

T.V. Ramprasadh | Carnatic Musician

Founder and Director, Ambalam Arts & Culture Pvt. Ltd.
Bangalore, India.



Personal Details ||

Name: Thokur Vyasa Ramprasadh

Date of Birth: 13th May 1969

Nationality: Indian

Occupation: Carnatic Musician

An Introduction ||

T.V. Ramprasadh is a prominent vocalist in the Carnatic tradition of Indian classical music. As a composer, master and practising scholar his eminence in the field spans over 39 years of his performing and 30 years of teaching experiences. As of today, he continues to devote himself to in-depth practice, performance and transmission of the core foundational aspects, as well as, the explorative and creative scopes of this rigorously intense and timeless tradition of music from southern India.

Educational Background ||

M.A. in Music; Ramprasadh is also a qualified lawyer and cost accountant, who chose Music as his profession.

Musical lineage ||

Ramprasadh's initial training in music was from Mahalakshmi Natrajan (Bombay) and Sharada Satyanarayana. He received advanced training from maestros like Padma Bhushan P.S. Narayanaswamy, Sangita Kalacharya S Rajam, TV Gopalakrishnan and R.R. Keshavamurthy. His vast repertoire reflects the commendable musical lineage that he carries forward and beyond.

Performer ||

Press says – "...Crowd was spellbound as renowned Carnatic vocalist T .V. Ramprasadh rendered songs with a perfect blend of classical artistry and voice ..TVR has been gifted with a mellow, bass voice capable of a panoramic range that weaves a magical spell of sonic beauty... Clarity in diction, unique style & soulful rendition has evoked unqualified approbation of all listeners.....He maintains purity of the classical form through discipline, concentration and uncompromising adherence of tradition. .. sung with deep sensitivity and a polished manodharma...rendition was topped by unending sweetness.."

As a performer, Ramprasadh is well known for his uncompromising adherence to the core techniques, and yet with unbounded "Manodharma" explorations he renders profound musical experiences. With a majestic voice, panoramic range of vocal capabilities, deep understanding of the vast range of texts (in Sanskrit, Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Marathi and Hindi) and poetries of compositions to his repertoire, he is one of the most respected musicians amongst the veterans of Carnatic music at these times.

An 'A-grade' All India Radio Artist, his programs have been broadcasted on radio and television in State, Zonal, and National networks, since over the past 25 years. He is an empaneled artist of Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR).

Ramprasadh has performed in most major venues in India and across different countries in the world including USA, UK, Switzerland, Germany, France, the Netherlands, Italy, Austria, Sri Lanka, Singapore, and Malaysia.

Teacher ||

As a dedicated practitioner of Carnatic Music, primarily an oral tradition of knowledge system, Ramprasadh has continuously invested enormous interest in the transmission and sharing of this form through his teaching commitments. He has been training students based in India and across the world, in person and over the web, since over the last 30 years. He has conducted lectures and workshops in USA, UK, Switzerland, Italy, Germany, France, the Netherlands, Austria, Sri Lanka, Singapore, and Malaysia etc.

A tremendous amount of care goes into his teaching intentions that continuously stress on developing the strongest basic foundations for the students. Especially known for his generosity and patience with his students Ramprasadh has been a coach to many music as well as dance students and practitioners spread across the world who come from immensely varied backgrounds.

Recordings ||

Kosmic Music, Music Today, HMV, the Times Music, Amutham Inc of USA, Lahari, Sangeetha etc have franchised his music in the form of CDs and audiotapes.

He has been featured in a popular Hollywood Television series Xena along with other internationally acclaimed artistes.

His pioneering initiatives in bringing out unique programs like –“Healing through Music, Voice Divine series, Music for the Soul, and Thyagaraja Ramayanam - an audiovisual concert and Kaveri”.

Composer ||

Ramprasadh’s musical explorations find inspirations from different genres e.g. Carnatic as well as Hindustani schools of Indian classical music. He composed music for ‘Parivrajika’, a documentary film, and for several dance productions for eminent artists. He directed music and sang for this devotional musical album *Guru Mere Pyaare Sai*. He composed music along with renowned composer from Karnataka Praveen D Rao for the album *Music for the Soul* released by HMV. His composition for the well acclaimed theatrical Dance production “Varsha Ritu”, featuring eminent Bharatanatyam artist and his wife, Smt. Indira Kadambi, was highly recognised amongst audiences in India and abroad.

