



SANDEEP DAS


TABLA PLAYER | COMPOSER | EDUCATOR



WEBSITE

<https://www.sandeepdas.com>

SOCIAL MEDIA

 Official: Sandeep Das

 Sandeepdas.official

 Sandeep Das

CONTACT

sandeep@sandeepdas.com

BIOGRAPHY

A 2019-20 Guggenheim Fellow, Sandeep Das is one of the leading Tabla virtuosos in the world today. Since his debut concert at the age of 17 with legendary Sitarist Pt. Ravi Shankar, Das has established himself as one of India's top Tabla maestros, building a prolific international reputation that spans over three decades.

In addition to performing at major Indian music festivals with renowned musicians such as Pt. Hariprasad Chaurasia, Pt. Shivkumar Sharma, and Ust. Amjad Ali Khan, among others, he is one of the unique Indian Classical musicians to expand beyond his traditional roots and collaborate with musicians from across the globe. Das actively performs with and composes for major symphony orchestras, string quartets, jazz musicians, world music ensembles, and many other unique groups with regularly featured concerts at Carnegie Hall, the Lincoln Center, the Hollywood Bowl, the Royal Albert Hall, and the Concertgebouw, to name a few.

Das has performed at prestigious events such as the 150th annual celebration of the UNO at the General Assembly Hall in NYC, the opening ceremony of the Special Olympics in Shanghai, the opening ceremony of the 1st Asia Expo in Kunming, China, the World Economic Forum, the BBC Proms, and for visiting dignitaries such as the Queen of England, the Queen of Thailand, the Pope, and various other world leaders. His collaboration with Yo-Yo Ma and the Silk Road Ensemble (SRE) for "Sing Me Home" won the 2016 Grammy Award for Best World Music Album, and he has had two previous Grammy nominations in 2005 and 2009. In 2017, Das received the prestigious Brother Thomas Fellowship and the New England Choice Artist of the Year Award, and in 2018 he was awarded a Live Arts Boston (LAB) Grant from The Boston Foundation. Das is an active recording artist and has recorded on over 20 albums for major labels such as Sony, Virgin Records, and T-Series in many genres including Indian Classical Music, World Music, Orchestral Music, and more.

SANDEEP DAS

TABLA PLAYER | COMPOSER | EDUCATOR

AWARDS, GRANTS, AND COMMISSIONS

- Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship (2019-2020)
- *Vaishnavi* and *Vairocana* are commissioned by the National Museum of Asian Art (2018)
- Live Arts Boston Grant from The Boston Foundation (2018)
- Brother Thomas Fellowship, The Boston Foundation (2017)
- New England Choice Artist of the Year Award (2017)
- *King Ashoka* is commissioned by an anonymous donor (2016)
- *Mohini* appears on NHK Japan's 10-episode documentary on the Silk Road (2010)
- *Tarang* appears on the documentary *Blindsight* (2008)
- *Mohini* is commissioned by The Carnegie Foundation and The Silkroad Ensemble (2006)
- *Srishti* is commissioned by Yo-Yo Ma and The Silk Road Ensemble (2005)
- *Tarang* is commissioned by Yo-Yo Ma (2002)

HERITAGE

Das is an exponent of the Benares Charana (school) of Tabla, which was established in the 1700s by Pt. Ram Sahai in continuation of an Indian drumming tradition that has been passed down from Guru (teacher) to Shishya (student) for millennia. Starting at the age of 7, Das trained intensely for 12 years in the ancient “Guru-Shishya Parampara” by living with his Guru, the legendary Pt. Kishan Maharaj of Benares, India, and learning and practicing music as a way of life, rather than an isolated art form.

After establishing himself as an artist and receiving the directive from his Guru, Das began teaching disciples in India the same way he had been taught- orally, without the use of books or notations. His teaching activities continued throughout his career, and he formally founded Das Tabla School (DTS) shortly after moving to the US in 2015. Today, DTS maintains an active community of disciples who learn from Das in Boston, MA, in addition to many who call in from across the US and internationally from countries such as India, China, Australia, and Canada.

