recording Engineer Pranesh Khan, a son of Ali Akbar Khan.]

37. SNCD 70900. LIVE CONCERT VOL. 4

***Light Classical Thumri* (59:44) [For details see booklet note.]**

Notes by Ratan Mukherjee.

Swapan Chaudhuri (*tabla*), Ratan Mukherjee (*tanpura*).

"Recorded LIVE at the Ali Akbar College of Music, San Rafael, California, 12 October 1985"

[Recording Engineer Pranesh Khan]

38. SNCD 70702. LIVE CONCERT VOL. 5

***Sindhura* (29:03)**

***Bhoop-Kalyan* (28:13)**

Notes by Ratan Mukherjee.

Zakir Hussain (*tabla*), Ratan Mukherjee (*tanpura*).

"Recorded LIVE in San Francisco, 18 September 1976"

39. SNCD 71003. LIVE CONCERT VOL. 6

***Bhimpalashree* (28:13)**

***Multani* (19:45)**

***Khambaj* in *Thumri* style (15:31)**

Notes by Ratan Mukherjee.

Ustad Faiyaz Khan (*tabla*), Ratan Mukherjee (*tanpura*).

"Recorded LIVE in London, 1971" "Pressed in Germany in 2003."

40. SNCD 70600. LIVE CONCERT VOL. 7

***Marubehag*, *Alap* and *Jor* (37:37), *Gat* in medium tempo (36:37)**

Notes by Ratan Mukherjee.

Anindo Chatterjee (*tabla*), Ratan Mukherjee (*tanpura*).

"Recorded LIVE in Bath, 1980"

41. *Navras-Nav-Rama* The Great Masters NRCD 0131 ADD

Surdashi Malhar

***Alap* (15:23)**
***Gat* slow *Teental* (35:44)**
***Gat* fast *Teental* (21:21)**

Abhijit Banerjee (*tabla*).

Recorded in the Law Auditorium, University of Chicago, 14th October 1984 [that was on Nikhil Banerjee's 54th birthday.]

Notes by Neil Sorrell [who wrote a wonderful book about about Ram Narayan (the great *sarangi* maestro), besides other things...]

Copyright Consent: (Mrs.) Roma Banerjee.

The painting on the CD cover was courtesy of Ratan Mukherjee.

The recording was edited by Sheema Mukherjee.

I bought it in London on the 18th of January 2002.

42. This single cassette recording:

Musical Traditions (Berkeley, California), recorded in St. John's Church, Berkeley, on August 26th 1978

Manj Khamaj

Short *alap*
***Gat* in *rupak* (7 beat cycle), *dipchandi* (14 beat cycle), and *tintal* (16 beat cycle)**

Anindo Chatterjee (*tabla*)

Finally this individual CD with Ustad Ali Akbar Khan:

43. Volume 4 of the AMMP Signature Series [all the other titles in this series are entirely Ali Akbar Khan recordings]

***Manj Khamaj* (21:29)**

***Misra Mand* (21:30)**

Mahapurush Misra (*tabla*)

Any Youtube (owned by Google) search for Nikhil Banerjee will bring up hundreds of returns... most of them are breakers of the record company's copyright. How can they expect a company to produce (at expense) a Nikhil Banerjee recording (or anyone else's for that matter) if a single copy of it may be uploaded to Youtube (*they* (Google) make the profit)?

Of course I see old live recordings of Nikhil Banerjee that do not appear to have been uploaded from a CD, but rather have (somehow) been (poorly) recorded on an ancient cassette recorder. I could detail scores of such recordings, but I leave it to (possible) readers of this document to discover those themselves.

I will mention but one, his truly utterly memorable (60 minute) *Durga* at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z9asN7RfPI0

(Yes, yes, the recording quality is poor - and there a jump at about the 30 minute mark (recorded on a 60 minute cassette tape, and turned over?), and the ending is missing - but, it is transcendentally beautiful...)

Unfortunately its uploader - who uses a pseudonym '*Raga Rang*' - gives neither date nor location of performance.

There are just so many more, enough to keep one going for a lifetime.