

**Tabla Nawaz Shri Bhagwan Singh, widely known as S. B. Singh, is a distinguished artist who has played a vital role in promoting the art of tabla both within India and across the international stage. Through decades of dedication to the classical tradition of Indian percussion, he has contributed significantly to preserving, performing, and teaching the rich legacy of the Banaras Gharana. His musical journey reflects a deep commitment to tradition, discipline, and artistic excellence, making him a respected figure among students and connoisseurs of Hindustani classical music.**

**Born with a natural inclination toward rhythm and percussion, Shri Bhagwan Singh developed an early fascination with the tabla. His formal training began under the guidance of the legendary tabla maestro Pandit Samta Prasad ji, also popularly known as Gudai Maharaj. Under the mentorship of this great guru, Singh was introduced to the intricate techniques, powerful bols, and expressive rhythmic patterns that define the Banaras style of tabla playing. Pandit Samta Prasad ji was renowned for his powerful clarity of sound and mastery over complex rhythmic compositions, and these qualities left a lasting influence on Singh's musical approach.**

**After receiving foundational training, Shri Bhagwan Singh further deepened his knowledge under another eminent maestro, Pandit Kishan Maharaj. This advanced training took place in the historic Kabir Chaura quarter of Varanasi, a place long associated with great musicians and the flourishing of the Banaras Gharana. Under Pandit Kishan Maharaj's guidance, Singh refined his technique, developed a deeper understanding of rhythm cycles (taals), and mastered the improvisational skills necessary for both solo performances and accompaniment. The training in the guru–shishya parampara not only strengthened his musical abilities but also instilled in him the discipline, humility, and devotion required for a lifelong pursuit of classical music.**

**Throughout his career, Shri Bhagwan Singh has actively worked to spread the beauty of tabla across cultural boundaries. He has performed extensively both in India and internationally, representing the depth and sophistication of Hindustani classical percussion. His performances abroad helped introduce global audiences to the dynamic rhythms and expressive potential of the tabla. During his international tours, he collaborated in special musical programs with the Lebanese ambassador, who was himself a knowledgeable admirer and practitioner of Indian music. These collaborations served as a unique cultural**

bridge, highlighting the universal language of rhythm and the ability of music to connect people from diverse traditions.

In addition to his performances, S. B. Singh has been deeply committed to teaching and mentoring the next generation of musicians. Over the years, he has taught numerous students from different parts of the world, sharing his knowledge of the Banaras Gharana's compositions, techniques, and philosophy of rhythm. His teaching emphasizes not only technical skill but also a deep respect for tradition and the spiritual dimension of music. Many of his students have gone on to perform and teach themselves, helping to extend the reach of the tabla tradition globally.

One of the highlights of Shri Bhagwan Singh's musical career has been his participation in prestigious jugalbandi performances. In these concerts, he shared the stage with legendary gurus and accomplished musicians, engaging in dynamic rhythmic dialogues that showcased the creativity and spontaneity of Indian classical music. Jugalbandi performances require exceptional listening skills, mastery of rhythm, and the ability to interact musically in real time. Singh's participation in such concerts demonstrated not only his technical command of the instrument but also his artistic sensitivity and collaborative spirit.

The Banaras Gharana, to which Shri Bhagwan Singh belongs, is known for its powerful, resonant style and its rich repertoire of compositions such as kaidas, relas, gats, and chakradars. Through his performances and teaching, Singh has helped preserve and propagate this vibrant tradition. His playing reflects the hallmark characteristics of the gharana—clarity of bols, strong rhythmic structure, and expressive energy that captivates listeners.

Today, Shri Bhagwan Singh is recognized not only as a performer but also as a cultural ambassador of Indian classical percussion. His contributions to the field extend beyond concerts and classrooms; they represent a lifelong dedication to the art of tabla and to the transmission of musical heritage across generations and continents.

In summary, Tabla Nawaz Shri Bhagwan Singh (S. B. Singh) stands as an important figure in the tradition of the Banaras Gharana. Trained under the legendary maestros Pandit Samta Prasad ji and Pandit Kishan Maharaj, he has carried forward their legacy through performances, teaching, and international cultural exchange. His work has enriched the global appreciation of tabla and

**ensured that the rhythmic brilliance of Indian classical music continues to inspire audiences and students around the**