

# Contribution of Artists of Various Genres in the Promotion of Sufiyana Singing

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**Abstract - Music is a changing art, which from ancient times to modern times, in different forms of music, along with human emotions, have been giving a feeling of joy. If seen from the historical point of view, the arrival of Muslim culture to India in the 11th century had a profound effect on the culture, living, customs, food habits, literature, philosophy etc. The Muslim people could not understand the Indian languages, but they were greatly influenced by the scripts of Indian music, and the same influence was seen in the music tradition of Punjab through Indian music. Different Sufi singers made their important contribution to carry forward the Sufi music tradition started by Sufi saints and mystics. There have been innumerable artists in the field of Sufi music, who propagated and disseminated Sufi music by reaching the masses, including Mehfil-e-Samaa, Media, TV, which are held at the Dargahs of Sufi mystics. Channels, social media etc, played a major role as the medium of propagation of Sufi music.**

**Keywords - Contribution, Artists, Genres, Promotion, Sufiyana Singing, etc.**

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## INTRODUCTION

At present, any genre or art, its basis is from different areas or special categories of our society, in which every social category works according to its own ability so that a good society can be created; one of these categories of society is art. There are also lovers who present their civilization and culture through various arts, under which artists related to literature, art, and sculpture or painting also have their own special place. Talking about the art of music, at present there will not be any such people who will not be aware of different genres of music, where classical, semi-classical and accessible music is prevalent under music, while various genres under devotional music are world-renowned. Similarly, Sufiana singing, which originated from Sufi philosophy, (1) is maintaining its important place at present. When it comes to Sufi music or Sufiana singing, it is natural to come to the attention of the Punjab region, where music artists have made world famous by promoting Sufiana singing, when it comes to Sufiana singing, the names of such famous musical personalities come in front of us. Like Abida Parveen, Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan Sahab, Qawwal Sabri Brothers, Farid Ayaz, Meher Ali. Sher Ali, Pathane Khan, Rahat Fateh Ali Khan etc. are famous personalities related to Sufiana singing, which cannot be lost from the eyes, but according to the research topic, if we talk about the promotion of Sufiana singing related to present Punjab, then the names of many

such famous Sufi artists come. Those who have propagated and disseminated Sufiana singing in the present day Punjab after independence, mainly including Mohammad Sharif, Irshad Rahmat, Thakur Das, Niranjan Sai, Abdul Majeed, Bashir Khan, Maghghar Singh Deewana or Maghghar Ali The names of Deewana, Ustad Majeed Khan, Ustad Sohan Lal. (2)

the Sufi Dhadi tradition have also played an important role by promoting Sufiana singing in rural civilization and cultural fairs from folk singing organ to Sufiana singing and this tradition of Sufiana singing is being carried forward by its descendants, whose The description is given in this chapter. As part of the contribution in the promotion of Sufiana singing by the researcher, interviews were conducted with selected senior artists of Punjab as well as the present young artists who are taking forward the Sufiana singing tradition. Similarly, the role played by the famous women artists of Punjab in the promotion of Sufiana singing and the contribution of the artists associated with the famous Sufi Dhadi tradition of Punjab under the Sufi Dhadi tradition. (3)

## Famous Artists of Sufi Music

**Karamat Fakir: (Famous Qawwal of Punjab, Patiala Gharana, Malerkotla)**

Karamat Fakir ji is one of the prominent Qawwals

of Malerkotla (Punjab) who have taken the Qawwali singing tradition to the pinnacle of Punjab. This town of Punjab is one such place, which has preserved the tradition of singing Qawwali. Qawwali singing has an important place in the Sufi singing tradition. If referring to the Sufi singing tradition of Punjab. So the mention of qawwal singers of this town of Punjab comes first. Karamat Fakir ji was born on 24 December 1946 AD in Mubarakpur (Chungha) near Malerkotla, District Sangrur. Your father's name was Fakir Mohammad and mother's name was Bibi Valaita. Your family has been promoting the Sufi singing tradition for 8 generations. Your two sons Ghulam Ali Khan and Shoekat Ali Khan are associated with this tradition. (4) Both sons are taking music lessons from you and you wish that this tradition should continue in the coming generations as well and this tradition should develop outside India and abroad as well.