In 2017, DTS held the first “Das Music Camp”, which has since become an annual Indian Classical Music intensive taking place for several days each year in the Northeastern US, and which allows musicians, composers, and dancers of all skill levels and genres to learn from Das and other renowned faculty in a manner very similar to the traditional Guru-Shishya Parampara.

Das' training and life experiences provide a unique educational opportunity for students and ensembles to learn from, and he frequently gives masterclasses and residencies at schools and universities throughout the world such as Dartmouth University, Brandeis University, University of California Santa Clara, The Juilliard School, Berklee College of Music, and University of British Columbia.

He has also taught at the annual Arts and Passion Driven Learning Institute at the Harvard Graduate School of Education for the past 8 years, and has been a keynote speaker or invited speaker at other prestigious events such the New York Encounter, the annual E.G. Conference in California, the Abu Dhabi Cultural Summit in the United Arab Emirates, the Smithsonian National Museum of Asian Art Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month, and the United States Citizenship Naturalization Ceremony at Faneuil Hall, Boston, MA.

SANDEEP DAS

TABLA PLAYER | COMPOSER | EDUCATOR

AWARDS, GRANTS, & COMMISSIONS (CONT.)

- Awarded the "Biharratna" by the governor of Bihar, India for achievement in the arts (1995)
- Awarded the "Chhatra Vibhushan" by Banaras Hindu University (1989)
- Received a Gold Medal in English Literature from Banaras Hindu University (1989)

TIMELINE OF HUM'S EARLY ACTIVITIES

- HUM is established as an organization in India (2009)
- HUM's debut concert in New Delhi (2010)
- The HUM Ensemble performs at the Europalia festival in Brussels (2013)
- HUM receives a grant from India's Ministry of Culture (2013)
- Establishment of the HUM-LAXNESS National Scholarship (2013)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Das Tabla School

<https://www.sandeepdas.com/learn>

HUM Ensemble

<https://www.sandeepdas.com/hum>

HARMONY AND UNIVERSALITY THROUGH MUSIC (HUM)

Founded by Das in 2009, HUM's mission is two-fold: to promote global understanding through performance and education, and to provide learning opportunities and scholarships for specially-abled children with potential in any genre of art to empower them to lead self-reliant lives. Since its inception, HUM has grown in size and now supports nine specially-abled children through a National Scholarship, the first of its kind in India.

The HUM Ensemble is the branch of HUM that creates and tours World Music in innovative combinations and instrumentations. Its debut concert took place in New Delhi, and by popular demand it continued performing throughout India in major cities such as Mumbai, Kolkata, and Chennai. The ensemble has since expanded to a global scale, performing at venues like the Europalia Festival in Brussels, Cal Performances in Berkeley, California, and other venues throughout the US, in addition to regular invitations for residencies and masterclasses by major universities.

TESTIMONIALS & PRESS

"Sandeep transcends his instrument- when he plays the Tabla he is a creator of myths, a master communicator and an orchestra, all in one. In my decades of collaboration around the world, he is easily one of the greatest artists I have ever met." —Yo-Yo Ma

"[Sandeep Das] can turn any performance into a visual spectacle." —*The New York Times*

"Sandeep Das [is] a creator of myths with Houdini-like skills." —*The Sydney Morning Herald (AU)*

"Sandeep Das' piece became the mainstay of this afternoon [BBC] Prom!" —*The Independent (U.K.)*

"Fabulous Tabla playing by Sandeep Das in a composition of his own." —*The Los Angeles Times*

"Sandeep Das' awesome Tabla playing [...] the sheer timbral variety he achieved on the Tabla contributed to its hypnotic effect!" —*The Chicago Tribune*

"[Sandeep Das'] virtuosic playing injected discreet surges of rhythmic adrenaline." —*The Boston Globe*

SANDEEP DAS

TABLA PLAYER | COMPOSER | EDUCATOR

AWARDS & PUBLICATIONS FROM 2011-2020

- (2020) *Delhi to Damascus*, Album
- (2019-2020) Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship
- (2019) *Soul Mitra*, Composition
- (2018) Live Arts Boston Grant
- (2018) *Vaishnavi*, Composition
- (2018) *Vairocana*, Composition
- (2017) Brother Thomas Fellowship
- (2017) GRAMMY for 2016 Best World Music Album
- (2016) *If You Shall Return*, Composition
- (2016) *King Ashoka*, Composition
- (2016) *Sing Me Home*, Album
- (2016) *Diva: Recorded Live at Saptak*, Album
- (2013) *A Playlist Without Borders*, Album
- (2012) *Big Grenadilla/Mumbai*, Album

