

**Free 60 Minutes to India!**  
& all other countries! \*Minutes may vary. Download G3 APP, [Click to claim free minutes!](#)



[www.G3Telecom.com](http://www.G3Telecom.com)

Friday, May 13th, 2011 | Posted by [The Weekly Voice](#)

## Celebrated Performer Opens Sitar School



**Toronto:** Ontario's first female-led sitar school is now open in the heart of Toronto.

Celebrated sitarist Dr. Swarn Lata, who holds a doctorate in sitar instrumental music and has performed professionally for 30 years, has opened the Sitar Darpan School of Music at 61 Heintzman Street, Unit 1113 near the intersection of Keele Street and Dundas West.

“Sitar Darpan offers classes in the ‘*khula gayan*’ style, which provides room for flexibility and improvisation within the structure of compositions,” says Dr. Lata. “I’m the only female

teacher in Ontario. Many a times, parents of young girls prefer to send their daughters to a female teacher and I am proud to be able to offer that option.”

The school is open to students of age 10 and above from all cultures, religions and nationalities. Registration is free and can be done online at [www.sitardarpan.com](http://www.sitardarpan.com)

Ownership of a sitar isn't needed to start. “I always have an extra sitar around in case someone wants to first try beginner classes and then buy the instrument as they progress later,” says Dr. Lata.

The sitar, a stringed instrument with historical roots in traditional Indian classical music, has become a favourite of contemporary jazz musicians.

“Sitar has been a part of jazz since the late-1950s or early-1960s when Pandit Ravi Shankar, a renowned sitarist, whose pioneering artistry crosses all cultural and musical boundaries, collaborated with jazz musicians, such as Tony Scott and Bud Shank. The Beatles took the sitar to its zenith in the mid-1960s when Beatle George Harrison took lessons from Pandit Ravi Shankar and played sitar on several songs. By then it had become a youth phenomenon,” says Dr. Lata.

Later, jazz recordings containing sitar pieces became popular, with the instrument featured on albums by Miles Davis, John Coltrane, Yusef Lateef, Joe Harriott (in collaboration with composer John Mayer), and Ornette Coleman.

Dr. Lata, who holds B.A., B.Ed., M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in 'sitar – instrumental music' from Punjab University, Chandigarh, India is a disciple of late Dr. Sagar Pandit, who, in turn, was the disciple of legendary Indian vocalist, Late Pt. Onkar Nath Thakur.

More at [www.sitardarpan.com](http://www.sitardarpan.com)

**Short URL:** <http://www.weeklyvoice.com/?p=6091>