**Qawwal Javed Irshad: (The famous Qawwal of Punjab, Malerkotla)**

Javed Irshad Sahib holds a special place among the qawwal singers of Malerkotla. Your gharana has a significant contribution to the Qawwali singing tradition. Your grandfather Rahmat Qawwal was one of the famous Qawwals of the early period of the princely state of Malerkotla. Because of your grandfather's name, your gharana is known as Rahmat Qawwal Gharana. After this your son Irshad Rahmat carried forward the tradition of this gharana who was the father of Javed Irshad ji. (5)

Javed Irshad Sahib was born on 5 July 1958 in Malerkotla. He got his early education from his own family and even at present he is promoting Sufiana singing through qawwali singing presentations under Sufiana singing. When All India Radio was started, the qawwals of your gharana were the first singers to perform Sufiana Qawwali. Javed Irshad ji has also given Sufiana singing performances on Radio and Doodarshan and has enthralled his listeners with his performances. Apart from this, where you have given your musical performances in different states of India, while promoting Sufiana singing abroad, you have done Sufi singing in countries like Malaysia, Canada etc. At present, Rahmat is playing an important role in the promotion of Sufiana singing while carrying on the tradition of the Qawwal Gharana.

During the interview by the researcher, while answering the questions related to Sufiana singing, you say that under the Sufimat ideology that originated from Islam, the literature composed by Sufi mystics was written by addressing God or Allah, in which God was given to the people. A prayer message was also given. When these compositions were sung through music, it became Sufiana singing or Sufi music. (6)

**Gulshan Mir Sahab: (Eminent artist of Punjab,**

**Jalandhar)**

Gulshan Mir ji is the granddaughter of famous Sufi singer Bibi Nooran ji. Your father's name is Late Ustad Sohanlal and mother is Swarn Nooran. Sufi music has been running in his family for six to seven generations. Giving information about his musical journey, he says, "Music has been inherited by our family. My father Ustad Master Sohan Lal ji was a good singer of his time. Our family has been singing from generation to generation." Gulshan Mir ji promoted Sufi music in his life and also associated his daughters (Nooran sisters) with it. Presently Nooran sisters name is famous in Sufiana singing. Gulshan Mir ji is also the father and guru of the Nooran sisters. You follow the musical traditions of the Shyam Chaurasi Gharana and the Mir Alam family. You also arrange for Jyoti and Sultana Nooran's musical compositions and musical performances. Sometimes you sing along with them. Mostly you accompaniment with Nooran Sisters in Sufiana singing by harmonium. Your son is a tabla player. In this way your family is maintaining the Sufiana singing tradition. (7)

During the interview meeting, while answering the questions asked by the researcher regarding Sufi singing, you say that by Sufi, one who has established his relationship with that Allah, through love, is a Sufi. Regarding the basis of Sufi music, do you believe that the basis of Sufi music is the Kalams composed by Sufi mystics.

**Padma Shri Puran Chand Wadali: (Famous Sufi Singer from Punjab, Amritsar)**

Puran Chand Wadali has an important place in the Sufi singing tradition of Punjab. You are also known as Wadali Brothers because you often sang in Jugalbandi with your brother Pyara Lal ji. You did not only limit Sufiana singing to singing but also took Sufi singing forward. You were born in Guru's Wadali. This village is built by the sixth Guru of the Sikhs, Hargobind Rai Ji and is situated at a distance of 10 kms from Amritsar. Because of your ancestral village, you are addressed as Wadali Brothers. Your father Thakurdas was a singer of high order. He used to sing qawwali along with classical music. You took music lessons from your father. He was keen to teach you singing but you were fond of wrestling. Your son Lakhwinder Wadali is a good singer and he keeps on learning the nuances of music from you. You did not get education but still you remember many kafis, qawwalis, kalams and stories in oral form. You have inherited the gift of music; (8) your guru was Pandit Durgadas who was a disciple of Aashiq Ali of Patiala Gharana. Earlier Puranchand ji used to sing alone and Pyarelal ji used to dance with tying ghungroo. But at that time there was a period of jugalbandi, such as Salamat Ali-Nazkat Ali, Amanat Ali-Fateh Ali Khan etc. Inspired by him, then you started teaching your brother Pyarelal also and started