MAJOR INDIAN MUSIC FESTIVALS (2011-2020)

- (2011-2014) Saptak Festival Performances; Ahmedabad, IN
- (2011-2014) Harri Ballabh Sangeet Samaroah Performances; Jalandhar, IN
- (2013) Doverlan Music Conference; Kolkatta, IN
- (2012) Pune Music Festival; Pune, IN
- (2011) Dover Lane Music Conference; Kolkatta, IN

SELECTION OF MAJOR PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES FROM 2011-2020

Concerts & Performances

- (2020) Tanglewood Institute Virtual Concert; Online
- (2020) Ismaili Jamatkhana Center Virtual Concert; Online
- (2019) Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month Events; National Museum of Asian Art, Washington D.C.
- (2019) Georgetown University School of Foreign Service Centennial Celebration; Washington, D.C.
- (2019) Symphony Tacoma; Tacoma, WA
- (2019) Tour of Australia and New Zealand with the Silkroad Ensemble
- (2018) Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra; Orlando, FL
- (2018) Chinese New Year Gala on CNTV; China
- (2018) International Youth Music Comprehensive Competition and Workshop at New England Conservatory; Boston, MA
- (2018) Mediterranean Ambassadors Music Experience; Milano, Italy
- (2018) HUM Ensemble "Delhi to Damascus" Concert; Cal Performances, Berkeley, CA
- (2018) Melbourne International Arts Festival; Melbourne, Australia
- (2017) Abu Dhabi Festival; Abu Dhabi, UAE
- (2017) World Music Summit; Abu Dhabi, UAE
- (2017) Learnquest Music Festival; Boston, MA
- (2016) Mystic Music Festival; Konya, Turkey
- (2016) World Economic Forum; Davos, Switzerland
- (2016) "DEMO: Place" concert; Kennedy Center, Washington, D.C.
- (2016) Cleveland Orchestra Blossom Festival; Cuyahoga Falls, OH
- (2016) Ghazal Ensemble at the Austrian Indian Institute; Vienna, Austria
- (2015) Ojai Music Festival; Ojai, California
- (2015) "Best of IBM" Concert; Maui, Hawaii
- (2015) The Aga Khan Museum; Toronto, Canada
- (2015) KwaZulu-Natal Philharmonic Orchestra; Durban, South Africa
- (2014) Tour of Japan, Taiwan, South Korea, and China with the Silkroad Ensemble
- (2014) Illinois Symphony Orchestra; Springfield, Illinois
- (2013) Opening Ceremony of the 1st Asia Expo; Kunming, China
- (2013) Europalia Festival; Bozar, Brussels
- (2012) "Galician Connection" Concert with Paquito D'Rivera; Santiago de Compostela, Spain
- (2011) HUM Ensemble "Rhythm of Life" Concert; New Delhi, India

SANDEEP DAS

TABLA PLAYER | COMPOSER | EDUCATOR

AWARDS & PUBLICATIONS FROM 1988-2010

- (2009) *Off the Map*, Album
- (2008) *Virasat*, Album
- (2007) *New Impossibilities*, Album

- (2006) *Mohini*, Composition
- (2006) *Summohini*, Composition
- (2006) *My Inspirations*, Album
- (2005) *Srishti*, Composition
- (2005) *Sonata*, Album
- (2005) *The Essential Yo-Yo Ma*, Album

- (2004) *Silk Road Journeys: Beyond the Horizon*, Album
- (2004) *Enchantment*, Album
- (2004) *The Rain*, Album
- (2002) *Tarang*, Composition
- (2002) *Indian Delta*, Album
- (2002) *Pandit Vishwa Mohan Bhatt: The Taj Heritage Series*, Album

- (2002) *Silk Road Journeys: When Strangers Meet*, Album
- (1996) *The Best of the Cord*, Album

- (1995) *Maestros Mehfil*, Album
- (1995) *The Tradition of Khyal on Sitar*, Album