Music spokesperson ||

As a consultant for the Times of India he has worked with school children all over Bangalore through the *Newspaper in Education* – a series of Music awareness programmes for schools in Bangalore. He has also been a guest lecturer/ performer for Mudhra- A series of Music Appreciation programs for the masses held in Chennai.

He has spoken in forums like the Rotary International, Universities in United States of America, Germany, France and radio and television networks in India and abroad.

He has contributed articles to various Music and Dance magazines.

Television Anchor ||

Ramprasadh hosted several Carnatic music shows like ‘Sapthaswara’ on Kannada Television channels - Udaya TV and Kasthuri TV.

The Institution – eAmbalam ||

A visionary idea that possibly simultaneously challenged and yet strongly upheld the rigour and quality of the traditional terms of training in classical music from India, Ramprasadh established Ambalam, Centre for Performing Arts - in the year 1987, in collaboration with his wife, a veteran Bharatanatyam artist, Smt. Indira Kadambi.

In the year 2012, they launched the *World’s first Online college of Indian Performing Arts* integrated with Yoga offering Diploma programs as well as short term certificate programs in Carnatic music and Bharathanatyam.

The core vision of this initiative was to create a most non-restrictive platform and extend the opportunities of inspiring and training interested students and practitioners from across the world, irrespective of their geographical restrictions and lack of availability of quality education in the essential aspects of Indian Classical Arts. The college also offers comprehensive supporting programs in Yoga & Meditation, Yoga therapy courses and other forms of music including instrumental training in Violin, Veena, Mridangam, Khanjira and Ghatam.

Since its advent, over the last three decades, the institution has steadily supported students and artists across different countries. The students are encouraged and welcomed to visit India and continue their training in the conventional in person environment as and when they are able to do so. <https://www.eambalam.com>

Social Outreach Initiatives– Life Art Education ||

Ramprasadh's drive and intention to extend the constructive benefits of Art education and developmental life skills to school children towards enabling a sound societal growth at grass root levels inspired him to launch **the Life Art Education** project a K-12 school based program, in 2014. The program made it possible to incorporate Music, Dance, Yoga and Personality Development programs to school children as a part of their core curriculum.

www.lifearteducation.in

As of today e- Ambalam and Life Art Education programs have touched the lives of over 30,000 students in about 25 countries.

Art community portal – SaMaaGaMa ||

Another noteworthy initiative by T. V. Ramprasadh and Indira Kadambi was to build a fantastic Vibrant Art community portal “Samaagama”, where thousands of artists concerts have been archived and is open for connoisseurs to listen and watch eminent artists at any time, free of cost. They launched Chennai's very first outdoor festival “SaMaaGaMa” in December 2011, a community outreach programme, where all artists - young and experienced, from different spheres and genres- folk and classical, find a common space to share their art through workshops, performances, discourses and open sharing with common public including underprivileged communities.

Works and Albums ||

Some of his musical works include:

Voice Divine Series -Purandhara Vaibhavam, Thyagaraja Nada Vaibhavam, Thevaarams & Thiruvaachakam - A unique programme to rekindle the social awareness through the voice of divine composers of the past with commentary by Dr. Raghuraman, a Tamil scholar and professor.

Music for the Soul - Compositions of great poet Annamacharya with illustrative talk and introduction by distinguished Telugu scholar V.A.K.Ranga Rao

Thyagaraja Ramayanam - An Audio visual concert with Script and Direction by well-known musicologist Sangita Kalacharya T.S.Parthasarathy has a telling effect on the listeners. Thyagaraja the composer stands unsurpassed while dealing with the many incidents in the Valmiki Ramayana and other versions.

Kaveri- A unique programme tracing the source and the path of river Kaveri through the compositions of the great poets who have composed several songs in praise of the deities along riverside temples. It brings together the minds, the culture, the traditions of the people of the two states Karnataka and Tamil Nadu

Healing through Music- Worked with Internationally reputed Reiki Master & healer William Hauw of Singapore combining Pranic healing and Music.

Ramprasadh presented two unique concerts one with Nadaswaram maestro **Mambalam MKS Siva** for the Bhairavi Gana Sabha and the other with internationally acclaimed flautist **B.V.Balasai** for the Prakriti Foundation in Chennai called "Poornima - Songs to the moon".

