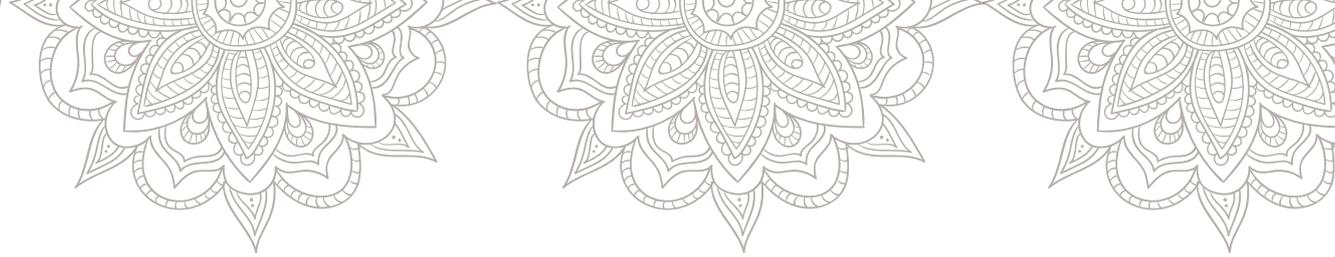


Varanasi



Creative City of Music





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Messages of Support

Letter of Endorsement - Shri Ram Gopal Mohley, Mayor of Varanasi

राम गोपाल मोहले
महापौर

नगर निगम, वाराणसी
निवास : D.58/12-M2/2,
गौरी नगर, सिगरा, वाराणसी
दूरभाष : (कार्या.) 0542-2222600
(आवास) 0542-2222068, 2222562
फैक्स : 0542-2221702

पत्रांक. 00055/MAYOR/2015-2016

दिनांक 29 June 2015

To,
Director-General
UNESCO
Paris, France.

Date: 29/06/2015

Subject: Presenting the candidature of the City of Varanasi for
its nomination as a "Creative City of Music" under
UNESCO Creative City Network".

Dear Director-General,

Varanasi is one of the oldest living cities in the world and has been considered the cultural capital of India. The city manifests the richness of the culture of India in the true sense with music as the core theme. Music has been an integral part of the existence of Varanasi since time immemorial. Both from the mythological as well as historical perspective music has been the most dominant feature of the city having a direct connect with the common man.

A center of the best of devotional music, it has been the home to the great saint musicians Surdas, Kabir, Ravidas, Tulsidas and the likes. Through the ages, Varanasi has nurtured the erudition and creativity of its people to produce many different forms of music, both vocal as well as



Messages of Support

Letter of Endorsement - Shri Ram Gopal Mohley, Mayor of Varanasi

राम गोपाल मोहले
महायंत्र



अ.भा.पा.सं.
नगर निगम, वाराणसी
निवास : D.58/12-M2/2,
गौरी नगर, सिंगरा, वाराणसी
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पत्रांक.....

दिनांक

Instrumental. It has the credit of producing many of the top musical maestros of India, the contemporary ones being Ustaad Bismillah Khan, Siddheshwari Devi, Pt Ravishankar, Pandita Girija Devi, Pt. Kishan Maharaj and so on, who are internationally recognized and revered.

The most unique feature with regard to the music of Varanasi or Banaras is the existence of a school or 'gharana' of music being named after the city itself. Banaras Gharana is recognized world over in the domain of classical and semi classical singing and also instrumental music. Many localities in the city have been associated with the teaching and practice of music especially through the Guru Shisya parampara, a very individualistic style of delivering education .In one such area, 'Kabir chaurra every home resonated with music and dance". A walk through the streets would make one stop at the door of each and every house where great maestros practiced and taught. Mesmerizing sounds of vocal strains, wind and string instruments along with percussion instruments have been a part of the ambiance of the city.

