

PRAVEEN D. RAO

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Overall experience

A versatile classical musician with an international reputation, working extensively as a Music director, composer, percussionist, stage Director, and arranger for over 30 years.

He is currently serving as the Principal of the Academy and Head of dept. Sub :
Classical music, at COSMOS ATMA school of Music & Arts.

He has composed music for physical theatre, dance, soaps and movies apart from albums and advertisements.

He has performed across the India, Great Britain, South Korea, Australia, Indonesia, Middle east, Canada and the USA.

Praveen is also a versatile multi-instrumentalist proficient in a range of percussion instruments, keyboards and electronic media.

He trained under renowned Guru Pt. R. V. Seshadri Gavai of Aravinda Sangeetha Vidyalaya and Tabla Maestro Guru Pt. Ravindra Yavagal

Praveen has also held/holds the following affiliations

- Vice President of **Cine Musicians Union** of Karnataka
- Served on the Advisory boards of **Abhinava dance academy** and **Natya stem Dance Company**.
- He was also on the board of **Youth artists & writers guild**
- Trustee in **Kalavedike**
- Served on the board of Karnataka Sangeetha Nritya Academy (2017-2019)
- Founder president of **Prakruti** an NGO that believes in promoting social awareness through performing arts

International experience – Key highlights

- Worked as a composer and performer for **Motherland** – A musical which celebrated the 200th year of abolishment of slavery act. Worked with the renowned artistic director Eugene Skeef who is on the board of The London Philharmonic orchestra & Jatinder Verma a renowned dramaturgy of UK. For this

work, Praveen was awarded the **PRS award for New Creations from the British Arts Council**.

- Worked in the British arts council funded production **Conversation – the performing abilities of the multiple disabled** along with Dancer and Psychologist Gig Payne.
- Sampad, UK commissioned Praveen to compose music for **Moving earth** – a choreography involving 240 dancers to perform at the **London cultural Olympiad** alongside the 2012 London Olympics which was also presented in front of the queen.
- Worked as a composer and performer, faculty in Chitraleka dance company, 'Artist in residence' Birmingham university, UK.
- Some of the major International productions with Chitraleka Dance Company – '**STORY OF C**', '**STARDUST TO LIGHT**', '**KAISHIKI**', '**PANCHATANTRA**' **etc.** which toured nationally across U.K. and India
- He also donned the role of Scriptwriter, Stage Director and Music composer for '**TEARS OF FIRE**', a dance and physical theatre production that again toured nationally in the U.K.
- Worked with Moby Duck Theatre Company for productions such as '**FIRE GIRL**', '**MAZE MAKER**', '**GRANNY VAMPIRE**', '**BOPULUCHI**' **etc.**
- Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham invited Praveen to specially compose music and perform in the children's dance/theatre production '**Princess Aubergine**'.
- He was invited by MILAP, Liverpool to compose and conduct workshops for **Samyo** and **Tarang**, the Leading National Youth Orchestra of UK performing South Asian Music.
- Over the years, He has visited Canada as a composer and performer in Lada Pada's Sampradaya Dance Company touring dance production **VIVARTA, SHUNYA, HOWZZAT, PRALAYA** (a special production fusing Balinese and Indian Music), **SANKHYA, MANDALA** **etc.**

- Worked as a Composer for dance based multi starrer physical theatre production **Taj** premiered at **Luminato Festival 2011 Toronto** and toured Nationally in 2013
- He is also closely associated with “Three Aksha Institute of Performing arts, USA” and has composed music for many creative dance productions like, **Prayog** (Maths+Music+Movement=Magic), **Flute to Conch**, **Natya Shastra** etc.
- He was commissioned to write an Indian music score for dance as a prelude to Gustav Holst’s Opera on Savitri performed by the Birmingham Symphony Orchestra.
- Praveen is the co-founder of **EARTH’N BEAT**, a world music band, performing South Asian Contemporary Music. The Band premiered at the Saddlers Wells Theatre in London along with renowned playback singer **Hariharan**. The band also performed at various festivals in the UK including the Sangeetham festival, London, Birmingham Arts fest 2006, The Liverpool Tourism Awards Ceremony 2006 etc.

International Music & Dance festivals

Praveen has performed in many of the prestigious venues and festivals in the Music and Dance Circuits in India, USA, Canada and UK. He has performed at various National and International music and dance festivals like PATTADAKAL FESTIVAL, NAVARASPUK FESTIVAL, LORD MAYOR’S CULTURAL EVENT 1994 (BIRMINGHAM), WORLD VEERASHAIVA CONFERENCE 1997 (U.S.A.), SOORYA FESTIVAL, WORLD KONKANI CONFERENCE 2002 (TEXAS), SOORYA FESTIVAL, NISHAGANDHI FESTIVAL, AKKA (USA) 2014, KONARK FESTIVAL etc.

