

Ganesh Rajagopalan

A Violinist, Vocalist, Composer and Teacher

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Curriculum Vitae

Over four Decades of Performing



Violin has been an integral part of Indian Music history for the past 200 years. From its inception there have been countless violin players and only a few of them can be identified for their tonal excellence and creative genius .. Ganesh Rajagopalan is counted among the best of them.

Indian classical Violin maestro Ganesh Rajagopalan (of Ganesh Kumaresh duo brothers fame) is internationally renowned performer and composer for past four decades. As a child prodigy he has been performing since the young age of seven and rose to stardom performing with legends like tabla maestro Zakir Hussain as well as being sought after solo violinist by Oscar winner and Bollywood's famed music director A. R. Rahman and many other legends world wide like John McLaughlin of Shakti fame.

Ganesh completed his 100th stage appearance before he was ten years old. Having learnt the art form from his Guru, Sri T S Rajagopalan, he mastered the art form to be graded A Top for his Violin playing and graded A in the Vocal category by All India Radio, the only recognized grading agency in India.

In his four decades of experience in performing, teaching, collaborating, and composing he has carved a niche for himself with his impeccable, remarkable technique and incredible virtuosity. He has toured world wide including performances at prestigious venues like Queen Elizabeth Hall, Royal Festival Hall in London, Chicago Symphony Center, Zellerbach Hall, Berkeley, Walt Disney Center, LA, Festival of Violin - Barcelona, Symphony Space- NY, Summermela, Rome Italy etc.

He has performed and toured with Celtic Musicians.

Ganesh's deep-rooted strength in musical perception and his command over playing violin has made him a favorite with the purists as well as the uninitiated. He has brought about a refreshingly original content and style for this form of art. Having performed in several international music festivals, his creative idiom is international in nature and his music crosses all boundaries.

He has pioneered the concept of instrumental music by introducing a new variety in the traditional music format called “[Ragapravaham](#)” which has brought respectability to the art form. He has also released an album called “[Ragapravaham](#)”

Started a special concept called “[Swara Yoga](#)” - a mantra for Yogic Meditation designed to understand the value of Indian Music and the basic concepts of position of notes through chanting swaras.

“[String Sings](#)”, a new concept, is an instrumental offering featuring film songs. In this, Ganesh Rajagopalan, with his band, present memorable tunes and much more in film music.

Ganesh Rajagopalan has released a single called “[Milky way](#)”, which is a Neo Carnatic Instrumental track that fuses the traditional and pure aspects of raga with a contemporary and new age electronic arrangement. It is aimed at breaking stereotypes of visualising traditional music and bring new visual, emotional, modern and pan international appeal. It is the first of a series of tracks that are going to be released by Ganesh Rajagopalan.

He is a recipient of several awards and honors including from the Government of India and other organizations – some of them include ‘[Lifetime Achievement Award](#)’ conferred by Karthik Fine Arts, Chennai, “[Sangeetha Vedantha Dhureena Award](#)” by Ramalalithakala Mandira, Bengaluru, “[Maharajapuram Santhanam Memorial Award](#)”, “[Academy of Music Chowdiah Award](#)” and “[K. Balachander Rolling Trophy For Artistic Excellence \(Instituted by Kavithalaya Krishnan\)](#)” State awards include the “[Kalaimamani](#)” award. He is also recipient of the prestigious [Illayaraja prize](#) presented by [Trinity College of Music](#) etc.

April 21st 2018 was proclaimed as “[GANESH-KUMARESH DAY](#)” by the city of Frisco.

May 5th 2018 was declared as “[GANESH-KUMARESH MUSICAL DAY](#)” by Arizona, Tempe

Received [Special Recognition](#) from the City of Plano, Texas

As an experienced educator, Ganesh has taught students all over the world the Carnatic and his students are spread across the globe as performers and teachers. He has given special workshops and masterclasses to faculty and students of prestigious universities like Princeton, Stanford, Portland State University Music Department, Pacific University etc among many other institutions. He has set up music schools in Portland, OR and Seattle and has written the syllabus for the same.

