

National Film Archive of India
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
Government of India

Press Note

Shankar's (Shankar-Jaikishan) Piano in NFAI collection

We are delighted to announce that the personal piano of the great music composer Shankar (Shankar-Jaikishan duo) is now part of NFAI collection! Shri Santosh Kumar, the grandson of Shankar donated the piano to NFAI. "This is such a wonderful piece of memorabilia that has been added to NFAI collection", said Prakash Magdum, Director NFAI.

The SCHIEDMAYER make Piano is cross-strung under damper upright Piano with 88 keys having 7 ½ Octave. The Piano, manufactured in Stuttgart, Germany is supposedly 90 to 100 years old.

"The songs composed by Shankar-Jaikishan have been a very important part of India's film music. The compositions they did, especially for RK films, in active collaboration with Raj Kapoor, Lata Mangeshkar, Mukesh, Shailendra and Hasrat Jaipuri, are integral part of the lives of film lovers across the world. Piano has been beautifully used in many of their popular songs. Therefore it is a very precious piece of musical history that will now be part of NFAI collection", said Shri Prakash Magdum.

The composer duo Shankar-Jaikishan are considered to be one of the finest music composers in the Indian film industry. With masterful mixture of rhythm, melody and orchestration, S-J, as they were fondly called, composed several popular numbers during 1950's, 1960's and early 1970's. Government of India conferred them with Padmashri in 1968 for their contribution to music.

"I sincerely thank Shri Santosh Kumar for his wonderful gesture of donating the Piano to NFAI. I also thank Shri Sandeep Apte, for his help and facilitation in this noble cause", said Shri Magdum.