Music has defined the city of Varanasi over many centuries and is an intrinsic part of the city's culture and economy. Different musical trends from Classical to semi Classical, from 'Lok-sangeet' or literally 'people's music' to folk music have transcended into the lives of the common people of Varanasi, making Varanasi synonymous with Music. The common man has integrated music into their life, every one sings whether it is the boat man who takes you across the Ganges river or the weaver who creates the most exquisite designs of the famous Banaras sari or the rickshaw puller who drives you through the narrow lanes in his cycle rickshaw or even the



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Messages of Support

Letter of Endorsement - Shri Ram Gopal Mohley, Mayor of Varanasi

राम गोपाल मोहले
महापौर



अ. शा. पा. सं.
नगर निगम, वाराणसी
निकास : D.58/12-M2/2,
गौधी नगर, सिमरा, वाराणसी
दूरभाष : (कार्य.) 0542-2222600
(आवास) 0542-2222068, 2222562
फैक्स : 0542-2221702

पत्रांक.....

दिनांक

mouth-watering Banaras paanwala – the betel leaf maker who sits in his little shop while his fingers dances through the making of the spice laden betel leaf delicacy.

With this effervescent musical tradition, Varanasi furthermore fulfils all the criteria stipulated within the UNESCO Creative City Network for Music. These being:

1. Recognized centers of musical creation and activities
2. Promotion of music in all its varied forms
3. Music schools, academies and higher educational institutions specialized in music
4. Existence of Informal structures, teaching methodologies, and performances
5. Cultural places utilized for practicing, listening and promoting music.
6. Experience in hosting and organizing musical festivals and events at both national and international level

Varanasi has been placing its creativity and cultural endeavors at the core of its development plans at all levels. We are therefore confident of making a considerable contribution to the Creative Cities Network's objectives set out in the application.



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Messages of Support

Letter of Endorsement - Shri Ram Gopal Mohley, Mayor of Varanasi

राम गोपाल मोहले
महापौर



अ.शा.पा.सं.
नगर निगम, वाराणसी
निवास : D.58/12-M2/2,
गाँधी नगर, सिगरा, वाराणसी
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पत्रांक.....

दिनांक

In view of the foregoing, as the Mayor of the venerated City of Varanasi, I would like to put forth the name of Varanasi for its nomination as the Creative City of Music, within the UNESCO Creative City Network (UCCN).

We hope that you will find our city appealing and significant to be included as a member city of UNESCO Creative City Network.

Yours Sincerely,

(Ram Gopal Mohley)