- (1995) Awarded the "Biharratna" by the governor of Bihar, India for achievement in the arts

- (1994) *Lure of the Desert*, Album
- (1994) *Raag Bilaskhani Todi*, Album

ADDITIONAL PRESS

"A young master of the Tabla"
—*The Chicago Tribune* (1998)

"*Tarang* [...] became a mainstay of this afternoon [BBC] Prom!"
—*The Independent* (2004)

SELECTION OF MAJOR PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES FROM 1988-2010

Concerts & Performances

"Indian Classical Music" has been abbreviated below as "ICM"

- (2010) HUM Ensemble Premier Concert; New Delhi, India
- (2009) BBC Proms: Prom 75; London, UK
- (2008) United Nations Day Concert; General Assembly Hall, NYC, NY
- (2007-2008) Ghazal Ensemble "Lost Songs of the Silk Road" Concerts with Shujaat Khan & Kayhan Kalhor; USA
- (2007) Opening Ceremony for the Special Olympic Games; Shanghai, China
- (2007) "East Meets West" concert with Dr. L. Subramaniam; Lancaster, PA
- (2006) "Silk Road Chicago" by the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs
- (2005) ICM with Amjad Ali Khan; Wiener Konzerthaus, Vienna, Austria
- (2005) ICM with Amjad Ali Khan; Hong Kong Polytechnic University
- (2005) ICM with Amjad Ali Khan; Skokie, IL
- (2005) "East Meets West Concert" with Amaan and Ayaan Bangash; Savannah, GA

- (2004) Mostly Mozart Festival; NYC, NY
- (2004) BBC Proms: Prom 40; London, UK
- (2003) Aga Khan Music Initiative Tour of Central Asia
- (2002) Smithsonian Folklife Festival; National Mall, Washington, D.C
- (2001) ICM with Ravi Shankar; The Petra Foundation, Brooklyn, NY
- (2001) World Premier concerts with the New York Philharmonic; NYC, NY
- (2001) Ghazal Ensemble with Shujaat Khan and Kayhan Kalhor; Los Angeles, CA

- (2000) Ghazal Ensemble: Moon Rise Over the Silk Road; Portland, OR
- (2000) ICM with Shujaat Khan; Bibliotheque nationale du Quebec; Quebec, Canada
- (1999) ICM with Dr. L. Subramaniam and Vishwa Mohan Bhatt; Pittsburgh, PA

- (1998) ICM with Shujaat Khan; Edmonton Raga Mala Society, Alberta, CA
- (1998) Du Marier Theater Center with Ghazal; Ontario, Canada
- (1997) Festival hudby výjimečných délek; Prague Castle, Prague, Czechia
- (1996) ICM with Shujaat Khan; Raga Mala Society of Toronto, Canada
- (1996) ICM with Shujaat Khan; Das Theater, Switzerland
- (1995) ICM with Shujaat Khan; Kirche St. Peter, Zürich, Switzerland
- (1995) United Nations General Assembly Hall; Geneva, Switzerland
- (1991) Tour with Steel Pan Bands in Trinidad and Tobago
- (1988) Debut concert with Ravi Shankar; India

Major Indian Music Festivals

- (2008) St. Xavier's Music Festival
- (1999, 2006) Pune Music Festival; Pune, India
- (1998, 2001, 2003) Music Festival of Chennai
- (1995, 1997, 2000, 2002, 2005, 2008, 2010) Dover Lane Music Conference
- (1993-2014) Saptak Festival; Ahmedabad, IN
- (1993-2014) Harri Ballabh Sangeet Samaroah; Jallandhar, IN

SANDEEP DAS

TABLA PLAYER | COMPOSER | EDUCATOR

SELECTION OF MAJOR EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Selection of Residencies and Masterclasses

