

# Sachin Shanker Mannath Balashanker

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## CAREER GOALS

To be a global ambassador of music through research, collaboration, teaching and performance

## EDUCATION

- **MA Music Education** from Kingston University, London (2013-14)  
*Thesis: Indian Music Pedagogy in the UK: Approaches and Possibilities*
- **BA Music Honors (Vocal Performance)** from Middlesex University, London (2013)
- **Diploma in Western music** from KM Music Conservatory, Chennai, India (2012)
- **Foundation Certificate in Western Music** from KM Music Conservatory, Chennai, India (2010)
- **Bachelors in Electronics and Communication Engineering**, Kerala University, India (2009)

## HONOURS, AWARDS, SCHOLARSHIPS

- **Shortlisted for Academy Awards 2018** in the Category 'Best Original Score' for the Hollywood movie 'Lake of Fire' (credited as Qutub-E-Kirpa)
- **The AR Rahman Scholarship**, Middlesex University, 2012
- **LPR Varma memorial award** for Carnatic music, 2004
- **CCRT Cultural Talent Search scholarship** for Carnatic music from Ministry of Culture India, 1999-2007
- **Winner** - Kerala State School Youth Festival for Carnatic vocals, 2002
- **Winner** - Kerala University Youth Festival for Carnatic vocals, 2006
- **Winner** - South Zone Inter-University Youth Festival, Thirupathi for Carnatic vocals in the year 2007.

## WORK EXPERIENCE

### Music Educator

- **Vocal Coach India** – Founder, Trainer (2018- Present)
  - o Conducted Vocal Workshops across India – Trivandrum, Bangalore, Hyderabad
  - o Webinars, One on One lesson on Technique and Repertoire
  - o Founder and Director of India's first World Music choir – 'All World Choir'
- **LEAP in India** – Workshop Leader (2017- Present)
  - o Weekly Music Workshops involving 1000 children at Bala Vidya Mandir School, Adyar, Chennai

- o Workshops at Sprouts School, Chennai
- o Workshop for The Piramal Group, Mumbai October 2019
- **Music Coordinator and Consultant** at Kids Central International School, Chennai from (June 2015-present)
  - o Created and Implemented Music Curriculum for Grades 1-8
  - o Interviewed Music Teachers
  - o Weekly Class Observations and Feedback
  - o Teacher Training sessions for IGCSE Curriculum
  - o Designed and setup music room and library
  - o Organized Community choir, after school program and podcasts
- **Faculty in Voice (Western Classical) and Music Education** at KM Music Conservatory, Chennai, India (February 2015- May 2019) – affiliated to Middlesex University, London, UK
  - o Weekly individual lessons to Vocal Students – Diploma Level Students
  - o Module Leader for Music Education, Diploma 2<sup>nd</sup> Year
  - o Developed personalized repertoire to meet individual students’ goals
  - o Organized annual Studio Recitals
  - o Conducted and Directed various ensembles including a musical ‘Nalacharitham’
  - o Conducted and Directed All World Choir focusing on World Music
- **Assistant to Chief Program Designer for Music (ACPD)**, Teaching For Artistic Innovation, Sublime Galleria, Bangalore from July 2016- July 2017
  - o Designed Lesson Plans for Grades 1-10
  - o Created Frameworks for Assessments
  - o Led Teacher Training Workshops
- **Guest Speaker at Kingston University** (London) for Music Education PG students on the topic of “Understanding Unfamiliar Musics”, November 2014
- **Indian classical music lessons** (Carnatic and Hindustani music) for students of age group 5yrs – 50yrs at Milton Keynes, United Kingdom from March 2013- December 2014
- **Visiting Faculty on Music Technology and Composition** at Sound Engineering Academy, Trivandrum, India from July 2010- July 2012

## Selected Concert Performances

- ‘Timeless Treasures’ A Golden Tribute to Javed Akhtar (Zoom event in Association with University of Southampton and Mijwaan welfare society) – July 2020
- ‘Sofar’ Chennai Chapter – February 2020
- Soorya Festival , Ghazal Concert – October 2019
- India Day Concert – University of Southampton, UK, March 2019
- Kala Ghoda Festival, Mumbai, January 2019
- Amir Mahal, Chennai, July 2018