His prowess as an ace violinist is matched by his creative talent as a composer in many

genre including classical Indian music, for films, Television documentaries, dance ballets as well as his many discographies. Ganesh is a much honored and globally acclaimed violinist today and has made inspirational forays into world music, teaming up with many legendary musicians, dancers and music directors. His creative ideas which have gone platinum are Spark, Colors Of India, Carnatic Chills. His thematic presentations like Shadjam, Aksharam Manoranjani are trail blazers and inspired copies for other musicians, and organizers.

Ganesh's compositions range from the traditional concert repertoire, to dance ballets, theatre, and films which have won awards and appreciation from connoisseurs and laymen alike.

He continues to seek new avenues of musical creativity and challenging projects which would showcase his talent as a performer and composer.

Apart from the regular Carnatic Music concerts, Ganesh Rajagopalan has made many innovative thematic presentations. Some of the Productions that he has worked on are 'Chandrikain kadhai', a Tamil documentary film for Doordarshan, 'Dance like a man' and 'Lessons in Forgetting' award winning Indian films in English. Music collaborations with dancers include 'Savithri' for Nrithya Gram, 'Maya Ravan' with Shobana Chandrakumar, 'Shrishti' and 'Gajamukha' with Dr. Jayanthi Raman and 'Chakra' with Parvathi Ravi Ghantasala. Ganesh Rajagopalan has also regularly collaborated with legendary music directors in India like A.R.Rahman, Illyaraja, Vishal Bhradwaj in many of their musical outputs.

Ganesh Rajagopalan has scored music for different and special situations in commercial movies and art films.

Ganesh Rajagopalan has created new ragas like Mohanasri, Amrutha Kalyan, Sheila Sri and Pamara Ranjani

Ganesh Rajagopalan has also composed many Varnams. Thillanas and Kruthis.

He has set tunes for lyrics of great composers like Purandaradasar, Bhadrachalam Ramadasar, Annamacharya, Vallalar, Patanjali which are followed by other eminent musicians as well.

He has given a number of Carnatic Vocal music performances and released albums in Vocal music also.

Over four decades, he has carved a niche for himself with his impeccable and remarkable technique— powerful, precise with platinum tonality and incredible virtuosity.

During this time, Ganesh Rajagopalan was already flooded with several awards, accolades and recognition from the government and other organisations. Kalaimamani, Sunadha Sironmani, Sangeetha Saragnya, Dwaram Venkataswami Naidu Award, Asthana Vidwan of Kanchi Mutts, GIMA, Ilayaraja prize by Trinity College of Music, Life Time Achievement Award from Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Chennai are some of the awards bestowed on him.

Some of his notable performances have been at :-

Sawai Gandharva festival, Pune
Cleveland Thyagaraja festival
Tansen Thyagaraja festival, Gwalior,
Theatre de la ville, Paris
Doverlane festival, Kolakatta
Karlsruhue Jazz festival
Alchemy, Queen Elizebeth Hall, London
Walt Disney Centre, LA
Lincoln Jazz festival , Newyork
Elephanta Festival, Mumbai
Bangalore Habba, Bangalore
Vasantha Habba , Bangalore
Sydney Music festival
Gunidas Festival,Mumbai
Swar uthsav, India Gate, New Delhi
Rashtrapathi Bhavan, India
Edinburg Jazz festival, Scotland
Sangeeth Research Academy, Kolkatta
Tansen Samaroh, Bhopal
Festival of Violin, Barcelona
Indian International centre, Golden Jubilee celebrations
NCPA, Mumbai
Symphony Space, Broadway, NY
SF Jazz,SF
Istanbul Jazz Festival,Turkey
Baku Jazz Festival,Azerbaijan
Music Academy, Chennai
Shanmukhananda , Mumbai
Bengal Classic Music Festival - Dhaka
BBC Radio, UK
Summermela, Rome Italy
and Many

Ganesh Rajagopalan has also appeared as one of the judges in the reality show Carnatic Idol.

By the time Ganesh Rajagopalan was 45, he had already completed 40 successful years as a concert performer. He has now adored the role of a Guru and is training several students to excel in the art of Carnatic Music. Given Master classes in Bharatiya Vidya bhavan and Milap Fest in London

An ace performer, composer, teacher and administrator, Ganesh Rajagopalan is now looking at establishing an institution for professional excellence in vocal and instrumental music. This institution will try and bring out artistes with skillful expertise in handling music and instruments.