



KISHORI AMONKAR



Timeline

1932	1957	1957-2007	2010	2017
Kishori is born in Bombay (now Mumbai), India	Loses her voice completely for two years	Sings and records many Hindustani classical songs	Writes a book about musical theory and practice	Dies aged 84 in Mumbai

Key Records

Kishori Amonkar	1957 - This was her first long play record featuring three songs in classical vocal style.
Padile Door Deshi	1963 - This record features six songs.
Sahela Re	1971 - This was one of Kishori's most famous songs
Mharo Pranam	1984 - Devotional / religious songs.
Drishti	1991 - Hindi-language drama film which Kishori provided the soundtrack for.
Pedile Door Deshi	1998 - This record features seven songs.



Kishori Amonkar practiced for up to 10 hours a day. She often got cross with audiences if they were not listening or concentrating carefully enough. She once walked off from performing when the sound was not good enough.

The Importance of Kishori

Music Styles

Amonkar had a deep understanding of her art, largely through studying ancient texts on music. Kishori's compositions are made to create 'Paradise on Earth'. Her music certainly felt that way to listeners. She expressed great emotion with her singing.

Mogubai Kurdikar (Kishori's Mother)

Kishori's mother was a famous musician in her time. Mogubai performed in a period when women singers were not treated with much respect. She was paid less than male performers and was not allowed to stay in guest houses. Despite this, she was still honoured with many musical awards.

Key Vocabulary

bhajan - A devotional song with a religious theme or spiritual ideas.

Hindustani music - A type of classical music found in South Asia.

Jaipur gharana - A community of musicians who share a style from the Jaipur area of India.

khayal - In Urdu, 'Khayal' means creative thought.

thumri - Romantic music to accompany dancing.

riyaaz - Intense musical practice sessions where Kishori would play for 8-10 hours a day.

swarmandal - An Indian harp with up to 40 strings which are plucked. It is trapezoid in shape.