singing in Jugalbandi. Shri Pooranchand Wadali ji has been very pleased and impressed by the difficult murkis of Begum Akhtar, the curved taunts of Ustad Bade Ghulam Ali Khan, the singing of Ustad Salamat-Nazaqat Ali and Amanat-Fateh Ali Khan. You always promoted good singing that is why the general public is crazy about your singing.

#### **Harmesh Rangeela: (Famous Qawwal of Punjab, Balachaur, Nawanshahr)**

Harmesh Rangeela ji is a popular Qawwali singer under the Qawwali tradition of Sufiana music. You started your musical journey by acquiring the knowledge of classical music. Because of Shastri Sangeet being the foundation of singing, you propagated every genre of singing. You were born on 1st March 1956 in Siana village, Nawanshahr, District Shaheed Bhagat Singh, your father's name is Bhagat Ram and mother is Dilip Kaur.

You started singing Qawwali singing style under Sufiana singing by visiting the Dargahs of Piron Fakirs. You are a good singer as well as a good poet. He himself penned many Sufi compositions and then got them recorded as well, such as 'Tar Gayeyan Ji Peeran Diyan Taria', 'Bahi Ja Gaons De Dwar', 'Peer De Jo Dar Bahi Gaya', 'Parrot Ne Ud Jaana', 'Laila Di Gali Val Chal Ghadiya' etc. (9)

#### **Shaukat Ali Deewana: (Famous Qawwal of Punjab, Patiala)**

Shaukat Ali Deewana holds an important place in the field of Qawwali singing. You inherited music. Your father, Maghghar Ali Deewana, was a qawwali artist belonging to the Patiala Gharana, popularly known as Maghghar Singh Deewana, who held a special place among the singers of Punjab and Pakistan. Young artistes belonging to your family are playing their role in promoting Sufiana singing of Punjab through different genres which include Kamal Khan, Navneet Khan etc.

During the interview meeting, while answering the questions asked by the researcher related to Sufi singing, Shaukat Ali Deewana ji says that the word Sufi means the Fakir Sufi who talks about truth, right, who talks about love by considering that Allah as a lover. . Regarding the genres of Sufi music, you say that there are different genres of Sufi music which is based on different compositions of poetry composed by Sufi mystics in which Qawwali and many genres have gained special fame, Qawwali is a group singing which has a form of literature. In this Sufiana Ghazal, Shloka, Hamad, Kaul, Kalbana, Manqbat etc. are sung under Qawwali. Apart from this, many poetic forms are also sung by Qawwal people in Qawwali style.

#### **Contribution of Women Artists in the Promotion of Sufiana Singing**

In every field of music, where men have achieved proper place and respect, women have also made an important contribution in the field of music. From the very beginning, the female race has been attracted to music as a symbol of tenderness. Evidence of this is also found in ancient texts. Wherever there is a description of music, women have also been found to be associated with singing, playing and dancing. In the field of music, women have been entitled to respect in the society because of their art. The women artists of Punjab received musical education from the musical connoisseurs of the highest order, but along with education, women had to struggle hard to master their art from the very beginning. Even in these situations, some women artists chose the musical field which was not acceptable in the society of that time. But still, courageous women took steps as a result of the struggle in the world of music and answered the issues of the society through their art and played an important role in the propagation of singing of the Sufi tradition in addition to all the genres of music. (10) While the artists of Punjab have contributed significantly in the promotion of Sufi music, women artists of Punjab have contributed significantly in this, including Bibi Nooran, Saeeda Begum, Sarvan Nooran, Abida Parveen, Nooran Sisters, Manpreet Akhtar, Mamta Joshi, The names of other female artists are special. Under the dissertation, women artists of Punjab state have played and are playing an important role in the promotion of Sufiana singing, which is described as follows:

