


Ustād Gāh

where music lives



ZILA KHAN

The background is a solid dark red color. Overlaid on this are several thin, light red wavy lines that resemble musical staves. Scattered across these staves are various musical notes, including eighth notes, quarter notes, and half notes, all in a light red color. The notes and lines are distributed across the entire page, creating a musical theme.

*I sing therefore I am
I sing in praise of my Creator
To be a Human Being, and feel the essence of it in
celebration
It's the greatest gift and heightens every aspect of it
What greater joy than to be God's Creation*

*Lets preserve this Beautiful Earth
Give back, there is no dearth
In my musical journey, let my voice be the guide to
jubilation
Through music, peace, serenity and our existence
What greater joy than to be God's Creation*

*Protect the Earth
Preserve the Heritage
Inspire the Souls*

Zila Khan



UstādGāh

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UstadGah... '**Ustad** ki jagah' - is an initiative by the sufi legend of the new millenium, Zila Khan, where music lives on.

UstadGah's tree of musical notes, signifies 'Vat-sanyas'. The selfless tree, the greatest giver of nature, deep rooted, continues to share and nurture life. At UstadGah, the students come under the 'Chatra- Chhaya' of Ustad to seek the greatest gift of life in the form of musical heritage.

UstadGah: building the dream

UstadGah, the idea that shaped into an institution in 2008, is the vision of Zila Khan to provide opportunities for the lesser privileged but musically talented children who do not have the ability to shape their talent and fulfill their dreams. Zila Khan wants to nurture the talent of such children who passionately dream of music. UstadGah provides them with training and education in music for four to five years. Through UstadGah, a curriculum has been designed for 11th and 12th classes, which on qualifying will exempt a year of UstadGah's curriculum. The disciples of UstadGah will hone their skills and be empowered to earn their own livelihoods. The idea is to give them an international platform where they can express themselves through music.

With the desire to share the earned knowledge, skill and wisdom, UstadGah,



UstadGah's workshop in New Delhi

through this initiative, intends to promote the 'paramparaa' of music and showcase the rich cultural heritage of India to the world.

The substantial and holistic curriculum at UstadGah is unparalleled in the history of this country, as it is based on every aspect and dimension of our culture. UstadGah will periodically invite luminaries, artists, professors, gurus, business entrepreneurs, yoga teachers and intellectual minds as visiting faculty to work and interact with the children, alongwith its own teachers. The children will simultaneously pursue their regular academics with scholarship, in recognized schools and colleges.

The aim is to provide a wholesome environment to those priviledged children so that they can indulge themselves totally in the process of growth and develop the true genius in them.



On the left: Ustad Vilayat Khan's vision. In a public ceremony he ties the shagirdi thread on Zila Khan, his daughter, making her his formal student and also a successor of his gharana.

*On the right, from the top:
UstadGah workshop on the backwaters of Kerela.
Zila Khan with visually-challenged disciples.
Disciples of UstadGah.*



UstadGah: *creative disciplines*

UstadGah celebrates music and provides people from different walks of life and ages, the opportunity 'to live the celebration'. It offers courses for patrons of music to give their talent and interest a new dimension.

The courses include:

A six weeks course in music learning:

To impart knowledge of the nuances of music, the integrated music course will hone the skills.

A three weeks course in music appreciation :

To develop and enhance the skill to appreciate music across cultures and genres, thus celebrating the essence of the art form.

Music Therapy :

The sound has strong effect on the human aura. The healing power of music on our senses and body has been well known since the dawn of time.



UstadGah workshop with Naamdharis.



Felicitating Dr. Yamini Krishnamurthy.

Earlier titles like 'Ustad' or 'Pandit' were only reserved for male maestros. The women legend artists were addressed based on their 'marital' status - Shrimati, Kumari or Begum. So I changed that and started annually felicitating great women artists with the title 'Ustad-e-Maa'. [Click here for more photos.](#)



*2019UstadGah classes.
[Click here to read the newspaper article from The Telegraph.](#)*

UstadGah: *forming communities*

UstadGah is a place for like minded communities to gather, for the promotion of culture and heritage. It is an on-going effort not just to appreciate but preserve music. Zila Khan's classes are with a difference! Breaking away from the rigid Guru Shishya Parampara and moving on from Gurukul to Cool Guru, she incorporates in her teachings her rich heritage, her vast experience, her profound understanding of both western and Indian music as well as using the latest technology to make it a unique learning experience. Her bonding with the gen next makes her a youth icon.

UstadGah is the institution where music lives. It gives a place for the communities to promote, preserve and protect the cultural heritage.

The Art Gallery at UstadGah:

Imaginative, vibrant and saturated with the rich colours and mixed media montage, the art gallery reflects the expressions of various artists.

Library and Resource Centre:

The library and resource centre will provide material and equipment for in-depth research.

