



Paar Karo Kartar, Raga Bairagi—Bandish (song) written by Shobha Gurtu, CMP CD 3004 10:30.

Shobha Gurtu: voice, Sultan Khan: sarangi, Shri. Purshottam Walawalkar: Harmonium, Nizamudin Khan: Tabla

The chosen successor to influential Indian classical vocalist Begium Akhtar, Shobha Gurtu has been inspiring audiences with her husky, but, melodic, vocals for more than six decades. A master of the thumri style of singing, Gurtu was described as "expansive, spontaneous, yet laidback" by the Times Of India. Shobha received her earliest training from her mother, Menakabai Shiroadkar, a well-known professional dancer. She later studied classical Indian music with Ustad Nathan Khan and light classical and popular music with Ustad Gamman Khan. After releasing dozens of recordings in India, Gurtu received a lifetime achievement award from the Maharashtra government in the early-1990s. Her first internationally distributed album was *Shobha Gurtu* (CMP, 1990), and her most recent work has been as a guest vocalist on albums by her son, Trilok Gurtu.

She is one of the leading exponents of thumri, dadra, hori, kajiri, chaiti, ghazal, bhajan and Marathi Natya Sangeet, musical forms in the light classical tradition. Mitchell Feldman on Shobha Gurtu: "Named 'Queen of Thumri' and a 'superstar' in her native India, her warm, sensuous voice blends strength with suppleness and vigor with grace in a unique combination of acquired technique and innate spirituality that permeates anything she sings like a fragrant spice." Shobha Gurtu writes "I wrote the lyrics and melody of the song Paar Kar Kartar accompanying the Raga Bairagi. Its meter is Rupak Tal (7 beats) and the devotional and dignified mood of this morning raga perfectly matches the pattern of its notes (i.e. 2nd and 7th note flat, 3rd and 6th notes silent)."