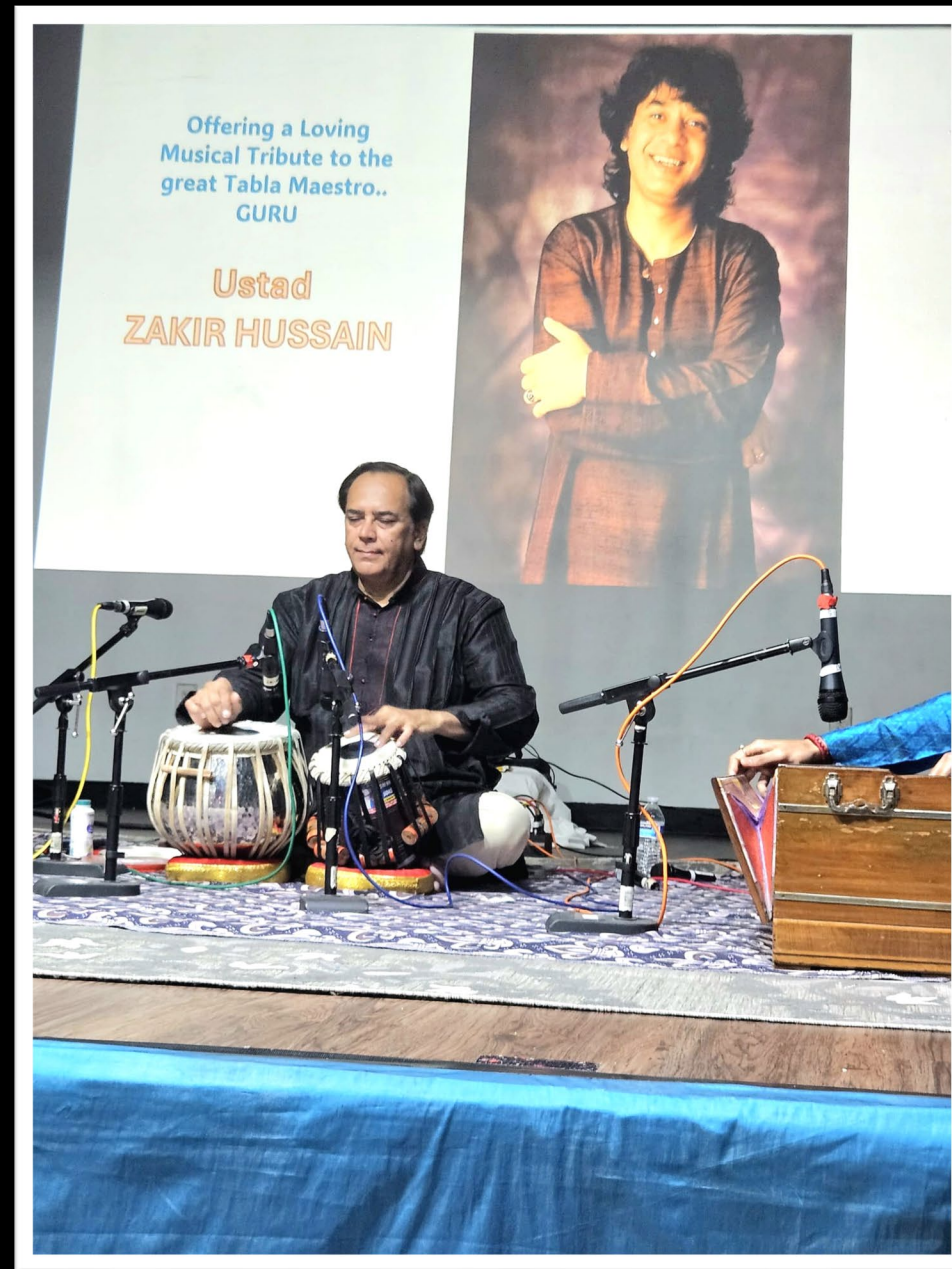










**Tribute to the only
One-Ust ZAKIR
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CONCERT**









Tabla maestro Nishikant Barodekar performs at the Laxmi Narayan Temple in Freeport. PHOTOS BY SHASTRI BOODAN

Local musician Narendra Maharaj on the sax.

SHASTRI BOODAN

World-renowned tabla maestro Nishikant Barodekar delivered a powerful and emotionally charged performance on June 20 at the Laxmi Narayan Temple in Freeport, captivating a packed audience with his rhythmic brilliance and deep mastery of classical Indian percussion.

Barodekar, one of India's most celebrated tabla players, headlined a concert that brought together international artistry and local talent in a celebration of Indian classical music. The event drew music lovers from across the country and served as a vibrant reminder of the cultural ties between T&T and India.

The Indian maestro, known for his command of complex rhythms and improvisational skill, held the audience in rapt attention from the first beat. Barodekar's performance was both technically precise and artistically expressive, offering a rare display of virtuosity that left concertgoers visibly moved.

Sharing the stage with him were some of T&T's most respected local artists, including Kana Mohip, Shivamand Maharaj, Narendra Maharaj, Satyavani Boodoo, and Rohan Boodoo. Their collaboration created a unique musical tapestry, blending tradition with innovation and showcasing the depth of the country's own classical music scene.

Barodekar's visit was more than a concert—it was a cultural exchange. His collaboration with local musicians underscored a shared heritage and highlighted the continuing relevance of Indian classical music in T&T's diverse cultural landscape.

A disciple of legendary tabla maestros Ustad Allarakha and Ustad Zakir Hussain, Barodekar was trained in the traditional Gurukul system and has devoted more than 15 years to performing and teaching the tabla. He is the recipient of prestigious accolades including the Laya-Shiromani and Taal Mani awards and completed the Alankar in Tabla in 2008.



Satyavani Boodoo captivates the audience with her rendition of Lag Jaa Gale from the 1964 Hindi film Woh Kaun Thi?



Rohan Boodoo sings Mere Jeevan Saathi from the 1972 film of the same name.

In addition to his performing career, Barodekar has over two decades of experience as an educator, mentoring a generation of tabla players, some of whom now perform professionally. His teaching career has taken him around the world, conducting masterclasses and workshops at top institutions such as Harvard University and University of North Carolina in the United States and Kanto Gakuen University in Japan.

Barodekar is also an accomplished composer and researcher. He has created new tabla compositions, including Kaidas, Belas, and Chakradars in unconventional rhythmic cycles such as 6.5 and 8.5 beats. His work in the field of world rhythms continues to push the boundaries of the art form.

The performance was a rare opportunity for local audiences to witness one of the tabla world's finest exponents live in concert.