Digital Music Archives :

We have initiated digital archiving of music at UstadGah for better preservation, accessibility and effective usage of music.

Zila Khan: *the artist*



Zila Khan is today much appreciated in the field of Sufi music at large as an international phenomenon. Born into the seventh generation of distinguished music maestros in Indian Classical Music, her brilliant and exciting performances have not only established her as a national treasure in her own country, India, but gained her worldwide fame.

Daughter of the legendary sitar maestro, Ustad Vilayat Khan, she has perfect command over various genres of music. Zila Khan is the first and the only woman sufi singer in the family. Her soulful music provides an opportunity to the listeners to connect with themselves and strike a note

with the Almighty. Zila Khan is known for her constant creative research and quality of effervescence in her voice and lyrics that keep her audience mesmerized and spiritually elevated.

Zila Khan has successfully established herself in a mould that is a symbol of her inherited legacy and at the same time has churned her own personality through her musical creations. She is endowed with the ability to contemporize, improvise and add a Midas touch thus making her the undeniably leading woman sufi singer in the world.

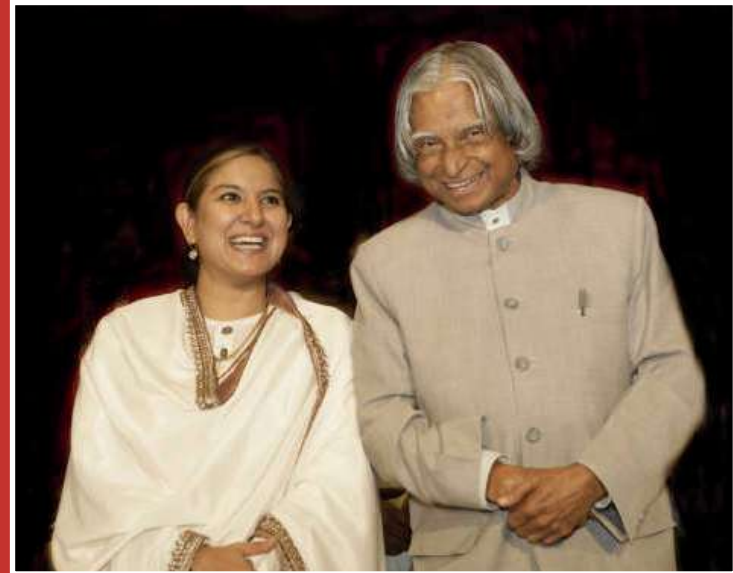
After having an international recognition, the humble Zila Khan prefers to introduce herself as just a human being. She enjoys the joy and honour of being God's creation. She likes to take her listeners to a musical voyage where her voice plays the guide. Zila Khan lives the quest of simplifying her life, starting anew, 'unlearning what she has learnt', thus enabling herself to celebrate the essence of being a human being.

Zila Khan has many albums to her credit. She has made an indelible mark in the history of music by thoroughly researching, composing, singing the thoughts of Hazrat Rabia Al Basri, the first Sufi woman born between 717-801 C.E. , and including them in her latest album 'Zila- The Girl Child' launched with HMV Saregama.

Zila Khan has been awarded with the 'Roll of Honour' by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Chief Justice of India. Former President of India A.P.J Abdul Kalam appreciated her contribution to music and felt her mellifluous rendition

of 'Sufi Kalaam' linked with God. Her music preaches oneness of God as well as praises the diversity God has created, making sufi music a binding force that unites people under one roof of humanity.

Zila Khan is a regular member of various delegations representing India, whether of the Ministry of Culture or the Ministry of Women and Child Development. Supporting projects on gender equality, education for the underprivileged (especially the girl child), women empowerment etc. Zila Khan is also a cultural advisor and an official member of the organizing committee of the Commonwealth Games and the Ambassador for Heritage and Culture of India. Her music echoes in the neighboring countries and is definitely a precursor to peace and harmony and perhaps can make all understand that like music which has no boundaries or religion, humanity enjoys the same status.



“You connected all of us to the Almighty through the medium of your music; your singing has and can play a definitive and key role in spreading peace and harmony around the world”.

A P J Abdul Kalam
Former President of India

OneZone Festivals

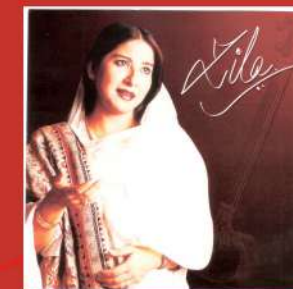
With the idea to bring together two seemingly disparate thoughts of being musically inclined and being eco-friendly, Zila Khan has scored into a commercial musical venture, 'OneZone Festivals.' The OneZone Festivals is an endeavour to protect the environment and preserve the rich cultural heritage through the medium of music, the purity of which sensitizes human beings and prompts the change that has to come from within.

