

Part A – Private collectors from India

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Abhimanyu Deb

Abhimanyu Deb is from Kolkata, a Hindustani classical music and vintage Bengali music enthusiast. He is also a record collector and prefer to think himself as a “recordings” collector. His professional introduction can be found here.



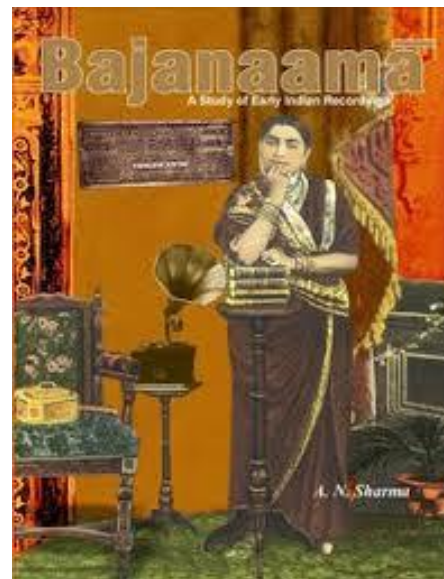
Abhimanyu Deb

Please also see

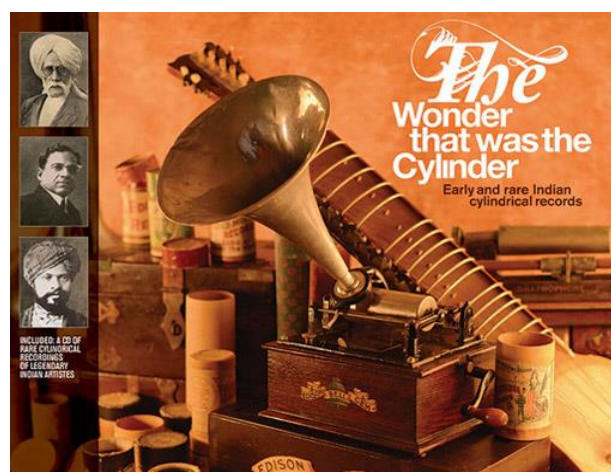
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Amar Nath Sharma

Amar Nath Sharma is a lawyer and retired Government officer. He is historian and has been working on many books and projects related to early sound recordings. He has collected over 2000 early acoustic recordings on shellac formats that are the only audio sources available for studies. He has published two books – Bajanaama & The Wonder that was the cylinder.

