

Vishaal R Sapuram

Bio

Vishaal R Sapuram is a prodigious young chitravina (fretless lute) artiste from the south Indian classical (Carnatic) music tradition, and a disciple of the renowned chitravina maestro Shri N Ravikiran.

Identified as a child prodigy, Vishaal began training in vocal at the age of three under experienced gurus in the USA and India. From the age of six, he has been under the tutelage of Shri N Ravikiran, under whose guidance Vishaal rapidly emerged as a performing artiste. At age nine, he gave his first vocal concert at the Music Academy Chennai, and a few years later began to perform on the rare chitravina, becoming one of the few chitravina artistes of today's generation.

Vishaal has been featured at several prestigious venues across India, as well as in the USA, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, France, Sweden, and Norway. Vishaal has also performed with his guru Shri Ravikiran, Shri Abhishek Raghuram, and many other respected artistes, including in jugalbandis and fusion ensembles. He has played before and received the blessings of the world spiritual leader Sri Sri Ravi Shankar.

An A-Grade artiste for All India Radio, Vishaal has won several accolades, including the Best Instrumentalist Award from the Music Academy Madras twice (2015 & 2017), the Gottuvadyam Narayana Iyengar Award from Sri Krishna Gana Sabha, a music scholarship from India Fine Arts (Austin, USA), 'Isai Chemmal' from Trinity Arts Festival Chennai, and 'Pannisai Ilam Paridi' from the Dr Kannappan-Vasuki Trust, and so on.

Vishaal began teaching music at age ten, and he has given lecture-demonstrations and workshops at the University of Texas (USA), University of Alabama (USA), the Temple of Fine Arts (Malaysia), and so on. He has developed a system for notating Carnatic music on the computer, which has been used in several books. Vishaal holds Bachelor's degrees in Sanskrit and Economics and certificates in Tamil and Business from the University of Texas (Austin, USA).