- (2020) HUM Ensemble virtual residency at Dartmouth University; Online
- (2020) Celebrity Series of Boston/Boston City Singers "Tabla Camp"; Boston, MA
- (2020) University of California Irvine; Irvine, CA
- (2020) Masterclasses with various schools as part of the New Docta Festival in Argentina
- (2019) Lunenberg Academy of Music Performance; Lunenberg, CA
- (2019) Boston Conservatory; Boston, MA
- (2019) University of South Carolina; Columbia, SC
- (2019) Butler University; Indianapolis, IN
- (2018) Juilliard School of Music; NYC, NY
- (2018) Chautauqua Music Festival; Chautauqua, NY
- (2018) Chadwick International School; Seoul, South Korea
- (2017) Santa Clara University; Santa Clara, CA
- (2017) University in Abu Dhabi, UAE
- (2017) Boston Children's Museum; Boston, MA
- (2017) The Aga Khan Museum; Toronto, CA
- (2017) Brandeis University; Waltham, MA
- (2016) The Getty Museum; Los Angeles, CA
- (2016) University of Santa Barbara; Santa Barbara, CA
- (2016) Vail Dance Festival; NYC, NY
- (2016) Brandeis University; Waltham, MA
- (2015-2018) Global Musician Workshop; Greencastle, IN
- (2015) Harvard University; Cambridge, MA
- (2015) Workshops at schools in Durban, South Africa
- (2013) Harvard University; Cambridge, MA
- (2009) Rhode Island School of Design; Providence, RI
- (2006) Tanglewood Music Festival; Lenox, MA
- (2005) Rhode Island School of Design; Providence, RI
- (1996) Indian School of Science and Management, Chennai, IN
- (1995) Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, IN
- (1994) Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, IN
- (1993) Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai, IN
- (1992) Banaras Hindu University, Benares, IN

Keynote Speeches and Lectures

- (2020) Sister Cities International 2020 Conference: Reimagining Citizen Diplomacy; Online
- (2020) United States Citizenship Naturalization Ceremony; Faneuil Hall, Boston, MA
- (2019) Ware Lecture on Peacemaking, Elizabethtown College; Elizabethtown, PA
- (2018) The New York Encounter; New York, NY
- (2017) Abu Dhabi Cultural Summit; Abu Dhabi, UAE
- (2015) Music Educator's Conference; Rockland, NY
- (2015) Franklin Delano Roosevelt Foundation "Beyond Tomorrow" Conference; Cambridge, MA
- (2012-2020) The Arts and Passion Driven Learning Institute, Harvard Graduate School of Education; Cambridge, MA

Arts Organization Partnerships

- (2015-2020) Celebrity Series of Boston "Neighborhood Arts" Concert/Residency Series
- (2015-2020) Young Audiences of Massachusetts
- (2001-2020) The Silk Road Project
- (1995-2015) Association for India's Development
- (1985-2015) Society for the Promotion of Indian Classical Music Amongst Youth

Das Tabla School

- (2020) Das Music Camp Online with guest artists Dr. L. Subramaniam and Shubha Mudgal
- (2017-2019) Annual Das Music Camp / Indian Classical Music intensive
- (2015) Das Tabla School is founded in the US
- (1995) Das begins teaching his first disciples in India

SANDEEP DAS

TABLA PLAYER | COMPOSER | EDUCATOR

PUBLISHED WORKS - ORIGINAL COMPOSITIONS

(2019) Soul Mitra

Funded in part by a Live Arts Boston Grant from the Boston Foundation

Instrumentation: Tabla, Sarangi

(2018) Vaishnavi: The Invincible Woman

Commissioned by the National Museum of Asian Art from Silkroad in honor of Julian Raby through a gift from Jeffrey P. Cunard

Instrumentation: Tabla, Sheng, Double Bass

- Currently on display in the National Museum of Asian Art next to a 9th century statue of Queen Sembayan Mahadevi

(2018) Vairocana

Commissioned by the National Museum of Asian Art from Silkroad in honor of Julian Raby through a gift from Jeffrey P. Cunard

Instrumentation: Tabla, Sheng

(2016) King Ashoka

Commissioned by an anonymous donor for Yo-Yo Ma and The Silk Road Ensemble

Instrumentation: Tabla, Cello, Double Bass, 2 Percussionists

- Toured throughout Asia by The Silkroad Ensemble in 2017
- Other major performances: National Center for the Performing Arts - Beijing, China (2017); Adrienne Arsht Center, Miami, FL (2018)

(2016) If You Shall Return

Commissioned by The Silk Road Ensemble

Instrumentation: Tabla, Shakuhachi, 2 Violins, 2 Percussionists

- Appears on *Sing Me Home* (2016), which won the 2016 GRAMMY for Best World Music Album

(2006) Mohini

Commissioned by The Carnegie Foundation and The Silk Road Ensemble for NHK Japan

Instrumentation: Tabla, Cello, 2 Violins, Viola, Double Bass, Voice, Harp, 2 Percussionists

- Appears as the theme music for NHK Japan's 10-episode documentary on the historical Silk Road.
- Solo Cello version arranged by Yo-Yo Ma for the album *Silkroad Journeys: Beyond the Horizon* (2004).