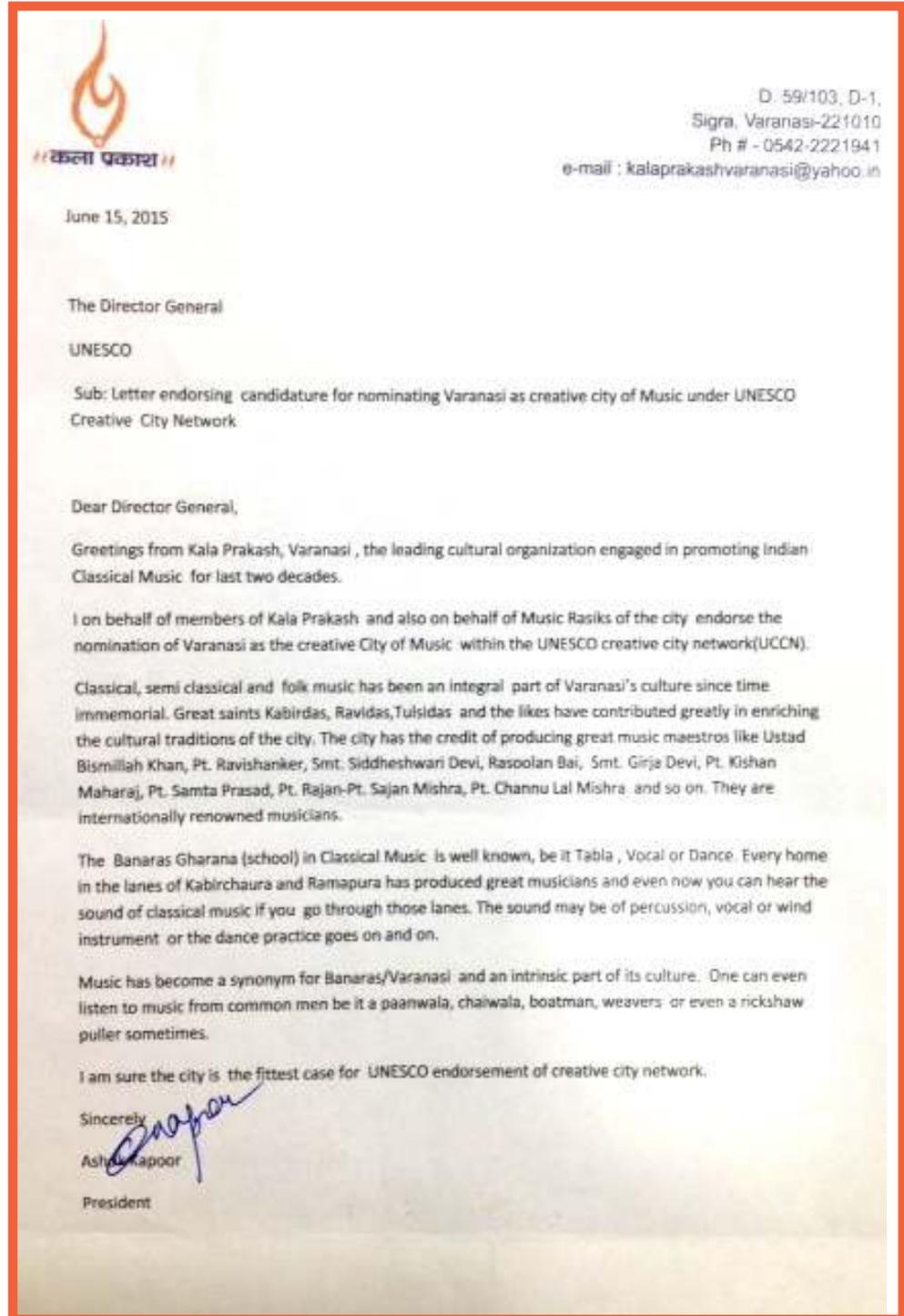
Mayor, City of Varanasi



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Messages of Support

Kala Prakash
D. 59/103, D-1,
Sigra, Varanasi - 221001



Messages of Support

Swarangana - Lalit Kala Kendra
D. 47/179, Laxa Road,
Varanasi - 221010 (UP)



To,
Director-General
UNESCO

Date: 24/06/15

Subject: Letter endorsing the candidature for nominating 'Varanasi as a Creative City of Music' under UNESCO Creative City Network

Dear Director-General

On behalf of the revered City which is 'Older than History' itself, Kashi or Varanasi, 'Swarangana Lalit Kala Kendra' endorses its nomination as the Creative City of Music, within the UNESCO Creative City Network (UCCN).

Swarangana Lalit Kala Kendra is a non-profit, non-governmental organization founded for the promotion, propagation and expansion of Banaras Gharana Music. Swarangana is sister organization of 'Bageshwari Devi Sangeet Academy' in the name of Late Bageshwari Devi, the doyen of Indian Classical Music and 'Thumri's very famous and popular style of semi classical singing of Banaras Gharana. Swarangana imparts an advanced level of education and training in the art of Thumri & other Banaras Gharana of singing under 'Guru-Shishya Parampara' and that is free of cost to the aspiring eligible students.

Kashi, the ancient and culturally more popular name for 'Banaras' is the land of music, art, culture, literature and spirituality and therefore rightly called the 'cultural capital of India'. Kashi has a very rich history of its contribution to art, music, literature and culture and has been land of legendry figures like 'Bhartendu Harishchandra, Jaishankar Prasad, and Munshi Premchand' in the field of Literature. 'Kabir Das, Tulsi Das, Ravidas' the great saints and thinkers of India. 'Pt Bade Ramdas, Siddheshwari Devi, Rasoolan Devi, Mahadev Prasad Misr, Smt. Girija Devi, Smt. Bageshwari Devi, Pt. Amarnath & Pashupatinath Misr, Pt. Rajan-Sajan Misr, Pt. Ram Sahay, Pt. Channu Lal Misr' in the art of vocal music. 'Pt. Kanthe Maharaj, Pt. Anokhe Lal Misr, Pt. Samta Prasad (alias Gudai Maharaj), Pt. Kishan Maharaj, Pt. Ravi Shankar, Ustad Bismillah Khan in the art of instrumental music. 'Pt. Birju Maharaj, Gopi Krishna, Sitara Devi, Pt. Sukhdev, Alaknanda Devi' in the field of 'Banaras Gharana Kathak Dance' and the list is in-exhaustive.

