



NUSRAT FATEH ALI KHAN



Timeline

1948	1964	1966	1971	1985	1988	1997	1997
Born in Faisalabad, Pakistan	Sings at his father's funeral	Gives his first public performance as a <i>qawwal</i>	Becomes the official leader of the family Qawwali party	Performs at the World of Music, Arts and Dance festival in London (WOMAD)	Works with Peter Gabriel to make a mixture of traditional and experimental albums	Creates music for several Bollywood and Pakistani films	Dies in London of a heart attack, aged just 48

Key Songs

Live at WOMAD	1985 - A live recording of Khan's performance that brought Qawwali to much bigger audiences.
Nami Daanam	1988 - Translated as 'I know the name' from the album <i>The Ecstatic Qawwali</i> .
Allah, Muhammad, Char, Yaar	1989 - Char Yaar means 'Four Friends' and refers to the four Caliphates who established the Rashidun Caliphate that ruled after the death of Muhammad.
Allah Hoo	1991 - A traditional Sufi chant.
Mustt Mustt	1991 - Made with Michael Brook. The remix by Massive Attack was the first Urdu song to reach the British charts.
Haq Ali Ali Haq	1992 - A devotional song meaning 'Right to Right'.
Taboo	1994 - Song recorded with English popstar Peter Gabriel.
Night Song	1996 - Song recorded with Canadian musician Michael Brook
The Long Road	1996 - Song recorded with American musician Eddie Vedder.
Koi Jane Koi Na Jane	1997 - A song from the Bollywood film <i>Aur Pyaar Ho Gaya</i>
Dulhe Ka Sehra	2000 - From the film <i>Dhadkan (Heartbeat)</i> . The song is part of a scene during the emotional parting of father and daughter during her arranged marriage.

The Importance of Nusrat

Qawwali

Qawwali originated in 12th Century Persia. The lyrics are based on medieval Sufi poems. It is a type of Islamic devotional music which is meant to bring both performer and listener closer to God. *Qawwali* performances are often held in shrines and contain passionate shouting and dancing. Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan is often referred to as "*Shahenshah-e-Qawwali*" (the King of Kings of Qawwali). He belonged to the Patiala gharana, extending the 600-year old Qawwali tradition of his family.

Khan's Voice

Considered one of the greatest singers ever recorded, he possessed a six-octave vocal range and could perform at a high level of intensity for many hours.

Prolific Output

Prolific means to present something in large numbers, and according to the *Guinness Book of World Records*, Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan holds the title for the largest recorded output by a Qawwali artist: He made a total of 125 musical albums and more are still being released each year, even after his death.

Important Events

The Indo-Pakistan War

Pakistan achieved independence following the end of the British Raj in 1947. British India was divided into two separate states (India and Pakistan) aimed to separate Hindus and Muslims. The war was fought over the areas of Jammu and Kashmir.

WOMAD Festival

The World of Music, Arts and Dance festival began in 1982 and was created by pop/rock star Peter Gabriel. Set in England, the idea was to share world music with new audiences. In 1985 Khan performed and it brought Qawwali music to a huge new audience of western listeners.

Real World Records

Khan signed to Peter Gabriel's record label 'Real World Records' and began to create both traditional music and experimental music with famous western pop/rock stars such as Eddie Vedder, Peter Gabriel and Michael Brook.

In 1964, when Nusrat was just 16 years old his father tragically died. Just 10 days after his passing, Nusrat had a dream in which his father appeared and told him to sing. Because of this, he sang at his father's funeral and never looked back.