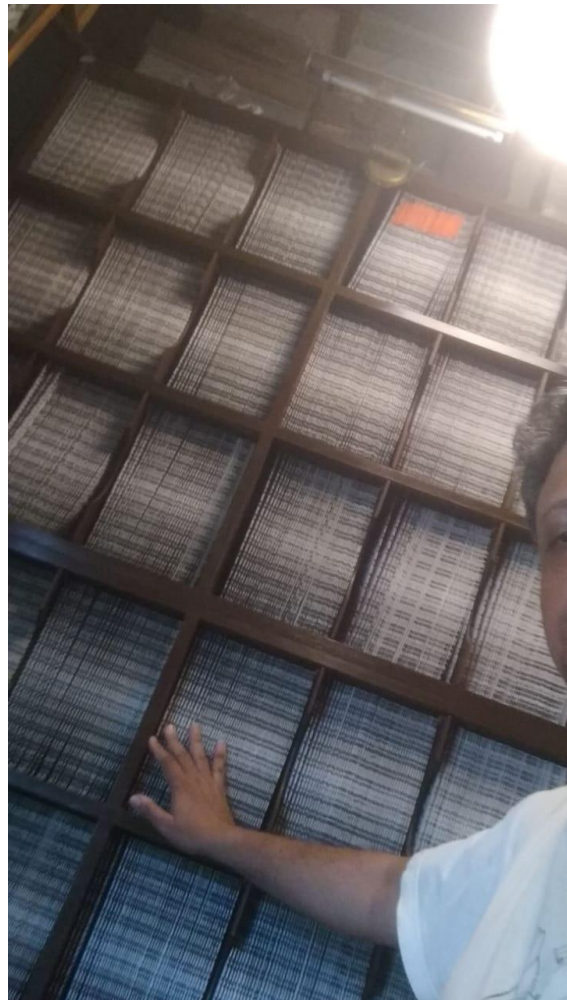


A. N. Sharma (Left) Bajanaama book cover (Right)



Ashish Bhadra

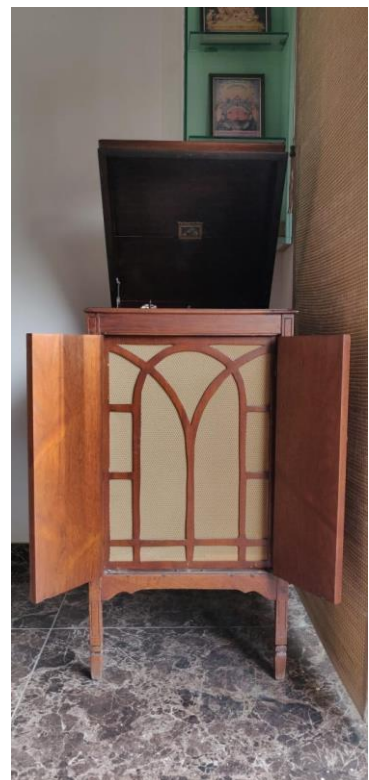
Ashish Bhadra is Kolkata based 40 years old, owner of a restaurant chain and passionate collector of vintage music, jazz, western classical, Hindi & Bengali songs in all formats of recorded music. He began to listen to records as a child and got into this hobby and passion at early stage in his school days. He is also instrumental in bringing out old vintage music on vinyl discs.



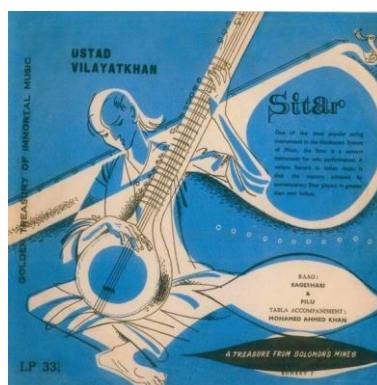
Ashish Bhadra with his collection

Atul Kunte

Atul Kunte is 40 years old marine engineer and lives in Pune. He has special interest in 78-rpm shellac discs from Hindi and Marathi Film songs and prefers to listen to them on original machines. He prefers to store his discs in wooden case. He also designs his equipment and amplifiers.



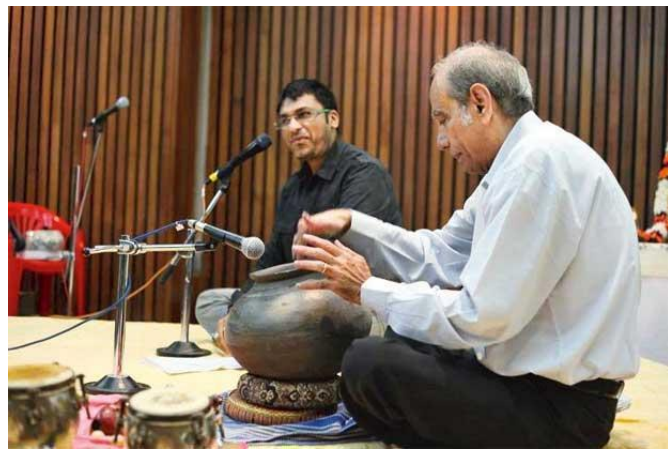
Vintage gramophone machine with Mr. Atul Kunte



Sleeve of a 10"-rare vinyl of early 1950

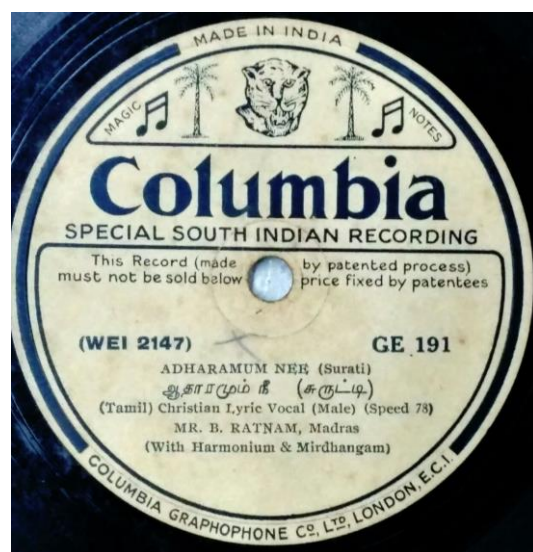
Kushal Gopalka

Kushal Gopalka, 50 years old collector and a musicologist from Mumbai. He has a collection of film and light classical music on shellac, vinyl discs, audio and video cassettes. He holds annual seminars on - cine music beyond entertainment.



Kutty Jaskar

He is collecting old Tamil cinema and Christian songs.



