

# Vishaal R Sapuram

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## Bio

Vishaal R Sapuram is a prodigious 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 respected gurus in the USA and India. From the age of six, he has been under the tutelage of Shri 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 within a few years began to perform on the rare chitravina, becoming one amongst a rare few of his generation to take up this instrument.

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 renowned artistes, and has also played many in several jugalbandis with both Carnatic and Hindustani artistes and in fusion ensembles.

An A-Grade artiste for All India Radio, Vishaal has won several accolades, including the Dr M S Subbulakshmi Fellowship from Shanmukhananda Sangeetha Sabha, the Best Instrumentalist Award from the Music Academy Madras three times (2015, 2017, & 2018), the Gottuvadyam Narayana Iyengar Award from Sri Krishna Gana Sabha, a music scholarship from India Fine Arts (Austin, USA), 'Isai Chemmal' and the Suchindram S P Sivasubramaniam Centenary Award 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 also given many lecture-demonstrations and workshops, including 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 for writing several music books. Vishaal holds Bachelor's degrees in Sanskrit and Economics and certificates in Tamil and Business from the University of Texas (Austin, USA).