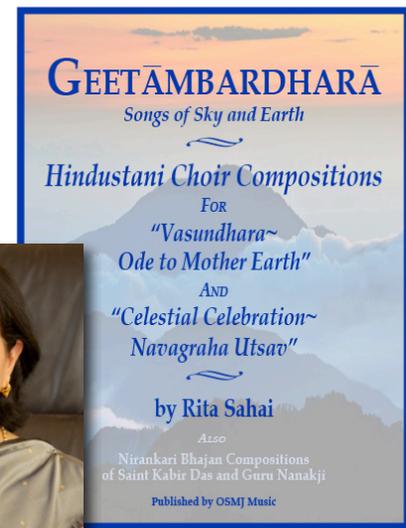


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Exciting News!
NEW MUSIC BOOK
BY RITA SAHAI

Rita Sahai, a most prolific Hindustani vocalist, composer and teacher, has just released a music book of her compositions entitled, “GEETĀMBARDHARĀ: *Songs of Sky and Earth*.” These are the compositions Rita created for her Hindustani Choir: “*Vasundhara ~ Ode to Mother Earth*” which premiered in Berkeley CA on October 4, 2008 and “*Celestial Celebration ~ Navagraha Utsav*” which also premiered in Berkeley CA four years later on October 27, 2012. These choral events were created by Ritaji to encourage her students in their studies and give them a performance platform. This group of students, now known as “The Vasundhara Choir” often joins Ritaji in concerts and programs at ashrams and spiritual centers.



This richly appointed book also includes some Nirankari Bhajan Compositions of Saint Kabir Das and Guru Nanakji. The music is presented in an easy to read format, and features Musical Notation, Devanagiri Script with Transliteration, English Translations, Illustrations, and Information on Ragas & Taals used in the compositions. The spiral binding allows the book to lie flat during use.

The introductory pages of “GEETĀMBARDHARĀ: *Songs of Sky and Earth*” are not to be missed! One is given a solid foundation for the broad scope and rich intention of this majestic undertaking. In addition to letters of dedication and best wishes are Rita’s eloquent description of her musical process and how her students often inspire her.

Rita Sahai has served as an ambassador of India’s rich musical heritage over the three decades that she has lived in the United States. Through workshops and lectures she has reached out to the larger non-Indian community and educated them in the intricacies of Hindustani music. She conducts classes all over the Bay Area, from Sacramento and Berkeley to Fremont and San Jose. Her students come from varied cultural and musical backgrounds.

Sahai is a faculty member at UC Davis. She has also taught music at Ali Akbar College of Music, San Jose State University, Mills College and UC Berkeley as a well as a course on creative world music at San Francisco State University.

Rita’s Western students discover a universal appeal and depth of emotion when singing classical ragas, and Rita’s classes are a way of reconnecting to the art and culture of their mother country for her Indo-American students. In March 2013 Rita Sahai was inducted into The Alameda County 2013 Women’s Hall of Fame and was recognized for her contributions to Culture and Art.