Mohan Sohoni

Mohan Sohoni is a 70 years old retired employee from electricity board, Solapur. He has a collection of about 6000 shellac, vinyl discs, cassette tapes and CD's. He often presents radio shows from local radio stations that are relayed in All India radio Stations. His collection includes old Marathi songs and Hindi Film Songs. He is also instrumental in setting up a private library of audio in the premises of the book library in the town.



Jayant Raleraskar (Left) & Mohan Sohoni (Right)

Mohd. Ilyas, Calcutta

Mohd. Ilyas, Calcutta is a records dealer in bow bazar area for past 50 years. He has a huge collection of early 78 rpm shellac discs in various formats. He also deals with the gramophone machines.



Narayan Mulani

Narayan Mulani is from Mumbai, Maharashtra. He is now 93 years old businessman. He owns over 3000 shellac discs of vintage Hindi Film music of the period from 1935-55. In addition, he has a sizeable collection of North India Classical music – both vocal and instrumental. He began collection from early childhood. He has contributed to gramophone company's reissue projects of vintage music and also to film industry by providing records and recordings. He is President of the 'Society of Indian Record Collectors', Mumbai founded in 1990.

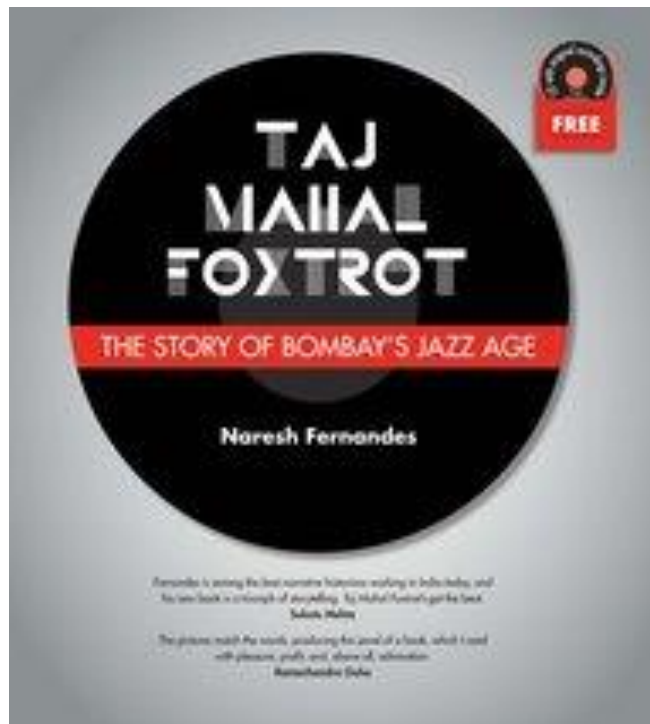


Narayan Mulani



Naresh Fernandes

Naresh Fernandes is a free-lance journalist from Bombay and has a special interest in the history of Jazz and musicians in India. He has collected lot of material on the subject including about 500 shellac and vinyl discs, cassettes and compact disca, articles and photographs. In 2012, he wrote a book – Taj Mahal Fox Trot narrating stories of Jazz musicians in Bombay and Kolkata.



Natarajan Raju

Natarajan Raju is 70 years old collector from Chennai. His interest is in early Tamil movie songs available in any format. He has a large collection of cassette tapes, CD's and gramophone records. He helps and assists publications of books and compilations.



Nishant Mittal

Nishant Mittal, 24-year old vinyl enthusiast from New Delhi. He has been collecting vinyl since he was 20 years old and as of now has acquired over 500 records. His main interest lies in discovering and uncovering Indian records. Nishant's favourite music genres are jazz, rock, funk and also Indian classical music.

He takes huge interest in finding Indian records of these genres and also finding regional Indian records. He hosts a radio show "The Home And The World" on New Delhi based online radio station "boxout.fm" through which he aims to share and spread the amazing Indian music archives with the current generation.



Nishant Mittal

Ramulu, Chennai

Ramulu is a records dealer from Chennai and has a huge collection of very old gramophone discs in his house.



Sanjay Sant, Pune, Maharashtra

Sanjay Sant is 50 years old and has a sizeable collection of over 500 shellac discs from acoustic and electrical era. He often digitises them and uploads the tracks on social media.



S. K. Chatterjee, Kolkata

S. K. Chatterjee from Kolkata is 75 years old, retired employee of Kolkata electricity board. He has amassed over 8000 discs, mainly in shellac format from acoustic to electrical era. His speciality is Bengali songs and has been the main source for Gramophone company in reissuing old music. He often gives illustrated talks on gramophone machines and discs to different audiences and is a valuable reference source for many



Mr. Chatterjee (Left) and record boxes on the racks (Right)



Shreekrishna Bedekar

Mr. Shreekrishna Bedekar is 75 years old collector from Indore and has over 300 discs, cassettes of vintage music.