The most unique feature with regard to the music of Varanasi or Banaras is the existence of a school or 'Gharana' of music being named after the city itself. Every home in the area of 'Kabir Chaura' resonated with music and dance. A walk through the streets would make one stop at

City Office	:	D47/179, Laxa Road, Varanasi - 221010 (UP)
Head Office	:	D 61/18 A-1, Shankar Bhawan, Sadhgiribagh, Varanasi
Mobile	:	+919415448403, +919883363999, +919235139497, +919889296406, +919336815168.
Fax	:	(0542- 2441311
Branch Office	:	Kanak Lata 2, Pustga Colony, Manchu Bhai Road, Malad (East) Mumbai-97
Phone	:	022-28891596
Mobile	:	+919324528258



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Messages of Support

*Swarangana - Lalit Kala Kendra
D. 47/179, Laxa Road,
Varanasi - 221010 (UP)*



the door of each and every house where great maestros either practiced or taught. Sounds of vocal strains, wind and string instruments along with percussion instruments were a part of the ambiance of the city.

Music has defined the city of Varanasi over many centuries and is an intrinsic part of the city's culture and economy. Different musical trends from Classical to semi Classical, from 'Lok-sangeet' or literally 'people's music' to folk music, have transcended into the lives of the common people of Varanasi, making Varanasi synonymous with Music. Our music found its way in to the life of the common man too, every one sang whether it was the boat man who took you across the Ganges river or the weaver who created the most exquisite designs of the famous Banarasi sari or the rickshaw puller who drove you through the narrow lanes in his cycle rickshaw or even the mouth-watering Banaras paanwala - the betel leaf maker who sat in his little shop while his fingers & whole body danced in a certain rhythm through the making of the spice ridden betel leaf package as he sang rhythmically elaborating the attributes of the betel leaf.

Sincerely Yours

Surendra Mishra 'Sheelu'
General Secretary
Swarangana Lalit Kala Kendra
Varanasi

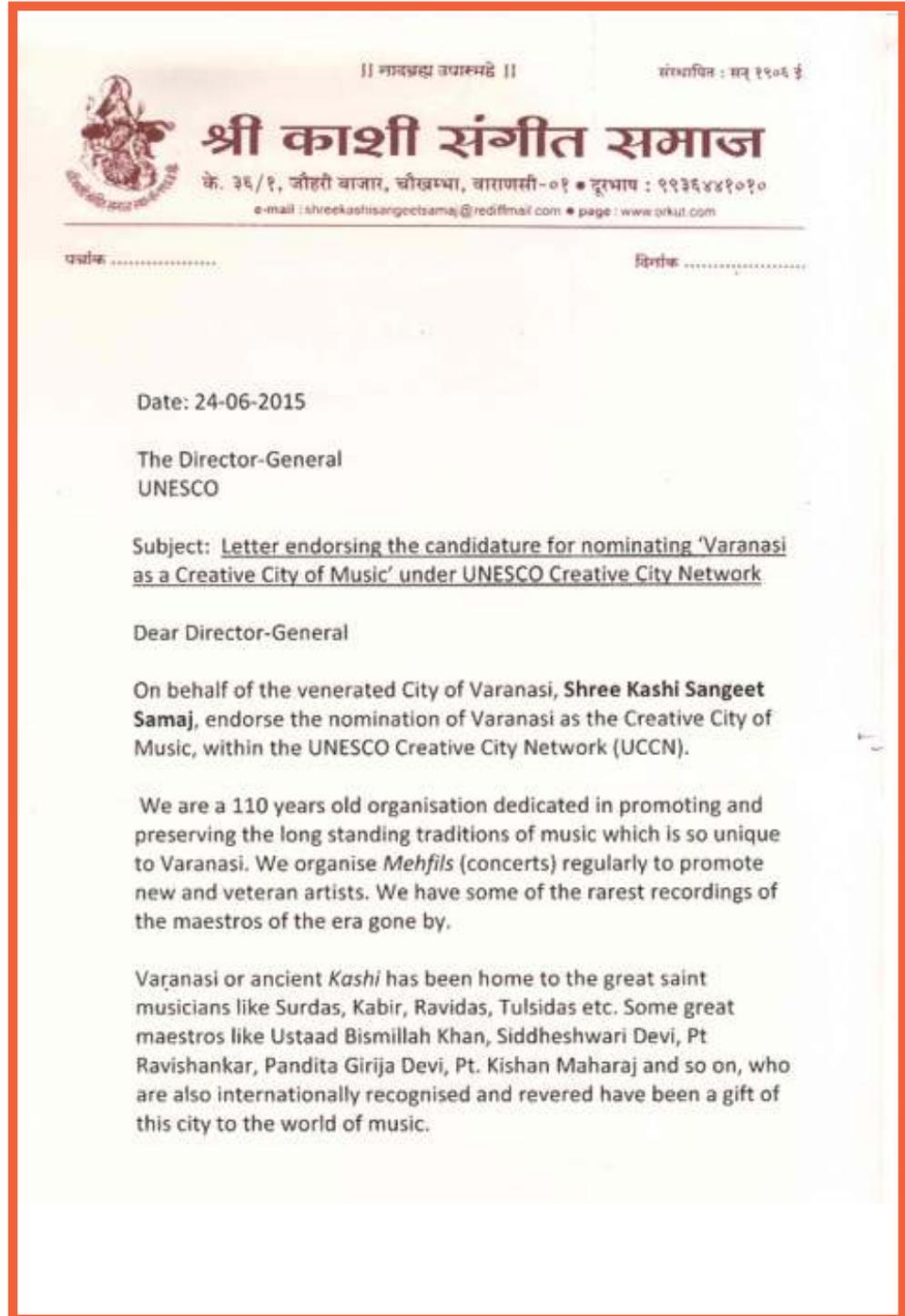
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Fax	:	0542- 2441311
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Phone	:	022-28891596
Mobile	:	+919324528258



