

Tamarind Society proudly presents *Sharabi Ghazals!*

featuring *Jaswinder Singh* in concert

on Saturday, March 5th, 2011 at 8:00 PM

at 57 Stream Bank Drive, Freehold NJ 07728

Jaswinder Singh, a brilliant proponent of ghazal *ga'eki*, returns to the Tamarind stage to explore the genre of *sharabi ghazals*.

the existence of *maikhana*s in any Indian city. Nor were there any professional *saqis*.



Saqi. Miniature painting by Irani master painter Hossein Behzad (1894 – 1968)

Thematically, classical Urdu verse is overwhelmingly romantic in nature. There is also plenty of wit, satire, humor, despair and social-activism to be seen in the writings of the great poets. The metaphors used most commonly in the expression of all these emotions pertain to the consumption of *sharab* (wine). Phrases like *saaghar o meena*, *mae o masti*, *jaam o suboo*, and *rind o macKhana* are to be found everywhere. This is indeed paradoxical given that most classical Urdu poets were teetotalers to whom *sharab* was *haraam* (forbidden) through religious and cultural convictions, and yet they chose to write more on the joys of imbibing than on any other subject. Only some poets, like Ghalib, Iqbal, Sahir, Faiz, Majaz, Josh and Faraz, wrote through personal experience with alcohol.

There were liquor stores from where liquor could be bought. It could then be consumed in seclusion, in segregated male-only gatherings, or in the salons of courtesans who, besides singing, dancing and flirting with their patrons, sometimes filled men's goblets with wine, or got their boy-servants to do so. The *saqi* is therefore as much a figment of the poets' imagination as are the non-existent taverns. **It is this intense incongruity of *sharab* in the general Urdu lexicon that makes it such an effective metaphor for the expression of abstract thought.**

Urdu poetry is replete with odes and references to the *maikhana* (tavern) and the *saqi* (wine-server or bartender). However, there is no historical evidence of

Jaswinder Singh has few peers where it comes to mastery over *ghazal* singing. His singing style and repertoire, apart from maestro Jagjit Singh's masterful tutelage, is also influenced by such legends as Mehdi Hassan and Ghulam Ali. He will be enthralling us with his masterful enunciation and mellifluous voice at the residence of Yasmeen and Naufal Panjwani.

Tickets: \$50 per person.

Dress: South Asian Semi-Formal.

Complimentary tea and *bors d'oeuvres* at intermission.

Tickets can only be purchased **online** via **PayPal**. Our events tend to be sold out so to avoid disappointment please reserve your seats at the earliest by visiting **www.tamarindlive.com**. Your PayPal receipt will serve as your ticket. Tickets will **not** be available at the door. For more information you can contact us at **tamarindsociety@gmail.com**.

Tamarind is a not-for-profit cultural society that promotes the wonderfully vibrant South Asian performing arts through the enactment of concerts, seminars and exhibitions.