Awards and Recognitions ||

For his significant contribution to the field of Arts, Ramprasadh has been awarded with the titles

Asthaana Vidwaan - Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam, Kanchipuram;

Gana Kala Shree - Karnataka Ganakala Parishath;

Naada Vallabha - Chennai

Gayana Gandharva – New Delhi

Ganakala Visharada - USA

Youth Excellence Award, from Rotary Club of Madras.

Best Vocalist awards from Music Academy, Krishna Gana Sabha and Indian Fine Arts Society in successive years.

Selected Performances ||

- Shanmukhananda Sabha - New Delhi
- Shanmugananda Sangeetha Sabha, Bombay
- National Centre Performing Arts (NCPA), Bombay
- Rasika Ranjana Sabha, Calcutta
- Bangalore Gayana Samaja - Annual Music Conferences, Centenary celebrations, National Tourism Festival - Pattadkal
- South Indian Cultural Association, Indore
- Karnataka Ganakala Parishath - Bangalore
- Chembai Vaidyanatha Iyer Sangeethotsava, Guruvaayoor
- Kanchikamakoti peetam
- Sthaysai organisation – Puttaparthi & Chennai
- Pejawar mutt, Admar mutt, putthige mutt – Udupi

- Ramkrishna mutt, Hyderabad
- Performances in Cultural festivals in Karnataka Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and New Delhi
- Programs under Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), Directorate of Kannada & Culture, All India Radio, National Television (Doordarshan) and private TV Channels, Karnataka Tourism Department.
- Sangeet Nritya Parangat Mahotsava - concert tour of Madhya Pradesh by the SCZCC, Govt of India
- Yuva Sangeeth Nrithya Mahotsav - Wai, Maharashtra & Hyderabad by SCZCC

Chennai

- Music Academy
- Sri Krishna Gana Sabha
- Mylapore Fine Arts
- Indian Fine Arts Society
- Bharat Kalachar
- Vani Mahal
- Karthik Fine Arts
- Narada Gana Sabha
- Kalarasana
- Brahma Gana Sabha
- Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan
- Nadopasana
- Naada Inbam
- NSTSS
- Nungambakkum Cultural Academy
- Hamsadhwani
- Academy of Indian Music and Arts
- Sri Kapali Fine Arts
- Asthika Samajam
- Mudhra
- Naayaki,
- Saraswati Vaggeyyakara Trust
- Tambaram Music Club
- TTD

Bangalore

- Bangalore Gayana Samaj,
- Sri. Rama Seva Mandali
- Percussive Arts Centre
- Malleswaram Sangeetha Sabha

- Karnataka College of Percussion
- Vijaya College of Music
- Ramasudha Charitable Trust,
- ICCR, Department of Kannada & Culture, KSTDC
- Bangalore Lalitha Kala Parishat

Charity Concerts

- Benefit concert for ISKCON, Detroit
- Benefit concert for Sri Meenakshi Temple, Houston, 2006
- Benefit concert for Sneha Kiran, Spastics Society of Mysore, 2006
- Rotary club of Madras west, Chennai

International Performances

- 2016-2018 tours of Europe for concerts and workshops.
- Music Circle, Los Angeles
- CMANA, SIFA, SIMA, Universities and Hindu temples in USA
- World Kannada Conference - Phoenix, Arizona, USA
- World Kannada Conference – Boston, USA
- Chinmaya mission – USA
- 2016 USA
- 2016 Italy, Switzerland, Germany
- 2015 - Europe, Middle East
- 2015 – Australia
- 2014 – UK
- 2014 – Srilanka (ICCR)
- 2006, 2004, 2003 - USA
- 2002 - Singapore and USA
- 2001, 2000, 1999, 1998 - USA
- 1998 – Malaysia (comprising of 9 concerts including a concert for radio Malaysia)
- 1998 - Germany, France, Austria and UK comprising of 19 concerts
- 1996-97 tour of USA, Germany and Holland comprising of 21 concerts
- 1994 tour of UK comprising of nine concerts

Selected Press Reviews ||

Majestically developed Kambhoji varna brought back to one's mind Ariyakudi...deep
hued Varali shifted the attention to Semmangudi...this artist is a new shoot in the lofty tree
of tradition...firm, melodious, and deep voice with perfect command over raga, laya, and
bhava.

