

**A SACHI Invitation
to Experience
the Unique
Artistic Flavors
of Deccan India**

**Innovatively presented
by scholar-artists**

Elroy Pinto
Filmmaker, Curator and
Scholar of Global Cinema
and

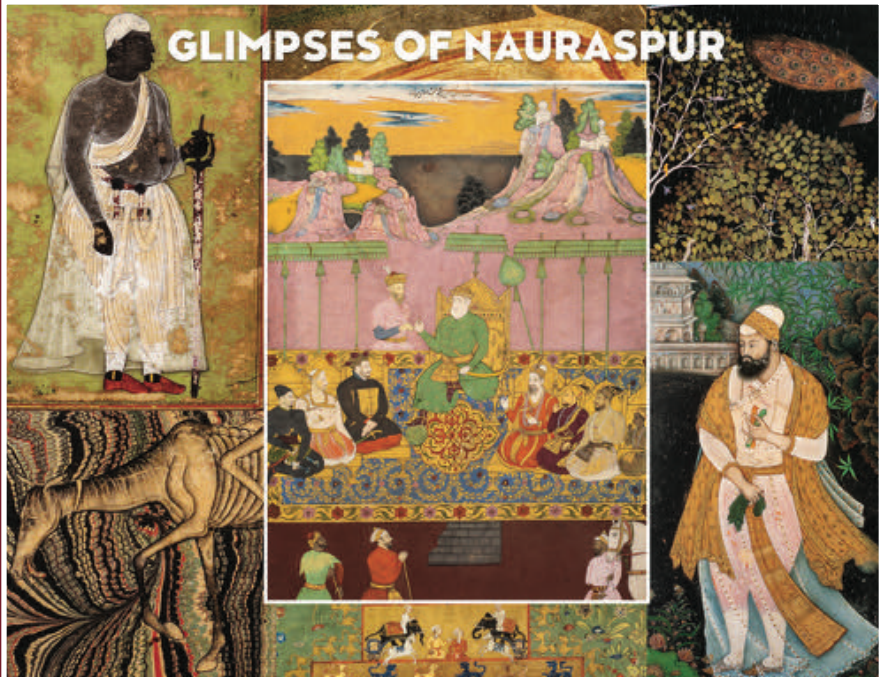
Neela Bhagwat
Renowned Musician of
Gwalior Gharana and
celebrated Educator

Friday
February 26, 2021

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm
(Pacific Standard Time, USA)

A Webinar Zoom Presentation
Please register here

Fees: \$25.00 (SACHI Members)
\$30.00 (Non-Members)

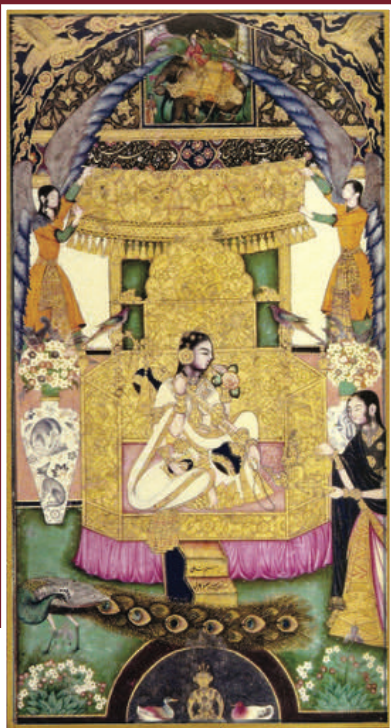


Please Join in Celebrating
Glimpses of Nauraspur

A Musical Adaptation and Interpretation of
Kitab-i-Nauras

Compositions of Poetic Verses
by Ibrahim Adil Shah II of Bijapur

Cum Illustrated Presentation and Commentary



Saraswati Enthroned, 1595-1609 CE, signed Farrukh Husayn, (also known by name Farrukh Beg), Bijapur, Deccan India; Brigadier Sawali Bhawani Singh of Jaipur City Palace; from the Collection of Maharaja of Jaipur

Elroy Pinto

Glimpses of Nauraspur is an attempt to recreate and understand the 16th-17th century Adil Shahi court culture that eventually manifested itself in the idea of 'Nauras.' The program consists of segments in which Elroy Pinto, a filmmaker will articulately lead us into the aesthetics of the Deccan and Ibrahim Adil Shah II's innovative realization of 'Nauras.' His commentary will be interspersed with Ibrahim's poetry from the Kitab-i-Nauras set to classical music by Neela Bhagwat, a renowned senior musician of the Gwalior Gharana.

**The Adil Shahi Aesthetic and Multiculturalism of
16th century Bijapur Court**

The idea of a composite culture is unique in Indian society. From time to time, artistes, saint poets, and some celebrated kings and princes infused a remarkable syncretic vision. From poet-saint Kabir to Emperor Akbar, there emerged a confluence of ideas inspiring an integrated society, enriched by its many flavors. In 16th century, Akbar (1556-1605) was not alone in his enlightened royal pursuit. Equally engaging is his southern counterpart, the royal Sultan of Bijapur

This program highlights a contemporary of the Great Akbar, Sultan Ibrahim Adil Shah II of Bijapur (1580-1627) in the southern part of India, known as the Deccan, who like Akbar, shines with his special appreciation of arts and artistes. He was known to be particularly well rounded in the arts of calligraphy, poetry, music, and painting. His flourishing artistic patronage, imbibing a syncretic Indo-Persian spirit, resulted in the creation of a city, 'Nauraspur,' defined by the arts and aesthetics. It brings to mind also, Rabindranath Tagore's 'Shantiniketan' in West Bengal, a haven of creativity and artistic expression.



Elroy Pinto is a filmmaker and researcher. He studied film theory at the School of Oriental and African Studies, London. He has taught cinema in Mumbai and curated a program of film at a leading contemporary art gallery. Previously he has assisted the filmmaker Kumar Shahani and studied Indian classical music from Neela Bhagwat. His debut film Kaifiyat (2019) is based on the musician Ustad Nizamuddin Khan and explores the socio-religious context of Deccani aesthetics.



Neela Bhagwat, renowned Hindustani classical music vocalist, is a leading exponent of the Gwalior Gharana. She received training under revered gurus, Pandit Sharatchandra Arolkar (in turn, a disciple of the famed doyen, Krishna Rao Shankar Pandit) and Pandit Jal Balaporia of Gwalior Gharana.

While focusing on India's classical repertoire, Bhagwat was also drawn to the words of medieval Indian poets, particularly saint Kabir, Meerabai and others whose poetry she set to intricate raga-like melodies, interpreting it in the contemporary context, and in humanitarian terms. In the same vein, she brings alive the 'Poet-Prince-Musician' Adil Shah II of Bijapur, whose syncretic spirit is deeply embedded in his book of poems, the Kitab-i-Nauras, a selection of which she renders musically in refreshing ways.

Widely acclaimed and internationally recognized for her innovative spirit in bringing traditional music idioms in play with contemporary concerns, she brings a distinct modern sensibility to her approach. An erudite scholar/educator, Bhagwat has published numerous scholarly and literary works. She holds a Masters degree in Marathi, Sanskrit and Sociology from the University of Bombay.



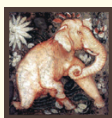
Nauras Mahal (Sangeet-Nari Mahal), Nauraspur, on the outskirts of Bijapur, Deccan, India; monument completed in early 17th century, photograph

Elroy Pinto



Ibrahim Rauza: The masusoleum of Ibrahim Adil Shah II, monument completed 1626/1627, Bijapur, Deccan India, photograph

Getty Images



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