Pranav Swaroop Bettagere

Pranav Swaroop Bettagere was initiated to formal training in Carnatic music by his parents at the age of ten under gurus Mattur T Gopal (Vocal music), M E Nataraj (Violin), and Belakawadi S Sridhar. Practicing the art form for over two decades now, Pranav later continued under the tutelage of gurus Lalgudi Krishnan, Dr. Karaikudi Subramanian, and H.S. Sudhindra and has performed across India and internationally.

As a national-level first-prize winner in the prestigious All India Radio competitions, directly placed as a graded artiste, Pranav has bagged many prizes, awards, and recognition such as State first-rank in the 'Vidwat' examinations (2015) in both Carnatic Singing and Violin, Karnataka Sangeetha Nritya Academy fellowship for both Carnatic Singing and Violin consecutively (2014 and 2015), 'Kishora Prathibha' award from Govt. of Karnataka (2012), Veene Sheshanna Memorial award, Govt. of India's 'Ministry of Human Resource Development Scholarship' (2014) and National Talent Search Scheme Scholarship from Govt. of Karnataka (2010).

As an empanelled artist of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, Government of India, Pranav has represented and performed at the High Commission of India in Sri Lanka, the United Kingdom, Austria, Germany, Japan, Netherlands and the United States. Pranav was honored to perform onboard the Indian Navy Sail ship INS Sudarshini visiting Boston Harbor for America's 250th anniversary.

Other notable showcases include performances at the Berklee's International Folk Festival-2022,23 and 24 as a guest artist, BBC Asian Network, WBUR Festival, Uchisaiwaicho India Festival in Tokyo, Tag der offenen Tür celebrations at the German Foreign Office in Berlin, Doordarshan, Navaratri concerts at Wesleyan University, Harvard India Conference, LearnQuest Annual conference, HCL Concerts, and for Rupavahini, Sri Lankan National Television. Pranav has also given guest presentations and workshops on 'Appreciating Indian Classical music' at Berklee College of Music, Rainforest World Music Festival, Malaysia, and the Embassy of India in Reykjavik, Iceland.

In addition to playing solo concerts, Pranav has had the honor of sharing the stage with several top musicians in the field, such as O.S. Arun, Malladi Suribabu, Vasudha Ravi, R.K. Sriramkumar, Thiruvarur Bhaktavatsalam, T.V. Ramprasad, Vaikom Gopalakrishnan, Bangalore S Shankar, Parupalli Ranganath, Vidyabhushana, and Mysore Srinath, to name a few. He has also performed with other contemporary musicians such as the three-time Grammy winner Ricky Kej, Sid Sriram, Haricharan, Harish Raghavendra, Abby V, Sangeeta Katti, Varijashree Venugopal, Bale Khan brothers and other eminent artists. Pranav has also had the privilege to work with legendary Jazz pianist Kenny Werner, Leo Blanco and his Sugar Road Ensemble, and Annette Philip (Zahara). Pranav has also toured with the popular contemporary folk-rock band, 'The Raghu Dixit Project', across India before moving to the US.

Pranav is one of the founding members and plays for 'Project Mishram', a progressive Carnatic Fusion band. Started as a college band back in 2016 that won at 35+ intercollegiate festivals, Project Mishram quickly rose to prominence for its unique style of music and has done three international concert tours in the United Kingdom and Europe (2019, 2022 and 2023), having played over 30 shows abroad including at ArcTangent Festival (UK) and Kultur Sommerfestival (Berlin) in 2023, twice at the prestigious UK Tech Fest, Berklee India Exchange - Explore series and more recently the North America's biggest rock festival,

‘Louder than Life -2024’ where they shared the stage alongside giants like Slayer, Slipknot, Korn, Judas Priest, Mötley Crüe, and others.

In 2018, won the Maruti Suzuki-Colors of Youth-Season 7, a popular reality show for entertainment acts on MTV, judged by Benny Dayal, Shakti Mohan, Neeti Mohan, and Soha Ali Khan. Pranav performed with Shivaraj Nataraj and Sanath Shanbogue of 'Mishram' as a trio set, held across India in 13 cities with over 13k participants in multiple rounds culminating in a grand finale. A brand new Maruti Suzuki Vitara Brezza car was gifted to the trio.

In addition, Pranav has had the opportunity to perform with his band at prominent venues in India such as Music Mojo at Kappa TV - Season 5, TEDx NitteDU, Yamaha Swagbash 2017 (also the title winner), and also open for Bollywood singers Sid Sriram, and Shaan at IIT Madras, Benny Dayal at IIM Bangalore, Sunidhi Chauhan at XIM-Bhubhaneshwar and Anushka Manchanda at RVCE 8th Mile. During the pandemic, Pranav and his band were one of the very few chosen to perform at HCL SoundScapes, an online concert series that garnered over 1 million views. Other artists that were featured in this series include Harshdeep Kaur, Kavita Seth, and Mame Khan. Several corporate entities, including Air India, Maruti Suzuki NEXA, Monster Energy, and Fab India, have supported the band through paid sponsorships.

