

Ali Akbar College of Music

Sangeet Samrat Shree Guru Baba Allauddin Seniya Beenkar Gharana of Rampur–Maihar [India] and California



AACM Board Members

November, 2011

Swapan Chaudhuri Dear Friends,

Sunita Dutt This past May marked my 30th year of teaching at the Ali Akbar College. When Maestro Ali Akbar Khan first invited me to come to America to teach I made a commitment to him to give my service to the college for as long as he wanted. This commitment of mine continues to this day. Having taught at the AACM for that long has given me a deep perspective on all that the college has accomplished and a feeling of intense pride for Khansahib and his struggle to make the college one of the most highly respected schools of North Indian classical music in the world. Though Khansahib is no longer with us in body, his presence at the college is still palpable and as deeply influential as it has always been. I will always remain grateful to Khansahib for his artistry, his mentorship to me personally, his generosity and kindness, and for fostering a unique, family friendly atmosphere at the college where those interested in Indian music and culture can learn and be accepted no matter what their level of musical accomplishment might be.

Mary Khan

Daisy Paradis

Pat Brothers

Norman Capper I am writing this letter to you who have supported the AACM to let you know that your involvement with the college counts as a vote of confidence in us, which helps motivate foundations to support us as well; it is important to them, as it is to us, that our community supports us and joins us in our mission. The college could not survive without the help of our donors and supporters for which I am deeply grateful, so thank you to those of you who have donated in the past.

Rajendra Sahai

Subash Risbud

Dr. Kalpana Singh This past year we instituted a *Teaching Teens at the AACM* program with the help of the Alliance for Traditional Arts. Although we have always taught young people, we were happy to make this program official, and to recognize and encourage our teenage students. We are proud of our teens, and I am especially happy with their enthusiasm, talent and commitment. In April, our AACM Tabla Ensemble, which includes students of all levels and ages, performed for our sold-out annual celebration of Ali Akbar Khan's birthday at the Freight and Salvage in Berkeley.

Alam Khan

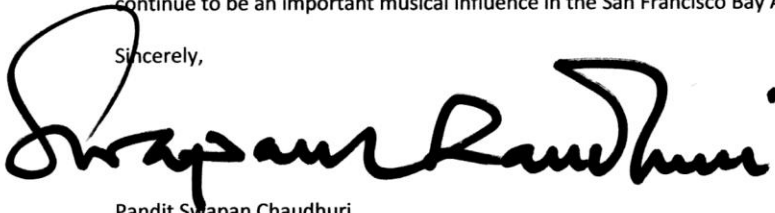
Dr. Mallar Bhattacharya This year we also added to our online classes, and we now offer eight online classes for all levels of students. This adds to our ability to serve those who cannot physically come to the college, but have a desire to study classical North Indian music.

Dr. Vivek Jain

Amitabh Chibber Our governing board has invited 3 new members – Dr. Mallar Bhattacharya, Dr. Vivek Jain, and attorney Amit Chibber. I am also pleased to share that the board gave a gift to the college of \$5,000, and we invite you to join the board in supporting the important work of the college. I was voted in as Board Chairman this past year, and I am happy to take up this role for as long as I am needed.

The influence of the Ali Akbar College of Music has not yet fully been seen. We take seriously our role to continue the great work of Maestro Ali Akbar Khan and the mission of the college to teach all of those who wish to learn. Those of you that continue to support the college can be proud that your investment has allowed the college to continue on for over four decades – and will still continue to be an important musical influence in the San Francisco Bay Area and around the world.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Swapan Chaudhuri". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'S' and a distinct dot at the end of the name.

Pandit Swapan Chaudhuri
Percussion Director and Board Chairman
Ali Akbar College of Music