

## **Pranav Swaroop**

**Pranav Swaroop** was initiated to formal training in Carnatic music by his parents at the age of ten under gurus Mattur T Gopal (Vocal music) and M E Nataraj (Violin). Practicing the art form for over 15 years now, Pranav currently is under the tutelage of gurus, Lalgudi Krishnan, Dr. Karaikudi Subramanian, and H S Sudhindra and has performed over a thousand concerts to date across India, the United States, Europe, Southeast Asia, and Africa.

As a national-level first-prize winner in the prestigious All India Radio competitions and graded artiste, Pranav has performed internationally and across India and has bagged many prizes, awards, and recognition. Pranav is a State first-rank holder in the 'Vidwat' examination 2015 (Proficiency grade) in both Carnatic Vocal and Violin and has been the recipient of Karnataka Sangeeta Nritya academy fellowship from Govt. of Karnataka for both Carnatic Vocal and Violin consecutively for two years (2014 and 2015).

In addition, Pranav has won several awards such as 'Kishora Prathibha' from Govt. of Karnataka (2012), Veene Sheshanna Memorial award, and Swaramurthy V N Rao memorial award from MES Foundation (2016) to name a few, and has been the recipient of Ministry of Human Resource and Development Scholarship from Govt. of India (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, and the Netherlands.

Other notable showcases include performances at the Berklee's International Folk Festival-2022,23 and 24 as a guest artist, Uchisaiwaicho India Festival in Tokyo, Tag der offenen Tür celebrations at the German Foreign Office in Berlin, BBC Asian Network, UK, Doordarshan, NPR (WBUR-Boston), Navaratri concerts at the Wesleyan University, 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 accompanying several top musicians in the field such as Palghat Ramprasad, Varijaashree Venugopal, Anil Srinivasan, Dr. Vidyabhushana, Vasudha Ravi, Ravichandra Kulur, G S Rajan, S Shankar, and Rahul Vellal to name a few and regularly plays for Indian classical dance (Bharathanatyam and Kuchipudi) performances.

As a composer and arranger, Pranav has contributed to several productions of his band 'Project Mishram' including albums featuring Veena virtuoso Rajesh Vaidya, Youtuber KMac2021, and others. 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 tremendous appreciation from the attendees which included Hollywood stars like Robert Downey Jr and others. In addition, Pranav was privileged to be a part of 'Veda Bharathi', a thematic Bharatanatyam production on the compositions of the famous Tamil poet Subramaniya Bharathiar, 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', an initiative by Sri Sankara Netralaya USA, a fundraiser to help low-income families undergo cataract surgery.

Pranav is one of the founding members and plays for 'Project Mishram', an internationally renowned Progressive Carnatic Fusion band. Mishram's music (Sanskrit for 'mix'), is an amalgamation of Western genres centered around Indian classical music, 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 so far in the United Kingdom and Europe (2019, 2022 and 2023), having played over 30 shows abroad including at ArcTangent Festival-2023, twice at the prestigious UK Tech Fest, and more recently the North America's biggest rock festival, 'Louder than Life -2024'. The band became the first Carnatic act and second Indian to perform at this massive festival, where they shared the stage alongside giants like Slayer, Slipknot, Korn, Judas Priest, Mötley Crüe, and others. Pranav Swaroop and Shivaraj Natraj, the band's beatboxer were jointly interviewed by BBC Asian Network during the tour on a show that has featured AR Rahman, Lydian Nadaswaram, Shreya Ghoshal, and many other stars in the past. The band performed also at the Kultur Sommerfestival 2023 in Berlin, organized by the Embassy of India in Germany in 2023.

Back in India, Pranav has had the opportunity to perform with his band at prominent venues such as Music Mojo at Kappa TV - Season 5, 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 featured in this series include Harshdeep Kaur, Kavita Seth, and Mame Khan. Many other corporate entities have organized concerts, sponsored tours, and publicized Project Mishram's music including TEDx, Air India, Maruti Suzuki NEXA, Monster Energy, and Fab India.

Pranav Swaroop is one of the proud winners of the prestigious Maruti Suzuki-Colors of Youth-Season 7, a reality show for entertainment acts across India 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 in multiple rounds and a grand finale. A brand new Maruti Suzuki-Vitara Brezza car was gifted to the trio.

Pranav has toured with the popular contemporary folk-rock band, 'The Raghu Dixit Project' across the country 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 musicians from all over the world.

As a session artist, Pranav has recorded for audio albums such as 'Sharanam Prapadye' by Bangalore S Shankar, 'Devotional songs' by Mysore Nagamani Srinath, Public radio programs such as 'Life Changing Show with RJ Raaj' on Red FM along with renowned Bollywood singer K S Chitra, 'Amrutha Gurukula' series on AIR Amruthavarshini and many other film and theatre productions in the Kannada film industry.

Pranav holds his Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering and a master's degree Music Technology from Georgia Tech, Atlanta. Pranav aspires to use his music-tech background to help musicians overcome challenges, and streamline and enhance their creative processes and listening experiences.

Pranav has been recognized for his excellence in the art form as well as for advocating cultural equity and availability of resources for underserved communities in the area and has served as an Advisory board member for the Boston Cultural Council for the year 2024, for reviewing and recommending grants for arts and cultural organizations in the Greater Boston area. He has also served as a panelist for the Cambridge Arts Council in reviewing music-related applications for their annual grants.

In addition, Pranav has been actively involved in advocacy for equitable opportunities and resources for artists of color, and emerging and small-mid-sized arts organizations. He has served as an Advisory board member for the City of Boston Boston Cultural Council for the last two years where he is involved in reviewing grant applications and submitting recommendations to the city council. He has also served as a panelist for the Cambridge Arts Council in reviewing music-related applications for their annual grants. These efforts have played a key role in the strategic allocation of resources to deserving artists, organizations, and underserved communities including those pursuing Indian Classical Arts in the Greater Boston area, and have been greatly acknowledged by the Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture.

He was honored as one of the ten 'Makers of the Year-2024' by NPR (National Public Radio-WBUR) for his impact on Boston's creative and cultural landscape. He has received the 'Boston Media Arts Empowerment Award' from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, among others for his efforts. His work has been featured on Radio Boston, The Common, WBUR, and many others.