(2006) Summohini

Commissioned by The Silk Road Ensemble

Instrumentation: Tabla, Cello, 2 Violins, Viola, Double Bass, Voice, Harp, 2 Percussionists

(2005) Srishti

Commissioned by Yo-Yo Ma and The Silk Road Ensemble while in residence at Rhode Island School of Design

Instrumentation: Tabla, Korean Percussion, Bongos, Doumbek, Toms, Conch

- Notable Performances: United Nations General Assembly Hall, NYC, NY (2008), Cleveland Orchestra Blossom Festival (2016), The Hollywood Bowl (2005)

(2002) Tarang

Commissioned by Yo-Yo Ma for the 36th annual Smithsonian Folklife Festival in 2002

Instrumentation: Tabla, Hand Percussion, Cello, 2 Violins, Viola, Double Bass,

- Appears in the documentary *Blindsight* (2008)
- Other notable performances: The Royal Albert Hall, London, UK for the annual BBC Proms (2004), Carnegie Hall, NYC, NY (2005), The Kennedy Center (2005), Chicago Symphony Hall (2008)

SANDEEP DAS

TABLA PLAYER | COMPOSER | EDUCATOR

PUBLISHED WORKS - ALBUMS

(2020) Delhi to Damascus

Album by Sandeep Das & the HUM Ensemble.
Label: In a Circle Records

(2016) Sing Me Home

Album by Yo-Yo Ma and the Silk Road Ensemble
Label: Sony Masterworks

(2016) Diva: Recorded Live at Saptak

Album by Girija Devi
Label: Times Music

(2013) A Playlist Without Borders

Album by Yo-Yo Ma and the Silk Road Ensemble
Label: Sony Masterworks

(2012) Big Grenadilla Mumbai

Album by Evan Ziporyn
Label: Cantaloupe Music

(2009) Off the Map

Album by Yo-Yo Ma and the Silk Road Ensemble
Label: World Village

(2008) Virasat

Album by Shujaat Khan
Label: Sense World Music

(2007) New Impossibilities

Album by Yo-Yo Ma and the Silk Road Ensemble
Label: Sony Classical Records

(2006) My Inspirations

Album by Amjad Ali Khan
Label: Navras Records

(2005) Sonata

Album by Ayaan Ali Bangash
Label: Studio Synthesis

(2005) The Essential Yo-Yo Ma

Album by Yo-Yo Ma
Label: Sony Classical Records

(2005) Guru Shishya

Album by Hariprasad Chaurasia
Label: Sense World Music

(2004) Silk Road Journeys: Beyond the Horizon

Album by Yo-Yo Ma and the Silk Road Ensemble
Label: Sony Classical Records

(2004) The Rain

Album by the Ghazal Ensemble
Label: ECM Records

(2002) Indian Delta

Album by Vishwa Mohan Bhatt
Label: Sense World Music

(2002) The Taj Heritage Series

Album by Vishwa Mohan Bhatt
Label: Virgin Records

(2002) Silk Road Journeys: When Strangers Meet

Album by Yo-Yo Ma and the Silk Road Ensemble
Label: Sony Classical Records

(1996) The Best of the Cord

Album by Vishwa Mohan Bhatt
Label: Indian Music Club

(1995) Maestros Mehfil

Album by various artists
Label: T-Series

(1995) The Tradition of Khyal on Sitar

Album by Shujaat Khan
Label: Makal Records

(1994) Lure of the Desert

Album by Vishwa Mohan Bhatt
Label: T-Series

(1994) Raag Bilaskhani Todi

Album by Shujaat Khan
Label: Young Spirit Records