

Alam Khan is the son of Swara Samrat Ali Akbar Khan and grandson of Acharya Baba Allauddin Khan. With such an impressive pedigree it was important for Alam to take the family business seriously. In a world of quick access and speed, learning a craft that takes at least 12 years to understand, and considerably more years to master, was not an enviable task. As a young boy growing up in America with a famous, world-class musician for a father, Alam had to make some big decisions at a young age. For his father to be Ali Akbar Khan, one of India's legendary icons and master of the 25 stringed sarode, the decisions were all the more difficult. Here was a young boy in America being immersed in a tradition, dating back to the 16th century musician Mian Tansen, court musician of Emperor Akbar, handed down through an unbroken chain of musicians, most of which were family, as was common in those days.

Alam began studying sarode at the age of seven, but the lure of friends, western music, video games, and the typical American life made it difficult for him to devote himself fully to studying. When he was ten, he was given his first electric guitar for Christmas by his mother. His parents decided to keep his fingers moving on strings until he was a bit older. He had a rock band by the time he turned eleven. He still studied with his father and at his father's music college, the Ali Akbar College of Music, but western music had taken hold of him. For the next few years Alam toured with his father playing the tanpura or drone instrument used by all Indian musicians. By the time he turned thirteen something had changed and his work on the guitar had opened up a new level of interest in sarode. His parents encouraged him to enroll in an independent high school so he could have the time to direct his energy into his classical music training.

He continued studying and practicing many hours daily for the next few years and finally made the leap to accompanying his father on sarode. At his first sarode performance he accompanied his father at a private recital in Portland, Oregon and received blessings from Swami Chetanananda at the Nityananda Institute. Alam's first public performance was in 1998 at the Spirit of India Festival that celebrated the Ali Akbar College of Music's 30th Anniversary in America. He was sixteen years old.

In 1999, Alam accompanied his father in India at the Jodhpur Palace for the King and Royal Family, the prestigious Dover Lane Music Conference in Kolkata, as well as several full-length performances in the United States. In 2001, Alam and his father completed a rigorous tour where they performed in Europe and India followed by a 3 month tour of Europe and India, in 2002-2003, where they performed to sold-out audiences. He also received a prestigious Individual Artists Grant from the Marin Arts Council in June, 2003.

Since 2004, Alam has played numerous solo concerts throughout the United States and has established himself as a solo artist in India. 2006 began a new stage for Alam as he travelled to India for the first time without his father for solo performances in Kolkata and Bombay. In 2009, Alam followed in his esteemed grandfather's footsteps, as well as his father, by playing at the All Bengal Music Conference and performing at the prestigious Dover Lane Music Conference as a soloist.

Alam continues to perform in the U.S., India and abroad and teaches at the Ali Akbar College of Music in San Rafael, CA.