



Shantilal Shah, one of the torchbearers of the Banaras *Gharana*, is a much sought-after accompanist. He acquired his basic training in *Tabla* playing under Mahadev Prasad Mishra of Banaras. During his initial years as a *Tabla* player, Shantilal Shah was named a gold medallist at the *Sangeet Natak* Academy of Lucknow, and also won a National scholarship awarded by the Govt. of India. A *Sangeet Prabhakar* from the *Prayaag Sangeet Samiti*, Allahabad, he is also A graded artiste of All India Radio & Television. For the past several years, Shantilal Shah has been performing all over India, Asia and North America with some of the greatest names in Indian Classical music including Pt. Jasraj, Late Pt. Jitendra Abhisheki, Pts. Rajan-Sajan Mishra, Pt. Ulhas Kashalkar, Ustaaad Shujaat Khan, Smt. Laxmi Shankar, Smt. Veena Sahasrabuddhe, Smt. Padma Talwalkar and Smt. Arati Ankalikar, and dancers like Rohini Bhate and Shama Bhate. Shantilal Shah is also a crowd-puller in the fusion-music arena by virtue of his natural ability to create the right rhythmic blend between the *Tabla* and Western drums. He has performed in several successful fusion concerts with celebrity Western musicians.