



DAGAR BROTHERS Berlin 1964 - Live

Label

BLACK TRUFFLE

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Territory

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Genre

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DESCRIPTION

Following on from 2023's acclaimed Vrindavan 1982 by rudra veena master **Z.M. Dagar**, Black Truffle present a pair of archival releases from the **Dagar Brothers**, among the most revered 20th century exponents of the ancient North Indian dhruvad tradition. The vocal duo of **Moinuddin** and **Aminuddin Dagar** (sometimes referred to as the "senior" Dagar Brothers to distinguish them from their younger siblings, **Zahiruddin** and **Faiyazuddin Dagar**), belonged to the nineteenth generation of a family of musicians in which dhruvad tradition has been kept alive through patrilinear transmission, each generation undergoing a rigorous education of many years' duration that can include singing up to twelve hours each day. Famed for the meditative purity of their approach to dhruvad, the Dagar Brothers helped to keep the tradition alive in the years after Indian independence in 1947, when the royal courts that had traditionally patronized dhruvad musicians were abolished. Many Western listeners were first introduced to dhruvad by the Dagar Brothers's tour of Europe in 1964-65 and their LP in UNESCO's *Musical Anthology of the Orient* collection, both organized by pioneering musicologist and scholar of Indian culture, **Alain Daniélou**. Documents from this tour are especially precious, as Moinuddin Dagar passed away in 1966. Unheard until now, *Berlin 1964 - Live* (released alongside BT 114LP) documents a concert held at the Charlottenburg Palace in September 1964. Accompanied only by Moinuddin's wife **Saiyur** on tanpura and **Raja Chatrapati Singh** on pakhawaj (a large double-headed drum), the brothers present stunning performances of two ragas stretching out over 65 minutes, exemplifying what a journalist at the time called the "pristine severity" of their style. Much of each piece is taken up by the alap, the highly improvised exposition section where the notes of the raga are gradually introduced as the singing builds in intensity. As **Francesca Cassio** points out in her extensive liner notes, both performances are somewhat unorthodox in beginning with the raga scale being sung in its entirety, ascending and descending. Both ragas settle into alaps of breathtaking beauty, with the two brothers trading long solo passages that move gradually from extended held notes at the bottom of the scale to animated melodic variations as it ascends in pitch. Within the atmosphere of meditative attention, the range of melodic, rhythmic, and timbral invention is remarkable. Especially on the opening "Rāga Miyān kī Todī", the final moments of the alap find the voices at a peak of intensity, their microtonal ornamentation taking on an ecstatic, warbling quality. Only once the wordless, free-floating alap is over and the composition proper begins to the brothers sing in unison, joined by the pakhawaj for a rhythmic section that in both ragas develops gradually into a propulsive display of melodic invention and metrical nuance. Accompanied by detailed liner notes and striking archival images, *Berlin 1964 - Live* is a rare document of these masterful exponents of one of the world's most profound musical traditions.

TRACKLISTING

01. Rāga Miyān kī Todī (Dhamār) (38:19)
02. Rāga Gaud Sārang (Chartāl) (27:11)

HIGHLIGHTS

- Black Truffle present a pair of archival releases from the **Dagar Brothers** (along with BT 114LP), among the most revered 20th century exponents of the ancient North Indian dhruvad tradition.
- The vocal duo of **Moinuddin** and **Aminuddin Dagar** (sometimes referred to as the "senior" Dagar Brothers) were famed for the meditative purity of their approach to dhruvad.
- Unheard until now, *Berlin 1964 - Live* documents a concert held at the Charlottenburg Palace in September 1964.
- A stunning performance stretching out over 65 minutes, exemplifying what a journalist at the time called the "pristine severity" of their style.
- Accompanied by detailed liner notes by **Francesca Cassio** and striking archival images.

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