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Messages of Support

Shri Kashi Sangeet Samaj
K-36/1, Charkhamba, Varanasi



Contd...

Messages of Support

Shri Kashi Sangeet Samaj
K-36/1, Charkhamba, Varanasi

॥ नान्दल्लु उपासमहे ॥

संस्थापित : सन् १९०६ ई.



श्री काशी संगीत समाज

के. ३६/१, जीहरी बाजार, चीखम्भा, वाराणसी-०१ • दूरभाष : ९९३६४४१०१०
e-mail : shreekashisangeetsamaj@rediffmail.com • page : www.orkut.com

पत्रांक दिनांक

Varanasi boasts of its own school or tradition of music named after the city itself, known as *Banaras Gharana*. Certain localities of the city have resonated with music as generations have practised music under the *Guru Shishya Parampara* (Teacher-Pupil tradition). Vocal strains, wind and string instruments along with percussion instruments and dance, the city has promoted all and produced maestros in all genres.

Music was promoted not only by the King of Varanasi but also by the affluent land-lords and businessmen. They helped the artisans financially as well as by organising concerts to promote them. Various festivals were held traditionally to promote music and artists. Some festivals have continued till date like *Burhwa Mangal, Chaiti, Mehfil, Sahel* etc.

Over centuries different musical trends from Classical, semi Classical, to Lok-sangeet' or folk music, have transcended into the lives of the common people of Varanasi, making Varanasi synonymous with Music. Different forms of music became popular with different seasons or festivals, like *Birha*, a folk music form with Holi festival or Classical *Chaiti* with the auspicious month of Chaitra.

Music has manifested itself into the veins of the common man. The boatman, the rickshaw-puller, the betel-leaf vendor, all can be seen singing and moving with the rhythm.



Contd...

Messages of Support

Shri Kashi Sangeet Samaj
K-36/1, Charkhamba, Varanasi

|| नारायण उपासक || संस्थापित : सन् १९०६ ई.

