



## Profile of Vivek Sonar

Flautist-par-excellence, Composer, Vocalist, Guru to countless disciples, preserver of the 'Guru Shishya Parampara', torchbearer of the Hindustani tradition of classical music; Vivek Sonar is India's youngest and one of the most renowned flautist blessed with the powerful blowing skills demonstrated with a strong command over *Tantakari and Layakari style*.

A multi-talented persona, Shri. Vivek Sonar, is widely regarded by music lovers and critics for honing unparalleled skills of instrumentation in flute playing, thereby preserving the beauty and art of 'Indian classical music' at a very young age.

Apart from his many contributions and first of his kind initiatives like 'Bansuri Utsav', 'Flute Symphony', 'The Pt. Hariprasad Chaurasia Puraskar' et al; Vivek Sonar is also India's only musician to have started 'Pt. Hariprasad Chaurasia life time achievement award' to the senior artist in field of music.

This award is a token of respect to the exceptional contribution of music maestros in the field of music. Vivek's initiative is a stepping stone to remind the current generations to never forget the rich cultural legacy and strength of India's *shashtriya sangeet*.

### **Uniqueness in success**

Vivek Sonar was born with a natural inclination towards the bansuri. Further being trained as a senior disciple of musical genius and global ambassador of flute, Padma Vibhushan Pt. Hariprasad Chaurasia, Vivek gained high acclaim in the music industry and today known as a gem for his uniqueness, dedication and contribution to '***bansuri vadan***'.

Known for many firsts, he is known to have founded the 'Bansuri Utsav': A unique Indian music festival exclusively dedicated to the flute, where renowned flautists from across the country reconvene and celebrate the art of flute performance. These include three generations of flautists, right from Pt. Hariprasad Chaurasia to Vivek Sonar himself and his young disciples who participate together, bringing in a platform to showcase variety and depth in instrumentation.

This marquee festival also includes 'Flute Symphony' a novel concept of Vivek that features more than 80 flautists who perform together on stage.

Vivek is also known for dedicating and creation of India's first music award in the name of his Guru - 'The Pt. Hariprasad Chaurasia Puraskar', recognizing musical greats for their service to Indian classical music.

One of his hugely popular rendition is 'Flusion': a collaborative fusion music effort, featuring the flute, drums, sitar, keyboards. Vivek has performed with the best and the brightest in Indian classical performers. Visiting over 10 countries including France, Switzerland, UAE, Morocco, South Africa, Iran, Australia, Dubai, etc. Vivek has been one of most active Flautist leading the jugalbandi concerts with leading exponents of the Sitar, Violin, Santoor and Carnatic instrumental music, have been greatly appreciated.

### **The Roots**

Born and raised in Chalisgaon, Maharashtra and inspired by his late father Shri Ramchandra Sonar - an eminent vocalist of the 'varkari sampradaya' (a traditional music community of pilgrims), Vivek started playing the flute at a tender age.

After the initial training from his father, Vivek moved under the wings of his first Guru - Pt. Purushottam Antapurkar. It was here that his professional skills were fine-tuned and appreciated.

In 1997, Vivek moved to Mumbai to be professionally trained under Pt. Hariprasad Chaurasia. With this, Vivek began his new journey under the able mentorship of Panditji who allowed him to get deeper into the realms of exploring the flute as a powerful musical instrument to express himself. Vivek's discipline and perseverance through his guru, got him recognition in the music world.

### **Innovation & contribution**

Apart from his own success, Vivek is a musician who believes in serving good for the society at large. Being from a small town in the interiors of Maharashtra, Vivek was well aware of the challenges young music talent face in India.

To help, shape up such talent, Vivek set up Gurukul Prathisthan, a charitable trust few dedicated learners are staying in Gurukul and taking guidance in Traditional Gurukul System of learning music. Today Gurukul Prathisthan's music academy has over thousands of students enrolled in India and abroad.

However, this wasn't satisfactory to Vivek because the impact was only to a handful of music talent through his Gurukul. This apart, travelling across the world for his concerts, Vivek realized that there was a tremendous demand for music learning amongst music lovers across the world and the only way to reach them was technology.

**In 2017, Vivek decided to build a music learning app called myGurukul, the world's first flute learning app on mobile phones and PCs.** Till date over 50,000 people from 30 countries are learning on the app. myGurukul started with just Vivek as a Guru and quickly moved into other musical instruments. Today myGurukul have stalwarts in Sitar, Tabla, and Violin on their platform.

### **Concluding with Vivek's vision**

The honest contribution powered by his skills, thought and vision makes Vivek Sonar one of 'India's brightest stars' in the field of classical music.

Apart from bagging numerous & prestigious awards, Vivek is deep rooted in commitment to take the culture of music learning, Guru-shishya pratha and devotion through music. With his pledge to relish the purity of music, he has chosen the path of transforming the lives of many, who love, adore and like to pursue music in its entirety

### **Prestigious Event Participations**

- Sawai Gandharva Bhimsen Mohotsav, Pune
- Mogubai Kurdikar Sangeet Samaroh, Goa
- Hampi Mohotsav, Hampi
- Sankat Mochan Sangeet Samaroh, Varanasi
- Urja Music Festival, Delhi
- Pt.Ram Marathe Festival, Thane
- Kala Ghoda Festival, Mumbai

### **Accolades & Awards**

1. 'Pt.Sangameshwar Gurav' puraskar, (2018)
2. 'Pandit Ram Marathe Puraskar' (Honoured with the hands of Padma Vibhushan Pt.Hariprasad Chaurasia), (2016)
3. Title 'Ramaniya Venu Gaan Mani' (Honoured with the hands of Padmashree Vidwan Dr. N Ramani at Chennai), (2015)
4. 'P.Sawalaram Puraskar, (2014)
5. 'Thane Gunijan', (2013)
6. Title 'SURMANI' from Sur Sringar Samsad Mumbai, (2006)
7. Yuva Gaurav', (2004)
8. National Scholarship from Union Government Of India, (2000)
9. 'Vrindaban Gurukul Scholarship, (1999)

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