



KAMALESH MAITRA Raag Kirwani on Tabla Tarang

Label

BLACK TRUFFLE

Format

LP

Catalog Number

BT 126LP

EAN

4250101474811



Store Price

\$22.79

Release Date

12/06/24

Territory

NORTH AMERICAN EXCLUSIVE

Genre

FILE UNDER - M - WORLD



DESCRIPTION

Carrying on a string of stunning archival releases from major figures of Indian classical tradition (including releases from members of the **Dagar** family and **Amelia Cuni**), Black Truffle presents an unheard recording from tabla master **Kamalesh Maitra** (1924-2005). For over fifty years, Maitra devoted himself to the rare tabla tarang, a set of between ten and sixteen hand drums tuned to the notes of the raga to be performed. While the tabla tarang has its origins in the late 19th century, Maitra was the first to recognize its potential as a solo concert instrument, using the set of tuned drums to perform full-length ragas. Seated behind a semi-circular array of drums, Maitra produced stunning waves of melodic improvisation enlivened with the rhythmic invention of a master percussionist. Across his career, Maitra performed in ensembles led by **Ravi Shankar**, collaborated with **George Harrison**, and led his own East-West fusion group, the **Ragatala Ensemble**. However, it is in the solo setting that his remarkable artistry and the otherworldly timbral qualities of the tabla tarang are most strikingly on display. Recorded during the same 1985 Berlin sessions that produced Maitra's self-released solo LP *Tabla Tarang: Ragas on Drums*, on *Raag Kirwani on Tabla Tarang* listeners are treated to Maitra stretching out for over forty minutes on the late-night Raag Kirwani, accompanied by **Laura Patchen** on tabla and **Mila Morgenstern** and **Marina Kitsos** on tanpura. The performance begins with the traditional free-floating exposition section, where Maitra's spacious melodic improvisation at times almost resembles a plucked string instrument (like the sarod, which Maitra also played). For the listener unaccustomed to the tabla tarang, the sound of these microtonally inflected melodic patterns played on drums has a magic quality. As Maitra begins to imply the rhythmic cycles more strongly, Patchen joins on tabla, beginning half an hour of rhythmic-melodic exploration, where virtuosity sits side by side with delicacy and meditative attention. Accompanied by beautiful archival images and extensive liner notes from Laura Patchen, for many listeners *Raag Kirwani on Tabla Tarang* will be the perfect introduction to the magical world of Kamalesh Maitra, released to coincide with the hundredth anniversary of the master musician's birth.

TRACKLISTING

A1. Raag Kirwani Part I (19:08)

B1. Raag Kirwani Part II (22:42)

HIGHLIGHTS

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