Shobhraj Vasvani



Shobhraj Vasvani in 2018



Records cabinet



Shobhraj Vasvani in 1990

Mr. Shobhraj Vasvani, now 85 years old, is a collector of only shellac records of 40's & 50's. He lives in Kalyan, Maharashtra. His total collection of records is around 1000, but all in mint condition and with sleeves. He is also an expert person in mending the old players and record changers. In the pictures above, he is seen with his player on left, his cabinet of stacks of records with notes rolling out. He lives alone and plays records every morning noon and night around his meal times. He will place a stack of ten records on a changer and will move around the house in daily choir with ears listening attentively to the music close to his heart. In the picture at he is seen inspecting his disc probably bought in flea market during his last visit. He would visit the market every Friday and would return the discs that he disapproved and the vendors would take them back with haif the price that he had paid.



Mumbai Flea Market with records (C.1990)

Srinivasan M

Srinivasan is from Coimbatore in South India and has a collection of over 3000 discs in shellac, vinyl formats and also a collection of cassette tapes and CD's. He is also an active member of friends who are engaged in setting up home studios and hi-fi equipment needed for home theatres. Srinivasan is from Coimbatore in South India and has a collection of over 3000 discs in shellac, vinyl formats and also a collection of cassette tapes and CD's. He is also an active member of friends who are engaged in setting up home studios and hi-fi equipment needed for home theatres. He has plans to digitize his collection and upload on social media. He is also involved in re-issue of old music on vinyl.

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Srinivasan M

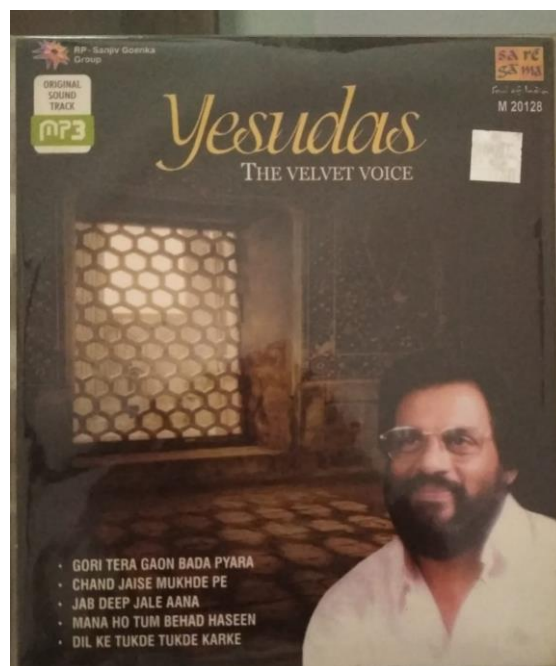
Sunil Elias, Kerala

Sunil Elias, Kalathil, Olanad, Varapuzha PO. Ernakulam District. Kerala

Sunil Elias is a passionate collector of South India Film Music and classical music. He has over 5000 records in vinyl format. His special interest is in the songs of playback singer Yesudas.



Sunil Elias



Suresh Chandvankar

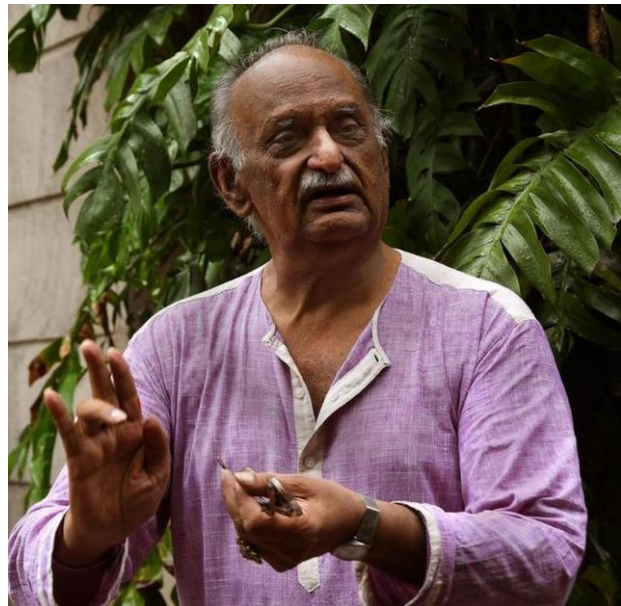
Suresh Chandvankar, 68 is a retired scientist from the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) Mumbai. He worked in the area of semiconductor materials and devices for 36 years. He is also Hon. Secretary of the 'Society of Indian Record Collectors', Mumbai founded in 1990. He has over 20,000 gramophone records in all formats, 5000 audio cassettes and CD's. The collection consists of all types and styles of music. He has undertaken digitization projects including two successful projects with British Library under EAP program. These are EAP 190 on Young India and EAP 468 on Odeon label 78 rpm discs. After retirement in 2012, he has been attending IASA/ARSC and GHT conferences on archiving and documentation in India and abroad. He has written over 200 articles on gramophone records and delivered over 100 talks and guided listening sessions in India and abroad. He is also editor of the magazine "The record News", since 1991. All the issues of the magazine from 1991-2012 are available in PDF file format here –[<https://dsal.uchicago.edu/books/trn/>] He has helped in setting up the museum of Discs & Machines in Kerala and likes to encourage and motivate young collectors. He has also helped gramophone company of India in providing discs and contacts for re-issuing the old vintage music on cassettes and CD's. His talk on collecting the collectors is at - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EPIyalm6nP0>



