



# KISHORI AMONKAR



## Timeline

1932	1939	1940s	1957	1964 and 1991	2002	2010	2017
Kishori is born in Bombay (now Mumbai), India	Her father dies and she is raised by her mother	Has vocal lessons	Loses her voice completely for two years	Sings on a film soundtrack to the disapproval of her mother	Earns the Padma Vibhushan award, the second-highest civilian award of the Republic of India	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 and also the vocalist Raghunan Panshikar.
Sahela Re	1971 - This was one of Kishori's most famous songs and was set to a raga bhoop.
Mharo Pranam	1984 - Devotional / religious songs, some of which are examples of Braj literature and greetings to Banke Bihari.
Drishti	1991 - Hindi-language drama film which Kishori provided the soundtrack for. The film was a huge success and won many awards.
Sadhana	1998 - Sadhana means 'daily spiritual practice'.
Pedile Door Deshi	1998 - This record features seven songs and also the vocalist Raghunan Panshikar.
Divya	2007 - This features six songs and includes musicians on the violin, harmonium, table and tambura.



### DID YOU KNOW?



Kishori Amonkar spent so many years perfecting her music and practiced for up to 10 hours a day that she often got cross with audiences if they were not listening or concentrating carefully enough. She once walked off from performing when the sound arrangements were not good enough.

## The Importance of Kishori

### Music Styles

Amonkar had a deep understanding of her art, largely through studying ancient texts on music. Although she was known for her singing of classical khayal songs, she also performed the lighter classical thumri and bhajan devotional songs, as well as film music. Kishori's compositions are made to create 'Paradise on Earth'. Her music certainly felt that way to listeners. She transformed traditions and expressed great emotion with her singing.

### Mogubai Kurdikar (Kishori's Mother)

Kishori's mother was a famous musician in her time. She was taught by Alladiya Khan who served in the court of various kings. However, Mogubai performed in a period when women singers were not treated with much respect. She had to travel to the venue of her performance in third class railway compartments, 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 distinctive style from the Jaipur area of India.

**khayal** - In Urdu, 'Khayal' means creative thought. It is the most popular classical type of Hindustani vocal music.

**thumri** - Romantic music to accompany dancing.

**raga** - An Indian scale which uses varying ascending and descending patterns (certain notes on the way up and certain notes on the way down) but always in a set sequence. The raga never has less than five notes.

**rasa** - Strong connection between musical ideas and the emotion it gives listeners.

**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.