In addition to playing for Project Mishram, Pranav has worked with other contemporary musicians and bands, notably ‘The Raghu Dixit Project’, having toured across India for headliners at music festivals and corporate shows such as the Volvo XC-40 launch at Bangalore, Chennai, and Lucknow; the launch of Sennheiser Evolution G4 wireless microphones in India at Mumbai. Pranav performed with the Raghu Dixit project at the ‘World Rainforest Music Festival’ in Malaysia, held in July 2018, and also did a masterclass on Carnatic violin playing- ’The Turn of the Wrist' alongside acclaimed bowed-stringed instrumentalists from all over the world.

He also regularly plays for Bharatanatyam and Kuchipudi performances and productions and has worked with dancers such as Apoorva Jayaraman, Medha Hari, Aishwarya Balasubramaniam, Manasvini Ramachandran, and others. Pranav was privileged to be a part of ‘Veda Bharathi’, a thematic production on the Bharathiar compositions, music composed by the Lalgudis, that was presented at the Kalakshetra Foundation and Narada Gana Sabha, Chennai. He also performed for the Bharatanatyam showcase ‘DrisTi’, a fundraiser event by Sri Sankara Netralaya USA, to help low-income families undergo cataract surgery.

One of his most recent productions, titled 'Flight of the mind' co-composed with Dr. Shriya Srinivasan and her dance troupe 'Anubhava' was showcased at the MIT Media Lab. The production garnered great appreciation from the attendees, which included Hollywood stars like Robert Downey Jr and others.

Pranav has recorded for audio albums such as ’Sharanam Prapadye’ by Bangalore S Shankar, ’Devotional songs’ by Mysore Nagamani Srinath, 'Life Changing Show with RJ Raaj' on Red FM, along with renowned Bollywood singer K S Chitra, 'Amrutha Gurukula' series on AIR Amruthavarshini, and background scores for many jingles and theatre productions.

Pranav has performed with other visiting artists and troupes from India, such as Vasu Dixit Collective, Chakrafonics by Pravin D Rao featuring Ajay Warrier and Varijashree, Rajesh Singh, Anjali Shanbhogue, Arithra Chakraborty, and others.

In 2025, Pranav launched a concert series called ‘Sarang – Colors of South Asian Music’ as a way of giving back to the community. Across 25 cities in Massachusetts, from bustling towns to the more remote corners of the state, the series brought together talented artists of South Asian descent from the Greater Boston area to explore and celebrate the diverse musical traditions. By combining live performances with conversations, these free concerts held at public libraries and community centers aimed to inspire and educate, especially among Western audiences less familiar with the region’s history, arts, and culture. Pranav was conferred a special citation by Maura Healey, the Governor of the State of Massachusetts, on the occasion of the 25th milestone concert in the series for his community organizing efforts.

This year, he has continued these efforts through yet another project, ‘Apna Sa – Sounds of Belonging’, bringing South Asian communities together through familiar sounds, stories, and cultural traditions. The initiative has hosted 10+ concerts to date and continues to grow. In addition, Pranav successfully advocated for recognition of Aug 15th 2026 as ‘India Day’ which resulted in historic first-time proclamation in the City of Boston by Mayor Michelle Wu and across the Massachusetts State by Governor Maura Healey. The Mayor also acknowledged the contribution of ‘Apna Sa’ series to the city of Boston in her proclamation. Recognizing his leadership and commitment to preserving South Asian heritage, Pranav received a honorary citation from the Massachusetts State Senate and a ‘Special Congressional Recognition’ from the United States Senate.

As an active advocate for equitable opportunities and resources for emerging artists of color and arts organizations alike, Pranav serves as a Community Advisory team member for the Boston Cultural Council for the last four years, where he is involved in reviewing grant applications and submitting recommendations to the city. He has also served as a panelist for the Cambridge Arts Council in the past.

Pranav also served as one of the regional jury members for NPR’s Tiny Desk Contest 2026.

Pranav was honored as one of the ten '2024-Makers' by NPR (90.9 WBUR Boston) for his impact on Boston's creative and cultural landscape. In addition, he has received grants and recognition, such as the Boston Media Arts Empowerment Award from the City of Boston and the Massachusetts Cultural Council, among others, for his efforts.

Pranav was recognized as one of the ‘2025 Immigrant Leaders’ by the City of Boston for his efforts in representing and championing the needs of the Indian American community through discussions revolving around civic ownership and building connections with the city administration. Pranav also collaborated with the Boston Music Project, a creative youth development program, where he led Indian music workshops for school children.

Pranav holds his Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering and Master’s degree in Music Technology from Georgia Tech and works at the intersection of arts and engineering.