

# Rudaraveena Concert

Musician Profiles

## Dr. Jayanta Kumar Das : Rudraveena

A musicologist and a musician working with All India Radio, Dr. Das is a master of the Sitar, Surbahar and the Rudraveena. Dr. Das was trained on the Rudraveena by his father Pandit Sripati Das, who himself was a student of the renowned veena player Laxmi Prasad Misra. Dr. Das also learned the Sitar from Ustad Imrat Hussein Khan of the Imdadkhani gharana. Dr. Das holds a post graduate degree in music from Rabinda Bharati University, which awarded him a Gold Medal. He also holds a Ph.D from Bangalore University on the comparative styles of the North Indian and South Indian schools of music

Dr. Das has been associated with the All India Radio for a period of more than twenty years. During this period his concerts have been broadcast across India many times. He has teamed up with the leading names of South Indian classical music for creating North-South classical duets as well as fusion ensembles. For a year he travelled across both east and west coasts of the USA, concluding with a lecture demo at the University of California. Apart from a scholarship from the Government of India, he also received awards from many organisations, including Aryabhata, Bangalore.

He has given a number of Rudraveena recitals at important venues, including the French Consul General's Office, Pondicherry, the University of California, All India Radio, Bangalore, Parvathikar Memorial Concert, Bangalore, Bharatiya Gana Kala Parishad, Sursagar, Bangalore and the Sri Ram Kala Vedhike. An important milestone of his Rudraveena recitals was a vocal and Rudraveena duet performed along with Pallav Das of Banaras at All India Radio, Bangalore.

Apart from Rudraveena, Dr. Das has given Sitar recitals at the Bangalore School of Music, Fine Arts Festival, California, Allauddin Khan Sangeet Academy Bhopal, Paanchaswari Gawi Sangeet festival, Raichur, Self Realisation Society, California and the Hindu Temple Society of Southern California. His Sitar recital at the Bharat Cultural National Integration Program was telecast on national television.

Dr. Das has also given Surbahar recital on television and radio stations of Kolakata, at the Allauddin Khan Sangeet Samilti, Bhopal as well as at the French Consulate, Pondicherry.

Dr. Das is deeply committed to bridging the gap between various musical forms. He participated in a western classical guitar and Sitar fusion music program at Dakhini, California as well as a Jazz violin and Sitar concert at the Jazz House California. He was a participant in a Sitar Japanese flute duet organized by the Indo – Japanese Association, and has participated on South Indian Veena and Sitar duet concert both on stage as well as on national television.

Music albums released by Dr. Das include 'Sunada Samarasa', a Sitar and South Indian Veena duet, 'Swapnam', a solo sitar recital and 'Confluence', a blending of different musical instruments.

The music of Dr. Das has received critical acclaim from many circles. After attending his concert, Dr. Timothy Rice, Vice Chairman of the University of California wrote to him, " *The concert featuring Rudra Veena was equally memorable not only because it provided us with an opportunity to hear a rarely played instrument but because of your marvelous musicianship. I have been hearing North Indian*

*classical music for nearly 30 years and your concert provided an artistic highpoint in the history of my own experience of Indian music."*

*On one of his concert the national newspaper Times of India wrote, "Dr. Jayant Kumar Das displayed his artistry and mastery over the sitar by dealing with Basant Mukhari and Ahir Bhairav ragas in extended versions. The dexterity of his fingers and sound knowledge could be discerned in the rendition of these above items" while the highly respected newspaper Hindu commented " Dr. Jayant Kumar Das of All India Radio impressed the audience with chaste interpretation of the raga in his morning sitar recital. The little brittle phrasings, the tiny sparks emanating from the strings, the broad sweeps and staccatos at unexpected moments, all this made his rendition a delectable one. Ahir Bhairav was well conceived and neatly executed."*

## Viswanth Nakod : Tabla

Vishwanath Nakod hails from a family of distinguished musicians. His father was the renowned vocalist Pandit Arjuna Nakod of the Gwalior and Kirana gharana.

Learning the art of percussion under the guidance of Sri Veeranna Kaamkar, Viswanath Nakod later trained under his elder brother Raghunath Nakod, following this up with guidance from many legendary artists of the Farukhabad gharana.

Apart from the Tabla, Viswanath Nakod also trained on classical vocal singing under his father Arjuna Nakod, and on light music under Vasanth Kanakaapur - a leading composer and harmonium player.

Vishwanath Nakod holds a grade 'A' accreditations for both vocal as well as percussion music from All India Radio, and currently works for the same organisation. He has participated in concerts on both national television and radio. He has accompanied on the Tabla many legendary names in Indian classical music, including Bhimsen Joshi, Begum Parveen Sultana, Rajan and Sajan Mishra, Girija Devi, Vishwa Mohan Bhat and Ustad Shahid Parvez. He has also played duets along with major artists such as Dr.Kadri Gopalnath, S. Shankar, and Sanjeev Abhyankar.

Vishwanath has toured and given several performances across the world at locations in the USA, Africa, Spain, France and Gulf countries. He is a member of the Karnataka Sangeeth Nritya Academy and the President of Renuka Sangeeth Sabha, a large cultural trust located in Bangalore.

Vishwanath also has composed a number of devotional songs and has given a number of vocal performance at many important concert venues including the Thirumala Thirupathi Devasthanam, the Mysore Palace, Hampi and the Venkateshwara Temple, Udupi.

## Sumit Bardhan : Tanpura

Sumit plays the Hamsa Veena and currently trains under Dr. Jayanta Das. He started learning classical music from the age of ten, completing his third year of the *Sangeet Visharad* while still in school. He traces his musical roots to his great grandfather Chandi Charan, an educationist and sitar player who found mention in the nineteenth century travel writings of the British author Edward Carpenter. He is also inspired by his cousin Ajoy, a composer and a musician proficient in both Indian and Western classical forms, who currently serves as an examiner for the Royal School of Music, London. A Data Analyst by profession, he is collaborating with Dr. Das to research the deeper tonal structure of Indian classical music with the help of machine learning algorithms.