Suresh Chandvankar

V. A. K. Rangarao

Venkata Anandakumara Krishna Ranga Rao, better known as V.A.K Ranga Rao, is an Indian music scholar, dancer, film historian, book reviewer, art critic, and orator. He is known for having the largest collection of 78 rpm records in the world. The *Limca Book of World Records* claims the number of records to be 53,000. He lives in Chennai.



V. A. K. Rangarao

Part B – Private museums / archives

Deba Prasad Das

Deba Prasad Das from Kolkata is a die-hard fan of playback singer Manna De and plans to build a museum of his records. Music and all the items he could collect of his idol. He began in his young age and now after retirement, he is full time in this activity. He also wants to collect and study early Bengali discs in the acoustic period.



Deba Prasad Das (left) & Manna Dey (Right)
Indian music archive and research centre

Girdharilal Vishwakarma

He is a commercial artist from Jaipur, Rajasthan and also a passionate collector of shellac and vinyls discs. He has over 8000 discs of all genre and styles, though he likes Film Music. He is also engaged in the digitization and documentation of his collection.



Girdharilal Vishwakarma

Discs & Machines - Sunny's Gramophone Museum

Sunny Mathew

A Non - profit Gramophone Museum and Recordings Archive. This museum cum Archive houses more than 300 Gramophones / Record Players, Phonographs, Various types of Magnetic recorders like Wire Recorders, Tape Recorders, Cassette Recorders etc, Laser Players, Musical instruments, a section for antique articles like various types of Sewing Machines, Mechanical Clocks, Oil lamps, Old palm leaf documents and books, weights and measures, Printing blocks etc. Archive has more than 100,000 rare gramophone discs and cylinders issued from 1890s to 1980s.



Sunny Mathew

Lata Dinanath Mangeshkar

Gramophone Record Sangrahalay

Suman Chaurasia

Suman Chourasia has been collecting Lata Mangeshkar's gramophone records ever since he started liking India's most loved voice. A die-hard fan of celebrated playback singer Lata Mangeshkar, Indore based Suman Chourasia has spent all his earnings in collecting gramophone records of Lata Mangeskar. His collection includes songs belonging to varied genres; classical, semi classical, ghazals and sufi songs sung by the legendary singer. The museum is set in a 1600 square feet area which is full of Lata Mangeshkar's records. The museum has come about with contribution from many music lovers and die-hard collectors from many places.



Suman Chaurasiya at the Indore-based museum

Shreeram Pujari Gramophone Record Sangrahalay

Shreeram Pujari Gramophone Record Museum cum archive is located in Solapur in Maharashtra. Founded in 2006, it is housed in the public book library and managed by a committee comprising of collectors and music lovers from the city. Record collectors Mr. Jayant Raleraskar & Mr. Mohan Sohoni participate actively. It houses over 15000 gramophone records, cassettes and CD's along with playback equipment. Regular listening sessions and exhibitions and programs are organised by the library.



Gramophone Museum and Research Centre

Mohammed Shafi's Gramophone Museum and Research Centre is at Waynad in Kerala. The museum houses a rare collection of gramophones, musical instruments and records in various formats.

https://www.thehindu.com/life-and-style/mohammed-shafi-and-his-gramophone-museum-in-wayanad/article30887285.ece?utm_campaign=socialflow





Mohammed Shafi, Waynad, Calicut, Kerala