#### **Bibi Nooran: (Famous Sufi Artist, Jalandhar)**

Among the senior female artists of Punjab, the name of the feminist Malika Bibi Nooran ji is taken with great respect, who contributed significantly in the promotion of Sufiana singing. The Kalams of Sufi mystics sung by her are famous and popular even today. Bibi Nooran ji was born in Surajmal Kotla, a village near Jalandhar. Since childhood, music was embedded in Bibi Nooran ji's soul, recognizing which the musician Ustad Ghulam Mohammad ji refined his art and made him aware of the nuances of music. Bibi Nooran ji had a call in her voice which would enchant every musical artist and audience. According to Professor Rajesh Mohan ji, "Bibi Nooran ji comes in the category of early stage female singers singing Sufiana in Purbi Punjab by her The sung Sufi Kalams are gaining fame and popularity even today.

When his voice fell in the ears of the famous personality Jagat Singh Jagga, he called on the director of Jalandhar Doordarshan N. Talking to M. Bhatia about the singing of Bibi Noora ji, he provided the opportunity to Bibi Nooran ji to sing on Jalandhar Doordarshan. Due to which his fame increased even more. "Like this, the sufiana voice of Bibi Nooran ji reached Ahmed Zaheer of HMV

Company, then he got the entire album of Bibi Nooran ji singing." And the share-shayari used to be more. At the time of your singing, there was only one tabla player and one harmonium player, but still there was so much peace and spirit in your singing that every listener was captive in the Sufi atmosphere. His famous Sufis are 'Kalam Allah hu da Awazaan awe', 'Kulli vichcho ni yaar labh lai', 'Kulli rah vich pai asan tere' etc. She was considered as a Sufi singer as well as a folk singer of Punjab. You also sang many folk songs of Punjab. But the most unique identity of your singing has been Sufiana singing.

### **Manpreet Akhtar: (Eminent folk and Sufi singer, Sri Muktsar Sahib)**

The name of Manpreet Akhtar is also a person of great admiration and respect in Sufiana singing. You have carved a niche in Sufiana music by adapting your voice to suit all styles of singing. "Singer Manpreet ji inherited singing; the specialty of Manpreet ji's singing becomes clear from the fact that at the age of 13, she was asked to sing with the famous singer Mohammad Rafi Sahab." (11)

Manpreet Akhtar ji had expertise in folk songs, classical music singing style and Sufi singing style. Singer Manpreet ji participated in youth musical competitions during her college education and received the award for "Funmad and Vilvanji Themes". While he sang various genres of Punjabi poetic literature such as Boli, Ghodiya, Suhag and folk songs under folk songs, while choosing Sufi music, he made Sufi music his musical profession and played it successfully. The biggest feature of Manpreet Akhtar in the Sufiana singing style was that due to his very melodious voice, he had a good hold on the notes of the chord octaves. Your throat murkis, khatke, gamak were very clearly done, which used to add to your singing. Whenever you would start a kalam, you would definitely sing a composition based on Ishq Haqiqi. Your style of speaking on stage captivated the audience. When you presented your presentation with a simple dress and simple nature, then with the style of your singing, the great master had the ability to mesmerize the people and the audience.

### **Saeeda Begum: (Eminent Sufi Artist, Jalandhar)**

Saeeda Begum holds a special place among the women artists of Punjab associated with the Sufi tradition. You are a singer of positive thinking, having the ability to sing Sufiana, enchanting the audience with her stunning and scintillating voice and giving the audience the status of God. Rare voices like Saeeda Begum are rarely heard in Sufiana singing style. Your singing has its own unique style.

