

## Ramana Balachandhran

Ramana Balachandhran is a Vainika in the Carnatic music tradition. His talent for music was noticed when at a young age he could identify ragas and point out nuances. He has been performing from the age of twelve and was awarded a direct A grade by AIR after auditioning at the age of sixteen.

Ramana started his Vocal training with his mother *Sharanya Balachandhran*. He then pursued Veena under *Vidushi B Nagalakshmi* (granddaughter of *Karaikudi Sri Subbarama Iyer*) for a period of 3 years and continues under his father *Sri Balachandhran*. He also pursued Vocal from *Sangita Kala Acharya, Smt Neela Ramgopal* and Mridangam from *Laya Kala Pratibha Mani, Sri Ranganatha Chakravarthy*.

### Performances

Ramana has performed extensively over 500 hundred solo Veena concerts in many of the leading sabhas in and away from the country. He has also been the youngest Vainika to have performed on many of those stages. The stages include:

- *Rashtrapathi Bhavan, New Delhi*: Solo concert in the presence of the *Honorable President, Honorable Prime minister, Cabinet and African Heads of state*
- *All India Radio and Doordarshan, Bangalore*
- *Sangeet Natak Akademi*
- *Leading sabhas* in south India
- *24 concert tour* of the US spanning sabhas across the country

### Awards and recognition

- Granted age waiver by *Prasar Bharati* and *Director General of AIR* for audition appearance in AIR as a 14 year old
- Youngest after *Mandolin Shrinivas* and *Flute Shashank* to be directly invited to perform at the *Madras Music Academy*, in 2018
- Auditioned by AIR at 16 and awarded 'A' grade directly an honour last bestowed on *Shri U Shrinivas*
- Sep, 2014: Recipient of *CCRT national level scholarship* for Veena
- Sep, 2014: Awarded "*RBC Young Achiever Award for RY 2014-15*", by *Rotary, Bangalore Cantonment* in the *Classical Instrumental (Veena)* category
- Feb, 2015: *Pratibha Puraskar, Bangalore*
- Invited to perform at *Rashtrapathi Bhavan, New Delhi* in the presence of *Honorable President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Honorable Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi*, the *Heads of African nations* and the *Indian Cabinet* in

October, 2015.

- Awarded “*Smt Lalitha Padmanabhan Endowment*” award for Veena by *Narada Gana Sabha*, Chennai in December, 2015
- Awarded “*Prof G T Narayana Rao*” award instituted by *Bhramara Trust* of Y. T and *Madhuri Thathachari*, Mysore on the 26<sup>th</sup> of March, 2016
- Youngest to win “*Kalavanta*” in May, 2016 for winning the concert competition series (instrumental) for international artists under age 30
- Awarded “*Raga Laya Prabha*” by *Sri Rama Lalitha Kalamandira*, Bangalore, in June 2016 - Awarded “*Emani Sankara Sastri Sashtiyapthapoorthi Award*” by *Sri Krishna Gana Sabha*, Chennai in August, 2016
- Awarded “*Dr. M S Subbulakshmi Fellowship grant*” by *Shanmukhananda Sabha*, Mumbai in September, 2016
- Awarded “*Annapurna Ravindran Endowment Award*” by *Sri Krishna Gana Sabha*, Chennai in April, 2017
- Chosen as *one of the 20 change makers* for the year 2020 by *Deccan Herald*
- Youngest to have performed at the *Darbar festival*, London in 2022
- Awarded *Best Vainika* by *Madras Musica Academy* multiple times
- Awarded “*Principal Late Sri K S Narayanaswamy Vaineeka Award*” from *Shanmukhananda Fine Arts & Sangeetha Sabha*, Mumbai on September 3rd, 2023
- Awarded “*Kalki Krishnamurthy Memorial Award*” on September 9th, 2023