



Rithvik Raja

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Training

Born into a family of music connoisseurs, Rithvik was initiated into music at the age of 4 by his mother Smt. Sudha Raja who trained him for 7 years. Having acquired a solid understanding and a strong foundation on the basics of Carnatic Music, he subsequently learnt from senior musician and revered musicologist Smt. Sulochana Pattabhiraman for another 3 years, who nurtured his interest and sharpened his skills. Since 2003, his advanced training under the guidance of Shri TM Krishna, who gave him the courage and strength to pursue music, has been instrumental in guiding and helping him blossom into a fine young musician.

Music

Rithvik is a versatile and accomplished musician, rooted in the South Indian Classical Music tradition, popularly known as Carnatic Music. Having risen steadily over the last decade through constant hard work, dedication and introspection, he has now carved a distinct niche for himself. His music is fresh, vibrant and spontaneous with a natural flair. Coupled with a voice that is highly sensitive and deep, his pitch perfect singing is honest and sincere. An aesthetically conscious artiste who gives priority and focus to subtle nuances and wholehearted emotion, his renditions are punctuated with abundant creativity. His faithful and endearing stage presence adds significance to the intensity of his music. A constantly evolving musician, Rithvik takes pride in being an artiste who safeguards the integrity of classicism and treasures the traditional values.

Achievements

A regular in the competition circuit as a youngster, he participated and won many prestigious competitions. After giving his first public performance at the age of 12, he subsequently decided to make music his professional career at the young age of 19. Having organically grown over the years as an artiste of stature, he has extensively performed in India and has travelled all around the globe for many concerts, workshops and lectures. He is probably one of the most widely travelled musicians of his age. His foreign tours include United States of America, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Malaysia, Abu Dhabi and Sri Lanka. He has had the good fortune for having performed for some of the most prestigious organisations in India across many cities like Chennai, Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Bangalore, Hyderabad and others. He holds a number of prestigious awards to his credit and was among the youngest to milestone awards such as Isai Chudar and Yuvakalabharathi. He is the recipient of many government grants and scholarships including the ICCR and Sangeet Natak Akademi. A graded artiste of the AIR (All India Radio), he has won many accolades and recognition from rasikas, critics and connoisseurs from around the world.

Reviews

• G Swaminathan | Chennai

Rithvik has a strong voice, which he uses well to express his musical vision. With a variety of techniques from flamboyant to sedate, he achieved a perfect balance.

• PS Krishnamurthy | Chennai

Rithvik holds his *sruti* perfectly, sings his *kritis* faithfully and is capable of appealing melody. The delivery of his music bore the stamp of expert training.

• TT Narendran | Chennai

His *akara* passages in the alapanas bore the unmistakable style of Semmangudi. There is an all-rounded accomplishment in various aspects of his singing.

• Rupa Gopal | Singapore

Rithvik certainly seems to have absorbed the best from his guru, and is carving a distinct niche of his own.

• K Ganapathi | Palghat

He established a fine rapport with the audience from the word go and sustained it till the end. His renditions were steeped in deep classicism.

Awards

Isai Chudar (Kartik Fine Arts)

Yuvakalabharathi (Bharat Kalachar)

Maharajapuram Santhanam Award (Sri Krishna Gana Sabha)

Mahalingam Endowment Award (Narada Gana Sabha)

Best RTP Award (Music Forum)

Best

Best Vocalist (Parthasarathy Swami Sabha)

Best Vocalist (Narada Gana Sabha)

Best Vocalist (Indian Fine Arts)

Best Vocalist (Rasika Fine Arts)

Prizes

Ragam Niraval Svaram (Music Academy)

Ragam Thanam Pallavi (Narada Gana Sabha)

Muttusvami Dikshitar (Indian Fine Arts)

Shyama Shastri (Music Academy)

Contributions

• Madrasika

He currently heads Madrasika, which aims at, in its effort to bring the arts to open, public and free spaces, to make a mark on the city's cultural landscape. The initiative looks to make the exhibition and showcasing of art forms in our city's many spaces free and accessible, and to separate the arts from debate surrounding classicism, geography, purism and popularity.

• Svanubhava

He is one of the founding members of Svanubhava, which is a festival that aims to bridge the gap between students and leading art performers. This festival is exclusively for the students and has been taken to different parts of the country. Svanubhava is now a movement towards the performing arts of India.

• The Classical Project

In the pipeline...

• Avartana Foundation

He is the founder of Avartana, which aims at creating resources and documenting the arts and the artistes in a way that is aesthetic, yet modern. It is his strong belief that the arts should be presented honestly and not altered for performance. Capturing the core essence of this very belief is what Avartana strives towards.

• YACM (Youth Association for Classical Music)

He currently serves as the President of the organisation that helps in propagating and promoting Carnatic Music among the youth of India. He organises many workshops, concerts, lecdems and other innovative programmes that help the youth acquire a better knowledge of music.

• Other Projects

Rithvik is also involved in a number of other far-reaching projects and works closely with a number of organisations to create awareness for the arts. He readily volunteers for other causes and works passionately towards making a change.