Apart from making your voice heavy like that of men, the voice never fades even in the vowels of

the chord octave. You have used qawwali, ghazal, quite three colors in your Sufiana singing. The murmurs from your throat, the attachment of vocals, the way of aap, reveal the characteristics of your singing style. The biggest feature of Saeeda Begum is that you yourself present your singing on stage by playing the harmonium. As much as your singing is amazing, playing the harmonium is also amazing. Your voice eloquently speaks the voice of the audience and a call is reflected in your voice. In your singing style, you used aalap instead of tana, as well as more use of thirds, rhythms which add to your singing. Your Sufiana Kalams sung 'Rah Takne Pai Gaye Rahiyan De', 'Aaja Sajjanam Tainu Dil Wajan Marda', 'Main Razz-Rajj Pawan Luddiyan', 'My Sohanan Sajjan Ghar Aaya', 'Nain Nain Di Fakiri Vich Vihi Gaye Yaar Da' There are 'Nazara Vekh Ke', 'Ve Jogia', 'Sadi Gali Aa', 'Ve Main Tere Jogia' etc. which were well-liked by the audience. (12)

### **Mamta Joshi: (Famous Punjabi Female Young Artist, Firozpur)**

Mamta Joshi ji has an important place among the young Sufi women artists of Punjab. While on her musical journey, Mamta Joshi did not realize that when her attention shifted from Ghazal, Gaikki and Classical singing to Sufiana singing and Sufi poetry. Having a good understanding of classical music, Mamta Joshi has a lot of knowledge of Raga, Taal, whose glimpse can be seen in your singing. While you sang folk singing, classical music, ghazal singing, under Sufiana singing, you also performed qawwali and many singing genres. Mamta Joshi, who has achieved so much fame in Sufiana singing, says that "the biggest contribution of the Wadali brothers in Sufiana singing is who taught them the nuances of Sufiana singing".

### **Nooran Sisters: (Famous Women Young Artists of Punjab, Jalandhar)**

The Nooran sisters have a unique identity in the Sufi singing style. In the music world, the Sufiana singing of both the sisters was highly appreciated by the general public. You chose Sufiana singing from the very beginning because you inherited Sufiana singing from your family. Pro. According to Premsagar, "In contrast to the challenges of commercial music today, the propagation of Sufiana musical tradition by the Nooran Sisters resulted in listening to Sufiana compositions by young female audience and Sufiana compositions by women young artists were included in their productions which That is a very commendable thing. After this, make maximum use of taunts, alaps. Taking aalap in the chord octave and playing with the rhythm is a distinct feature of your singing. Your clapping skills while performing qawwali sets you apart from other artists. You have performed well in the form of singing the Kalams of Bulleh Shah ji, Shah Hussain etc. The

voice of both of you sisters suits the Sufiana singing style. Your singing style always uses gamuts and your gestures are also colored in Sufi colours, you always present something special on the stage. Your biggest feature is that both of you sisters perform Sufiana singing in Jugalbandi. The alphas of your Sufiana singing rendition are very good and your composition is also very appealing to the audience.

### **Contribution of Sufi Dhadi Artists in the Promotion of Sufiana Singing**

Dhadi singing art holds its own unique and special place under the various singing forms of folk music prevalent in the musical tradition of Punjab, Sikh Dhadi and folk Dhadi singers come under Dhadi singing art. Sikh history is propagated by Sikh Dhadi singer artists and folk Dhadi singer artists propagate historical heroic stories, love stories and literature of Sufi tradition in the heritage of Punjab through their singing. (13) Folk Dhadi singer artists perform their performances by visiting different places of rural culture and cultural occasions, rural gatherings, Sufi mystics.

