



# Dhrupad On The Cello

May 25: Dhrupad cello concert by Nancy Lesh Kulkarni accompanied by Pandit Akhilesh Gundecha on pakhawaj



Nancy Lesh Kulkarni is a classically-trained cellist who has devoted herself to the study and performance of dhrupad music of India on the cello for the last 30 years. Before pursuing dhrupad, she was Co-Principal Cellist of the Rome Festival Orchestra, and Section Cellist with the Chicago Civic Orchestra, and Orchestra del Maggio Musicale of Florence, Italy. Since 1982, Nancy has been playing only dhrupad on her cello. She is deeply grateful for the training she received from senior dhrupad vocalist Pandit Ritwik Sanyal in Varanasi, and from renowned veena and vocal brothers Ustad Zia Mohiuddin Dagar and Ustad Zia Fariduddin Dagar in Mumbai. She has also received valuable guidance from her gurubhais Ustad Bahauddin Dagar, Pandit Pushpraj Koshti, Pandit Uday Bhawalkar, Pandit Nirmalya Dey, Pandit K Sridhar, and the Gundecha Brothers.

Nancy has given hundreds of dhrupad recitals and lecture/demonstrations in US universities and concert halls, and in major cities in India. She was twice awarded the Senior Performing Arts Fellowship by the American Institute of Indian Studies. Nancy's playing has been presented several times on National Public Radio, All-India Radio, and TV, and she has released three solo CDs. Nancy resides in Pune, India, where she continues her dhrupad study, performance and teaching. She teaches dhrupad cello to students of all ages and levels in Pune and on the Skype.



Akhilesh Gundecha has learned pakhawaj playing from Pandit Shrikant Mishra and Raja Chhatrapati Singh JuDeo. He is a post graduate in music and a graduate in Law. He has also got a scholarship from Ustad Allauddin Khan Sangeet Academy, Bhopal, and Govt. of India. He has accompanied many of the Dhrupad Maestros like- Ustad Z.F. Dagar, Ustad Fahimuddin Dagar, Pt. Siyaram Tiwari, Shrimati Asgari Bai, Dr. Ritwik Sanyal, and Bahauddin Dagar. He has also played solo recitals in Tansen Festival, Gwalior, Haridas Sangeet Samaroh, Mumbai, Dhrupad Samaroh, Bhopal, and many other festivals. Akhileshji has toured, USA, Europe, Japan, and Australia. He is regularly featured on the Radio and Television. He regularly accompanies his brothers, Pt. Umakant Gundecha and Pt. Ramakant Gundecha, in Dhrupad concerts.

## Dhrupad Music Concert

By Nancy Lesh Kulkarni on the cello, accompanied by Pt. Akhilesh Gundecha on pakhawaj.  
Includes a pakhawaj solo by Pt. Akhilesh Gundecha

**Time:** 7:00pm – 9:30pm. Includes ~15 minute interval. Doors open at 6:30pm.

**Venue:** Independent Order of Odd Fellows (also known as Ballard Alki Lodge IOOF), Upper Hall, 1706 NW Market St. Seattle, WA 98107 (Ballard neighborhood)

**Tickets:** [Advance Purchase](#) by May 2 – \$15, by May 24 – \$20

At the door – \$25 General

Children – advance and at the door – \$10

[Dinner after the concert at nearby India Bistro, for everyone who would like to join.](#)