Being a commercial venture, OneZone festivals will present concerts of commercial, Indian and international musical artists. The audiences will get a flavour to Sufiana, Classical and international musical genres from the maestro's of the Western, Asian and Arab world.

These events, which may be collaborative, are an attempt at creating prosperity through music, spreading awareness about ecological conditions and raising funds for UstadGah Foundation.

Through these festivals, the students of UstadGah will also participate in the development and promotion of Indian handicraft in collaboration with other countries.

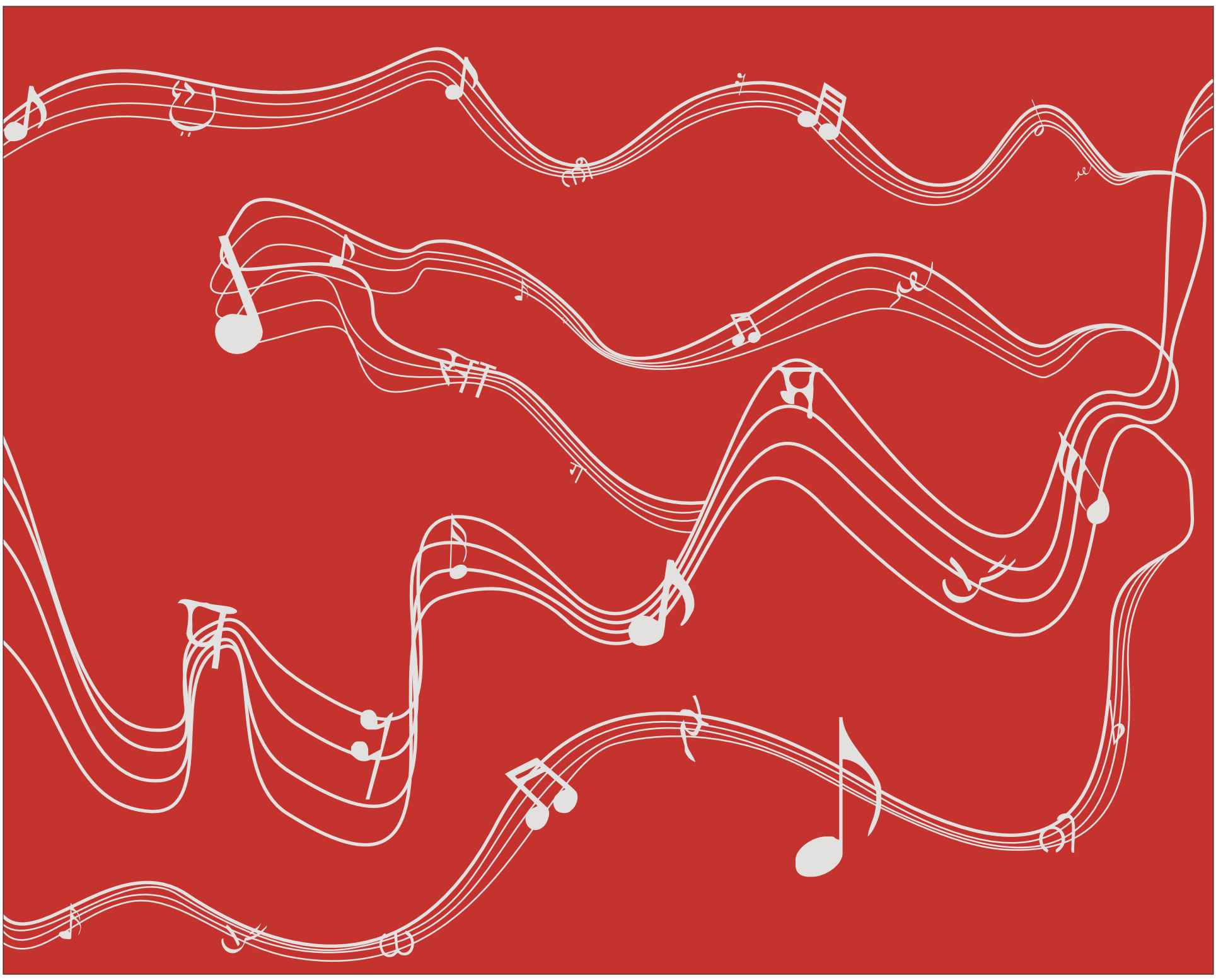
“God loves creating diversity”. Appreciating this diversity is the essence of Sufism. And that is what Zila Khan sings with unbridled passion to the delight of her fans.



It was almost a near religious experience. He (Ustad Vilayat Khan, Zila Khan's father) wanted to communicate and he wanted his passion to be probably for the next generation to see it through you.

He must have seen that quality in you. And had that vision that if anybody is going to take that forward to the next generation, it is you.

Shobha De





info@zilakhan.in

www.zilakhan.in