On a balmy July evening, the hall filled with the soft hum of tanpura and the rhythmic heartbeat of the tabla. As the curtains rose, so did the hearts of students, teachers, and parents alike. "Sur Ke Saath Safar – Prarambhik 2" was not just a music recital. It was a vibrant celebration of learning, tradition, and the deep joy of making music together.

Organized as part of our continuing effort to create immersive learning experiences, *Prarambhik 2* showcased beginner and intermediate students taking confident steps into the world of Hindustani classical music. This second edition of the series built upon the success of our inaugural *Prarambhik*, and once again affirmed the idea that music education is not just about perfection—it's about progress, passion, and practice.

# The Power of Performing

For many young performers, this was their very first time on stage. As they tuned their instruments or nervously recited their bandish under the soft lights, there was an unspoken understanding in the air—this was a milestone. Each sur, each taal, was a thread in the tapestry they were beginning to weave.

From the lilting strains of Raag Bhoopali to the meditative serenity of Raag Yaman, the evening's line-up reflected both the diversity and depth of Indian classical music. What stood out most was the poise with which these students approached their performances. Guided by their gurus and accompanied by skilled tabla players, each student became a storyteller, inviting the audience into a world of swaras and bhavas.

One of the evening's most captivating elements was the live tabla accompaniment. Students performed in various taals including Teentaal, Keherva, and Jhaptal, with subtle variations in tempo and dynamics that highlighted their growing rhythmic understanding. As one of our gurus remarked, "You don't just learn to sing or play—you learn to listen." This interplay between melody and rhythm created an organic, collaborative energy that only live music can offer.

### Moments That Moved Us

Several performances lingered long after the final note faded. The youngest vocal student, all of six years old, confidently held a steady Sa as she sang her first alankars on stage—eliciting both cheers and emotional applause from the audience. Intermediate students explored more complex compositions, improvising with care and creativity.

A surprise ensemble performance towards the end, featuring both vocalists and instrumentalists performing a semi-classical piece in Raag Desh, was a highlight. It showcased not just individual talent but the spirit of collective expression—where tabla, harmonium, tanpura, and voice moved as one.

### 👃 Learning Music, Living Music

The idea behind *Prarambhik* is deeply rooted in the Guru-Shishya Parampara, where knowledge is transmitted not just through instruction, but through lived experience. By placing students in a performance context early in their learning journey, we give them the chance to internalize music—not as a subject, but as a lived art.

Parents and family members were equally engaged, some witnessing the blossoming of a long-held dream—seeing their children become

torchbearers of a centuries-old tradition. It was, in many ways, a reminder that Indian classical music isn't fading; it's evolving, one student at a time.

## **a** Capturing the Moment

Photos and videos from the event captured the vibrancy of the evening—the concentration in a student's eyes, the nod of appreciation from a guru, the resonant echo of tabla bol. These aren't just memories; they are markers of growth, inspiration, and shared joy.

Stay tuned—we'll soon be uploading a curated highlights reel from the event on our YouTube and Instagram pages.

## ■ What's Next?

As we close the chapter on *Prarambhik 2*, preparations are already underway for the next series in the "Sur Ke Saath Safar" journey. Advanced-level students, collaborations with visiting artists, and thematic evenings focused on specific raags and composers are all on the horizon.

For now, we celebrate this step forward—small in the grand scheme of things, but monumental in the lives it touched.

□ Did You Attend? We Want to Hear from You!

Drop us a comment below:

- What was your favorite moment from Prarambhik 2?
- What did the performance teach you about music or yourself?
- Share your photos using #SurKeSaathSafar



## 🙏 In Gratitude

A heartfelt thank you to our dedicated teachers, ever-supportive families, our tabla and harmonium accompanists, and of course, our brave, beautiful students. Sur Ke Saath Safar - Prarambhik 2 was a collective effort, and it shone because of each one of you.

Here's to many more musical journeys together.

**1** Let the surs guide us forward.