

# The Complex World of 21st Century Hindustani Music: Perspectives of an Insider-Outsider

## A Lecture & Musical Performance

Moderated by Daves Soneji (South Asia Studies, Penn)

Vocalist **Shubha Mudgal** is one of India's acclaimed exponents of North Indian raag music and specializes in two vocal forms known as khayal and thumri-dadra. In this performance, she will present elements of both of these forms and will be accompanied on the tabla by Dr. Aneesh Pradhan and on the harmonium by Dr. Kedar Naphade (both highly accomplished and renowned artists in their own right). As a first-generation professional woman musician, Mudgal is able to view the highly complex, nuanced world of North Indian art music, (often referred to as Hindustani music) as both an insider and outsider. The fact that she does not belong to a hereditary family or community of musicians makes her an outsider in a system that was nurtured and nourished by hereditary lineages of musicians. Simultaneously, her five decades of involvement in the world of Indian music as a student, performer, composer, and teacher grants her the privilege of being an insider. In 2000, she received the Padma Shri, one of India's highest civilian awards.

**Thursday, March 27, 2025**

Perelman Center for Political Science & Economics  
133 South 36th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104  
Event (PCPSE Auditorium, Lower Level): 4:30-6:00pm  
Reception (Blank Forum, 2nd floor): 6:00-7:00pm



**Shubha Mudgal**  
Classical Indian Vocalist

Accompanying  
Musicians:



**Aneesh Pradhan**  
(Tabla)



**Kedar Naphade**  
(Harmonium)