G.T.Narayana Rao, The Hindu, Bangalore

Crowd was spellbound as renowned Carnatic vocalist T .V. Ramprasadh rendered songs with a perfect blend of classical artistry and voice... commanded admiration with a rare musical work in Rishabapriya raga, ‘Mahatmule...’....

The Hindu

Ramprasadh has apparently understood the truth of maxim - ‘Music must weave its golden ladder strand by strand..’ he not only exhibited functional expertise in things like purity of notes, correct kalapramana and padantara, but also exhibited a mindset that had intuitive awareness of the emphasis to be laid on raga alapana...let his imagination soar to beautiful heights...touched fine levels...irresistible bhava literally oozed...good fibre.

K.S. Mahadevan, Indian Express, Madras

With gurus such as R.R. Keshavamurthy, T.V. Gopalakrishnan, S. Rajam and P.S. Narayanaswamy, whose styles are distinctly different, T.V. Ramprasadh has evolved a style of his own that includes remarkable traits of all the above, but copies none. He made an instant appeal with his soft, caressing voice.

Swati Thirunal’s Ata tala varnam ‘Sarasija Nabha Ninnu,’ in Khambodi with which he began, opened the floodgates of high quality music without too many frills, or ostentation... V.V. Ravi’s violin and Melakkaveri K. Balaji’s mridangam commanded admiration right from the beginning and all the three musicians equally contributed to the sowkya bhava that reigned supreme that day.

The Hindu

Ramprasadh's Bhairavi was the highpoint of his 90-minute concert. The raga exposition was a perfect manifestation of the vocalist's musical conception.

The Hindu

T.V.Ramprasadh has made remarkable accomplishment in the field...unique and special sancharas were enlivening...balanced mixture of gamakas, jarus and birgas with immense raaga bhava...excellent control over concepts of manodharma and dexterity in a neat presentation...has depth and weight based on pure and traditional classical music.

Meera, Times of India, Bangalore

Vocal with feeling...T.V.Ramprasadh is emerging as one of the leading vocalists...detailed alapana with meaningful neraval and well knit swara prasthara.

Mysore V Subramanya, Deccan Herald, Bangalore

Appealing Voice Modulation...melodious, full throated & wide ranging voice...was under perfect control...his ornamentations were not only aesthetic and artistic but also rhythmically neat and taut too...Ramprasad's Kalyani spoke for his expertise and excellence...was evocative...the ragam thanam pallavi was highly appreciated because of his imaginative interpretation.

M. Suryaprasad, The Hindu, Bangalore

T.V.Ramprasad gave a stirring example of a vocalist possessed...he showed sensitivity for form and content of his ragas...neat neraval enriching his aural imagery...swara prasthara was equally good...it revealed that he had matured in the environment of tradition...Rendered with a touch of emotion...keeping the listeners interest high...kritis reverberated with intense feeling.

S.N.Chandrashekar, Indian Express

Maturity showed well in the singer's sonorous recital...with excellent neraval and kalpana swaras rendered in the late Chembai style. Correct diction, excellent modulation combined with appropriate gamakas marked Ramprasad's rendition.

Lochana, Times of India

TVR's Voice has added resonance and range...the challenging alaapana in Ahiri raga was sung with deep sensitivity and a polished manodharma...rendition was topped by unending sweetness...rich voice beautifully hined and crystal clear...alapana embellished with delicate sancharas...Thyagaraja's O Rangasayee was classy indeed...neraval with swaras was a treat of high quality music.

M. Suryaprasad, The Hindu, Bangalore

You Tube Links ||

www.youtube.com/watch?v=VvsxSCRTqE4

www.youtube.com/watch?v=31AEc6w-MEY

www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z2d-TdJUxds

www.youtube.com/watch?v=bZGy68qLDLs

www.youtube.com/watch?v=TfP7AIZH7pM

www.youtube.com/watch?v=cQb9_FZ-vUo

www.youtube.com/watch?v=S8zCeMTLZ60

www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZtH0Ck8UFMc

www.youtube.com/watch?v=2qKIUmWqPhc

www.youtube.com/watch?v=lQcrksOBLm0

www.youtube.com/watch?v=AMmfGD_ej7Q

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