

Biography

Michael Griska performs and teaches *North Indian Classical Music* better known as *Hindustani Music* on the *sitar* and *surbahar*. He is a disciple of world renowned *sarod* player, *Pandit K. Sridhar*. His studies with his *Guruji* are always on-going as he maintains to his daily practices. He is currently living in the Pittsburgh area giving concerts, lectures, and lessons.

Concert Description:

Hindustani Music by *Michael Griska* on *sitar* and *surbahar* with *tabla* accompaniment. *Michael* will begin the performance with the *surbahar* by painting a picture on the mental canvas of sound known as a *raga*. This *raga* can last for a few minutes or nearly an hour and will be rendered in the *Dhrupad* style. This is very deeply meditative and healing. The *raga* will be chosen based on the time of day and the microtones (*shrutis*) used will evoke a particular emotion felt by the body. *Michael* will then switch over to the *sitar* and the *tabla* player will join him. They will perform another *raga* for about an hour in the *Khyal* style with more emphasis on the cyclic rhythm patterns called *tala*. This will be an exploration of melody and rhythm for the emotions. They will conclude the performance with a question/answer session known as a *satsang*.

When sound and meditation are the focus for listening, *Michael* will concentrate his playing on the slow and deep movements of *Dhrupad*. This is very useful for breathing, calming of the mind, and realignment of the body.

About the Artist:

Michael Griska is a native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in the U.S.A. He began his music studies on the trombone in the summer 1990 at West Mifflin Area School District. After receiving his High School diploma *Michael* performed in and around Pittsburgh on the bass guitar while supporting himself as a printer. He received the *sitar* in the summer of 2005 and started learning classically under *Sushanta Banerjee* in the spring of 2006. He then relocated to Chapel Hill, NC to study under *sarod* master *Pandit K. Sridhar* in the autumn of 2009. *Michael* was officially accepted as a *shishya* (disciple) of *Pandit K. Sridhar* in the *Sri Venkateswara Temple of North Carolina* with the approval of the *Brahmin Priest* in the spring of 2011.

Since then *Michael* has traveled in and out of the U.S.A. studying, performing, and accompanying his *Guruji*, *Pandit K. Sridhar*. Some of his experiences include: playing the *tanpura* and *keeping tala* for his *Guruji* at the *Smithsonian* in Washington D.C. and at the *2012 Stockholm Sangeet Conference* in Stockholm, Sweden; performing *sitar* and *surbahar* at *Pandit K. Sridhar* concerts in various cities in North Carolina; performing *sitar* and *surbahar* at numerous house concerts and temples in India, Denmark, Sweden, and U.K.; performing at weddings in the *Carnegie Museum of Natural History* and *William Penn Omni* in Pittsburgh, PA, in *Duke University* in Durham, NC, and in the *Biltmore House* in Asheville, NC. Despite all these achievements, *Michael's* greatest accomplishment has been learning the rare and dying art of *Javari (bridge filing)*, as this has allowed him to maintain his own instruments and provide the overtones that are the emotional essence of *Hindustani Music*, the *Shruti*.

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