#### **Idu Sharif: (Sufi Dhadi, Patiala)**

Edu Sharif, who has achieved high level of recognition and popularity of Sufi Dhadi singing art and has been honored with the President's award, is a high-ranking Dhadi singer among Sufi Dhadi artists. You were born in 1947 in village Laloedha Tehsil Nabha District Patiala. Your father Pidu Khan was one of the famous Muslim dhadis of his time and used to perform his art by playing two sarangis while singing. You inherited your singing. You were fond of singing since childhood and from childhood started taking lessons in singing from your father. You studied Dhadi singing styles deeply. Together with his nephew Murli Khan and son Nusrat Ali Khan, he started giving performances in different states by forming a dhadi group. In the Delhi National Fair too, you mesmerized the audience with your dhadi singing skills. You also got a special honor from Rajiv Gandhi who was the Prime Minister of that time. After this, he gave many presentations abroad where he sang folk tales of Punjab in addition to Sufi Kalams like Heer-Ranjha, Sassi-Punnu, Mirza-Sahiban, Poorna Bhagat, Dulla Bhatti, etc. Apart from this, you have well publicized the works of Sufi mystics in rural cultural fairs.

#### **Desraj Lachkani: (Sufi Dhadi, Patiala)**

Sufi Dhadi Desraj Lachkani ji was born in 1946 in the house of father Madhav Das in village Lachkani, District Patiala. You received your early education in Dhadi music from your father. Apart from being a master of classical music, you are also proficient in playing many instruments. Apart from his father, he also received music education from his Ustad Ghichar Shah Dayalgarh, who was a Muslim Dhadi

as well as a good knowledge of Dhadi Raag. "Describing about his early life, Lachkani ji says that we are from the family of Mir Alam Bhai Mardane ji. My first name was Taj Muhammad. Our ancestors, instead of giving up their native land, changed their religion for the satisfaction of the mind and named me Desraj.

#### **Dhadi Armaan Ali: (Sufi Dhadi, Lachkani)**

In the present time, Dhadi Armaan Ali ji has emerged as a famous artist from a young age among the Sufi Dhadi artists. You were born in 1991 in the village of Lachkani, father Surjit Khan's house to mother Dharamjit ji. Due to the atmosphere in the house in the music, you inculcated the hobby of singing since childhood. To convert hobby into art, you made Dhadi Desraj Lachkani ji your guru and got training in this art. At the age of 23 and during the short journey of singing, you have received many honors, including 'Kavi Shree Chhajju Singh Yadari Folk Sangeet Mela, Nandlal, Patiala', 'Folk Literature and Culture Manch, Nabha, Patiala', 'These include 'Special Award in 2010 by Lok Sahitya Sanchitchar Manch Nabha', 'Special Award in 2012 by Yuvak Mela of Punjabi University Patiala' etc. (14)

#### **Didar Singh Sheetal: Sufi Dhadi, Ropar**

You were born in 1969 in village Solkhiyan, District Ropar. From childhood he was inclined towards music. You worked hard to join the Dhadi singing tradition and got music training from your maestro Gurbaksh Singh ji. To master Dhadi Sangeet singing, you have to go to famous festivals and fairs of Punjab, listen to many famous Dhadi singers like Rajman Dayagarh, Desraj Lachkani, Gurmail Pandher, Arjun Guare Wala, etc. and listen to the nuances of music. Apart from this, you took education of Dhadi singing from Dhadi Sohan Singh Sheetal. Your troupe includes Prem Singh and Sheetal Singh who at times performed war singing at sacred places like Lahore, Nankana Sahib, Pakistan, as well as sung the compositions of Sufi poets. Similarly, you went to other states besides Punjab and gave presentations of Sufiana singing and made the audience aware of Sufiana singing. You also won many honors like 'Vaisakhi fair in 1995, honor by Takht Sri Keshgarh Sahib', in 2006 in Pakistan also you were given special honor by being pleased with your dhadi singing performance.

### **CONCLUSION**

Sufiana singing has also contributed significantly to the special fame of Indian music. The credit for which goes to the singer artists of the Punjab region, who propagated and propagated Sufiana singing through various genres by singing Sufi

Kalams or Vaani composed by Sufi mystics. As a result of which presently Sufiana singing based on Sufi tradition is maintaining its special identity. There has been a special and significant contribution of the artists of Punjab as a result of which Sufiana singing has achieved world fame. From this it becomes clear that in the Punjab region, where various sectors played their role in making Indian culture rich, in the field of music also, through various musical styles, the artists of Punjab have taken Indian music to the summit.

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