

# Science of Sur: A Lecture–Demonstration

By Pandit Ramakant Gundecha

**04 April 2017, 3 pm - 4.30 pm**

Lecture Hall No. 22, Victor Menezes Convection Centre (VMCC), IIT Bombay

## **Abstract:**

Sur (loosely translated as musical notes) can be called the building blocks of melodic music. The Dhrupad tradition treats music as an expression of Nada (Pure Sound), that takes on the form of Sur and Shruti (transitional sound in between/ around Sur) against the structural backdrops provided by the discipline of the form, and the Raga (complex melodic architecture) chosen. However, for Nada to qualify as Sur, it needs to go through certain processes and satisfy certain criterion. This seminar will establish the contexts for defining such criterion, and outline the practices involved, through the Dhrupad form of Indian Classical Music as the medium of exploration. Dhrupad being the oldest surviving form of Indian Music, is widely considered to have an uncompromising hold over fundamental principles of treatment of voice, and minutiae of Raga theory and utilization of Shruti in the practice/ performance of Classical Music. Modelled as a lecture-demonstration, the session will give an overview of fundamental elements of Dhrupad practice and treatment of voice with practical demonstrations and descriptions. It will also generate insights about how cognitive processes of sound perception have driven the evolution of practice/ performative models in a dynamic music tradition, which delves into a fundamental understanding of auditory parameters in the development of musical constructs.

## **About the Speaker:**

Padma Shri Ramakant Gundecha is one half of the world renowned Dhrupad Duo, the Gundecha Brothers. Initiated into Classical Music at an early age, he began his journey with Dhrupad in 1981 with the legendary Dhrupad Guru, late Ustad Zia Fariduddin Dagar and also from his brother, the Rudra Veena maestro, late Ustad Zia Mohiuddin Dagar. The Gundecha Brothers have enthralled diverse audiences around the world with their uniquely captivating Jugalbandi Dhrupad recitals, and have also actively worked on various projects in collaboration with artists of various kinds. Notable collaborations include their work with Late Smt. Chandralekha, Padma Shri Astad Deboo, Padma Vibhushan Kumudini Lakhia, Carnatic Duo - Malladi Brothers and the Italian duo - Samvad Music. They are "Top Grade" artists on the All India Radio and are the recipients of numerous awards including the Padma Shri, Sanskriti Award, Allaudin Khan Fellowship, MP Govt. Fellowship, Puttarai Gawai Award, Kumar Gandharva Award, Dagar Gharana Award, National Film Award amongst others. They set up their Gurukul - Dhrupad Sansthan in Bhopal in 1999, and have trained more than 30 full time Dhrupad performers so far. The Gurukul also regularly conducts Dhrupad festivals, and is growing into a center for integrated research in classical music and allied streams.