

# Mysore V Vamshidhar - Flautist



**Mysore V Vamshidhar** is a well-renowned Indian classical flute artist.

He is a famous exponent of the Carnatic style of Indian classical music, having gained high acclaim for his masterful performances in live concerts and revered by audiences, connoisseurs of music and art critics for his unique style blending tradition, soothing melody and enriched nuances of Raga and Devotion, which are all the hallmarks of the spiritually oriented Indian classical music.

## Background / musical lineage

He hails from an illustrious family of musical luminaries. He is the grandson of Venu Vidwan Sri V Desikachar. He had his initial training in music from his grandfather, and presently is under the expert tutelage of his uncle Vidwan Sri D Balakrishna, a reputed Veena Vidwan of our country.

Vamshidhar is the son of Sri D Venkatesh and Smt Kamala Venkatesh. He carries forward a rich heritage from a lineage which includes prominent musicians Asthana Vidwan Sri M Venkaesha Iyengar and Padmabhushana Dr. V Doreswamy Iyengar.

Blessed and bestowed with this genetic inheritance, Vamshidhar was a child prodigy who effortlessly identified a large number of ragas at the tender age of three, started learning flute from the age of seven and had given his first concert performance by the time he was eleven.

Ever since, Vamshidhar's dedication to the art form has enabled him to evolve into a prominent artist. He has toured all over the country and abroad giving performances in numerous reputed Sabhas and prestigious organizations.

## Originality and creativity

Vamshidhar has developed a distinct and recognizable style (under the Mysore Baani style) that builds upon tradition while pushing creative boundaries, leaving a personal and lasting impression on listeners.

His concerts are marked by spontaneous, and inventive improvisations (Manodharma in alapana, swaraprastara) that are both creative and true to the raga's essence. Each performance is unique and inspired.

He possesses an exceptional ability to convey the emotional core of a raga, creating a powerful and moving experience for the listener. His music transcends technique to become pure emotion.

## Technical skill / mastery

In Vamshidhar's rendition of flute, one can witness impeccable command of the instrument, flawless execution of complex passages with perfect pitch, mesmerizing tone, and breath control, reflecting three decades of rigorous practice.

He demonstrates a profound understanding of the intricate rules governing a wide array of ragas and talas, performing with authenticity and respect for tradition.

He commands the stage with a humble yet charismatic presence, fully engaging the audience. The performance creates an immersive, memorable experience.

## Recognitions / awards received

Vamshidhar has numerous awards and recognitions to his credit. Among them are:

- Awarded the **Top Grade** in 2023 by the Prasar Bharti / Akashvani, Government of India which is the highest grade awarded to a musician.
- **'Best Instrumentalist Award 2018'** by the Madras Music Academy, Chennai
- **'Yuva Puraskara' - 2018** from 'The Academy of Music Chowdaiah Memorial Hall', Bangalore
- **'Ananya Yuva Puraskara'** from Ananya, Bangalore
- **'Nadajyothi Kalaprabhitha'** Award from Sri Tyagaraja Swamy Bhajana Sabha, Bangalore
- **'G.T.Narayana Rao Memorial Award'** from Bhramara Trust, Mysore
- **First Place** in **National level All India Radio competition**, 2003

## Performances at international, national and state events / conferences

Vamshidhar is a flautist of international repute, having performed at major venues which has earned him the admiration of his peers and audiences alike.

Some of the notable performances have been at:

- Raga Mala Music Society, Edmonton, Canada
- ISKCON temple, Zurich, Switzerland
- G20 Meet of the Finance and Central Bank Deputies at Bengaluru in Dec 2022
- Akashvani (Govt of India) Rashtriya Sangeeth Sammelan, Tiruchirapalli in 2011
- All India Radio National Programme of Music in the years 2020 and 2024
- Samskara Bharati Rashtriya Sangeetotsav in 2018
- Doordarshan Southern Regional Network Program in 2010
- The Music Academy, Chennai in 2014, 2016, 2018
- Tirupati Tirumala Devasthanam in 2010, 2015, 2023
- The Bangalore Gayana Samaja – Annual Music Conference in 2017 and 2022
- Karnataka Ganakala Parishath Conference in 2006, 2012, 2017
- World famous Dasara festival at Mysore Palace in 2018
- The Academy of Music, Chowdaiah Hall Bangalore
- Bidaram Krishnappa Ramamandira, Mysore
- The Nadabrahma Sangeeth Sabha, Mysore
- The Ramaseva Mandali, Fort high school, Chamarajpet, Bangalore
- Sri Rama Seva Samithi, Sheshadripuram, Bangalore
- Swathi Thirunal Sangeetha Sabha, Thiruvananthapuram
- Malleswaram Sangeetha Sabha, Bangalore
- Gayathri Fine Arts, Delhi
- Vishaka Fine Arts, Vishakapatnam
- Swarmanch, Madgaon, Goa
- Bharatham, Trissur
- Shanmukananda Sabha, Mumbai
- Swarajhari, Vijayawada
- Shri Subha Siddhi Vinayaka Mandhir Society, Mayur Vihar, New Delhi

## Impact / public appreciation

Influence on society / community: Vamshidhar is a cultural ambassador, having toured across the country and abroad, showcasing the rich cultural heritage of Indian classical music through his performances.

Public reception: His stage presence and performance style reflect the discipline and spiritual devotion of the guru-shishya (teacher-disciple) tradition. He embodies the values of respect, patience, and dedication that are central to Indian classical music, making the performance a holistic cultural experience for the audience.

Peer recognition: Vamshidhar's continual appreciation by his peers including senior maestros, fellow performers, and accompanists - is a confirmation that he is true to the tradition while also displaying creativity.

He participated in several flute concerts with his Grandfather, Ganakalabhushana Vidwan V Desikachar. He is also participating in Veena - Venu duet concerts with his Guru Sangeeta Kala Ratna Vidwan D Balakrishna.

He has shared the stage with stalwarts in the classical music field - Sangeet Natak Academi awardees Sri Mysore M Nagaraj, Dr M Manjunath, Sri K V Prasad, Sangeeta Kalanidhi Sri Tiruvarur Bhaktavatsalam, and many more.

Media visibility: Vamshidhar's performances have garnered critical acclaim and recognition from music critics, journalists, musicologists, and expert connoisseurs.

Innumerable favorable and extensive reviews in respected newspapers and magazines like The Hindu, The India Express, Deccan Herald, etc, and specialized music journals, are a testament to his interpretation of raga, improvisational skill, and command over technique.

## Contribution to bank's image

In parallel to his musical career, Vamshidhar has been an ardent employee of SBI for the past 17 years. His excellence in work has been recognized by senior officials and has been awarded 'SBI Gems – Pearl' on 7 occasions.

Vamshidhar's association with SBI is proudly represented during his public concerts, award ceremonies, media publications and broadcasts which has positively impacted the bank's image, enhancing its reputation through cultural association.

(examples of this can be seen in the attached videos of award presentations as well as excerpts from leading newspapers, radio broadcast)

Having a musician of Vamshidhar's repute also enables the bank's image to be viewed as one with a human face and appreciation for art and culture. This fosters deeper connections with customers who value the arts.