- IIT Madras, Chennai, July, 2018
- Dakshin Chitra, Chennai, February, 2018
- Ghazal Concert, Aurodhan, Pondicherry, 2017
- Concert, Alliance Franciase, Pondicherry, 2017
- Ghazal Concert, ICCR Kolkata, India, June 2015
- Ghazal Concerts at Derby, Croydon, Central London, Southampton , 2014
- Franz Schubert's *Ganymed* for **Ein Abend mit Gesang** at Burgh House, Hampstead, April 2013
- *En Ferment Les yeux* from the opera Manon, for the concert **Mostly Mozart** at Middlesex university, March 2013
- Handel's *Ombra Mai fu* in **Pasticcio Madras**, a musical at Museum Theatre, Chennai, 2012
- Performed at Nikolaisaal hall, Germany and toured all over India with Academy award winner A R Rahman, German Film Orchestra Babelsberg and Potsdam choir, August 2012
- Lead vocalist of **KM Sufi Ensemble** founded by Dr. A R Rahman, performed at
  - o Party hosted by Parmeshwar Godrej for Oprah Winfrey, Mumbai, 2012
  - o Infosys Awards, Bangalore, 2011
  - o Mirchi Music Awards, Chennai, 2011
- Schumann's *Dichterliebe* at **Ability foundation concert**, Chennai, 2011
- Founder and lead singer of **Niche the Band** (Fusion genre), which toured several cities in India, 2011 - 2012.
  - o Prayaag - Dancing beyond Limits, Kerala, 2012
  - o Hemu Gadhwi Hall, Gujarat, 2012
  - o Smith and Jones Music ka Tadka, Mumbai, 2011
  - o Museum Theatre Chennai, 2011
- Ghazal Concert sponsored by Sound engineering Academy, at Trivandrum, India, May 2011

## Filmography (Music Composer- Songs and Background Score)

| Film                                        | Year | Notes                                                                                                                  |
|---------------------------------------------|------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Backpackers                                 | 2020 | Malayalam film – awaiting release                                                                                      |
| Roudram 2018                                | 2019 | Screened at Cairo International Film Festival 2019                                                                     |
| Kamsa                                       | 2019 | British Film                                                                                                           |
| Lake of Fire<br>(credited as Qutub-E-Kirpa) | 2017 | Hollywood Film, <b>Original Score - Shortlisted for Academy Awards</b>                                                 |
| Rebirth                                     | 2017 | <i>Documentary</i> on Autism special mention at <b>National Film Awards 2018</b> for Director Jayaraj                  |
| Swayam                                      | 2017 | Indo-German Production                                                                                                 |
| Unarvu                                      | 2016 | Children's Feature Film – Track 'Unaru' was featured as the <b>Track of the Week in BBC Asian Network</b> (April 2016) |
| Our Story                                   | 2014 | <i>Documentary</i> , Funded by Heritage Lottery Fund, UK                                                               |

## Independent Artist/Singer

| Album/Single                    | Year | Notes                                                                                                                          |
|---------------------------------|------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Raga Album                      | 2020 | West One Music Group, London ; Production stage                                                                                |
| Ghats of Gondwana (World Music) | 2019 | Composed, Arranged and Performed all the 7 tracks in the album recorded and produced fully in the UK; collaborated with Grammy |

|                       |      |                                                                                                                                                                |
|-----------------------|------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                       |      | nominated artists James Campbell and Manu Delago; Featured in BBC Radio, BIRN Global Radio (Berklee College of Music), topped World Music chart in Ethnocloud. |
| Global Ghazal Project | 2017 | Reinventing the Ghazal Genre in music                                                                                                                          |
| Bhajane Matrave       | 2017 | Jain Song – Performed by 200 singers in Karnataka                                                                                                              |
| Kanthi Theme song     | 2015 | Premiered at Archbishop Lanfranc Academy, Croydon, UK                                                                                                          |
| Tribute to Swathi     | 2013 | Released by Qyuki (founded by Shekhar Kapur and AR Rahman)                                                                                                     |
| Bhasmatheertham       | 1999 | Devotional solo Album                                                                                                                                          |

## **RELATED EXPERIENCES**

- Interview with Ashanti Omkar, BBC Asian Network, 2019
- Performed at BBC London studio for **BBC Hindi Network**, 2012
- Composed and arranged the theme song for **International Federation of Indian Dance (IFID)** based in Moscow, 2011
- **Playback Singer** of song *Melayq Megham* from the feature film *Ashwaroodan*, 2006
- Graded Light music artiste at **All India Radio (AIR)**
- Carnatic song for the tele-serial 'Thyagaraja' aired in Doordarshan, 1999
- Title song for **UNICEF** Educational Documentary *Minimum levels of learning*, 1993

## **SKILLS**

- *Computer* – Apple certified Logic Pro, Finale, Sibelius, Proficient in Microsoft Office suite
- *Language* – Fluent in English, Hindi, Tamil and Malayalam

## **OTHER ACTIVITIES**

- **Head Volunteer**, International Conference on Optoelectronics, Information and Communication Technologies (ICOICT) in Thiruvananthapuram, 2009
- **Executive Member**, Alumni Association, SCT College of Engineering, Trivandrum
- **Convener**, NIRVAAN'09 inter-collegiate fest with the participation of more than 150 engineering colleges, 2009
- **Founding member** of Arts Club in SCT College of Engineering, 2008