India experience – Key highlights

As a composer, Praveen has created a style of his own in creative music. Over the last two decades he has composed scores for leading theatre, Indian ballet, films and television.

As music arranger, he has been recognised for his creativity in fusing Hindustani music & Carnatic music with western techniques.

He has arranged background scores for various films under much acclaimed music directors like L. Vaidyanathan, Dr. C. Ashwath, and Vid. Lalgudi Jayaram etc.

His work for National award winning Indian Movies **Stumble** (English), **Singaravva** (Kannada), **Sringaram** (Tamil) & **Namak ki Kankari** (by M.S Satyu) has been highly appreciated by art critics.

Many of his composition for Tele-Serials have become iconic like '**GODHULI**', '**TULASI**', '**GUPTAGAAMINI**', '**BELADINGALAAGI BAA**', '**LAALI**', '**LAKUMI**', '**LAKSHMI BAARAMMA**', and the ever so popular '**MAGALU JANAKI**'

Praveen has been involved in the Physical theatre scenario in various capabilities.

He has been a musician, composer & actor. He has directed many stage plays as well.

He also has acted in several Television soaps like **Manvantara**, **Mukta**, **Asare**, **Tulasi**, **Munjaavu**, **Yashodhe**, **Amma**, **Avalu** etc. which have received good appreciation from press and the public.

Praveen has had the privilege of composing music to more than 200 full length features for a host of dance and theatre institutions in India like **Natya Stem Dance Company**, **Abhinava Dance Company**, **Nritarutya Dance Company** to name a few.

- **Rama Katha Vismaya** – A live musical ballet glorifying Ramayana and choreographed by dance duo Smt. Nirupama and Sri Rajendra from Abhinava Dance Company
- Performance in the prestigious Ramanavami Celebrations at Fort high school grounds, Bangalore, Kodachadri Utsav, Nadam music and dance festival etc.
- Swara Taranga – Musical tribute by the eminent singer Smt. M D Pallavi at Chowdaiah memorial hall, Bangalore
- **S Janaki live** show as part of Ramanavami celebrations in Anekal
- 2 Successive participations as part of the prestigious Namma Bengaluru awards
- **Yadein**, a musical extravaganza with the world famous singer, Hariharan
- **Variations** a contemporary world fusion music with renowned young singer and flautist, Varijashree Venugopal

- Performances in the famous Bengaluru Ganesha Utsav golden jubilee celebrations in Bangalore, 2012.
- 100 member Orchestra power packed performance in 51st Ganeshotsav celebrations in Bangalore, 2013
- Viveka Sangeetha Namana – A successful grandiose musical tribute to commemorate the 150th year of Vivekananda's birth anniversary in Mysore (2012), Bangalore (2013) Bellary, Belgaum, Hyderabad, Lucknow, Calcutta, Shimoga, Bangalore and many other places.
- Ugadi special performance in **Infosys** witnessed by all corporate bigwigs including Mrs Sudha Murthy.
- Praveen has been composing music for the Karnataka Tableaux for the national Republic Day parade for the past 9 years.

Accolades (Awards)

- 'ARYABHATTA AWARD' - 1998, 2000 and 2010
- 'SWARAMANDARA AWARD' by HOMBALE - 1998 and 2000
- 'G. V. ATRI AWARD' by UPASANA - 2000.
- 'SILICON JAYCEES AWARD' - 2003.
- E TV Best Music Composer (GUPTAGAMINI) – 2004.
- **Title** - 'KALAVATAMSA' (GOKULAM) – 2010.
- COLORS KANNADA Best Music Composer (CHITTE HEJJE) – 2014.
- COLORS KANNADA Best Music Composer (LOVE LAVIKE) - 2016
- **Title** - 'SANGEETHA RATNAKARA' by Shivapriya School of Dance - 2019
- **Title** - 'NATYA SANGEETHA SARASWATHI' by Natyasaraswathi Kuchipudi Dance Centre, Vijayawada - 2019
- 'ANANYA NRITYA PURASKAR' By Ananya Cultural Academy - 2019
- **Title** - 'SHREE KALA JYOTHI' By the Bangalore Gayana Samaja - 2021
- **Title** - 'KALA CHAKRAVARTHI' by Shivapriya School of Dance - 2022
- **Title** - 'KARNATAKA KALASHRI' State award by Karnataka Sangeetha Nritya Academy - 2022
- 'SAMBHRAMA PURASKAR' Award by Sangeetha Sambhrama - 2023