 **श्री काशी संगीत समाज**
के. ३६/१, जीहरी बाजार, चौखम्भा, वाराणसी-०१ • दूरभाष : ९९३६४४१०१०
e-mail : shreekashisangeetsamaj@rediffmail.com • page : www.orkul.com

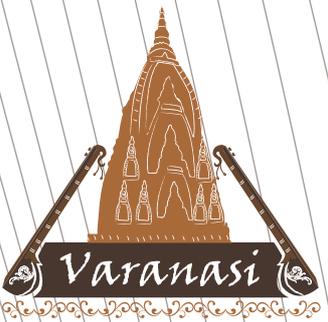
पत्रांक दिनांक

The city, which is the adobe of Lord Shiva, also known as *Nataraj* because of his mastery in music and dance, can truly be defined as the world capital of music.

We are sure you will find our heritage city, which is also world's oldest living city, worthy of this nomination.

Yours sincerely,
For Shree Kashi Sangeet Samaj


Amitabh Kediya
Vice-President



Messages of Support

Kathak Ashraya

C. 24/23, Kabir Chaura, Varanasi

कथक आश्रय

(कथक क्वीन सितारा देवी गुरुकुल)

सी. 24/23, पिपलानी कटरा, कबीरचौरा, वाराणसी - 221001

अध्यक्ष :
विशाल कृष्ण
मो. 08874919488

संरक्षक :
पं० मोहन कृष्ण

सेवा में,

डायरेक्टर जनरल महोदय (युनेस्को)

महोदय,

उत्तर भारत में स्थित अति प्राचीन शहर काशी (वाराणसी) जिसे भगवान शिव की नगरी आनन्द वन भी कहा जाता है। पुराणों में उल्लेखित है कि यहाँ भगवान शिव पार्वती के संग संगीतमय आनन्द के लिए विहार करने आये थे।

गंगा की लहरें काशी को संगीतमय करती हैं। वाराणसी को तीन नामों से जाना जाता है - काशी, वाराणसी और बनारस। यहाँ की संगीत परम्परा वर्षों पुरानी है जो आज भी चली आ रही है। यहाँ आज भी गुरुकुल पद्धति से संगीत शिक्षा दी जाती है। यहाँ आने वाला हर वह व्यक्ति चाहे वह देशी हो या विदेशी, यहाँ का संगीतमय वातावरण देखकर, सुनकर या सीखकर खुद को गौरवान्वित महसूस करता है। यहाँ संगीत रस होने के कारण ही इसे बनारस कहा गया, यहाँ का रस बना हुआ है।

हम सभी बनारस वासियों का अन्तःहृदय से निवेदन है कि आप काशी को संगीतमय नगरी की मान्यता देने की कृपा करें ताकि इसे इसका मूल स्वरूप प्राप्त हो सके।

धन्यवाद !

आपका कलाकार
मोहन कृष्ण
(पं० मोहन कृष्ण)



Contd...

Messages of Support

Sangeet Sabha

C- 24/10, Kabir Chaura, Varanasi.



पता -
सौ. 24/10, कबीरचौरा,
पं. कान्ठ महाराज मार्ग, वाराणसी
दूरध्वनि : 2214121

संगीत सभा

वाराणसी



संचालक
पूरण महाराज
सं. : 9415300900

दिनांक - 28-6-2014

सेवा में,
डायरेक्टर जनरल मसोदय (युनेस्को)

अति हर्ष के साथ हम यह पत्र आप को भेज रहे हैं कि हमारा शहर वाराणसी विश्व में एक संगीत शहर के नाम से जाना जाए। हमारा शहर जो कि उत्तर-भारत में स्थित है और एक पौराणिक नगरी के रूप में विख्यात है। यहाँ संगीत की विविधता प्राचीन काल से चली आ रही है। आध्यात्मिक नगरी होने के नाते यहाँ संगीत एक सांस्कृतिक कला होने के साथ-साथ मानव के अंतरमन से भी जुड़ी है। यहाँ आने वाला चाहे वो देशी हो या विदेशी अपने को कृतार्थ पाता है। यहाँ अनादि काल से (कई सौ वर्षों से) संगीत की गंगा बहती आ रही है।

हमारे शहर की ओर से यह निवेदन है कि वाराणसी को विश्व संगीतमय नगरी की वास्तव मान्यता प्राप्त हो ताकि इसका यथोचित संवर्धन हो सके।

धन्यवाद सहित -
पूरण महाराज
पूरण महाराज

