

SUMESH NARAYANAN

MRIDANGAM ARTIST / PERCUSSIONIST / COMPOSER & PRODUCER

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Sumesh Narayanan is one of the most gifted and sought after mridangam artists of the current generation. He has trained with Mridangam Maestro 'Sangita Kalanidhi' Dr. Thiruvaarur Bakthavathsalam for over two decades, and continues to learn from him. Sumesh is a rare combination of a musician who aspires to master the rich traditions of the mridangam oeuvre in the traditional Carnatic style, while retaining an open and larger world view. This multifaceted approach allows him to be a part of many innovative and cross-disciplinary ventures to which he is a vital contributor, and is much admired for both his novel ideas and energetic playing.

Born on 20 May, 1992 in Palakkad, Kerala, to Chitra & Dr. N. Seshadri Nath, Sumesh hails from a traditional music family of Thiruvilwamala, with its' own legacy of producing many connoisseurs like Ghatam Vilwadri Iyer, Chenda Konthai and Venkichan Swamy (popularly known as "Maddalam Venkichan"). He is currently based in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

Sumesh is coveted for his deep grasp over the instrument as well as a mastery over both rhythm & melody. He has been performing for well over a decade in the city's prestigious sabhas and also frequents many other cultural hubs across the country. Sumesh holds the privilege of having played alongside veterans like Pt. Ronu Majumdar and Vid. Bombay Jayashri Ramnath in their Jugalbandi venture - "Windsong" across the world. His eloquent playing enables him to continue sharing the stage with eminent performers from across the classical realm in the country. He also has to his credit, the experiences of collaborating with a number

of contemporary musicians in many global cross-disciplinary ventures performed across world stages. Owing to the same, he has been featured in prestigious print such as Open magazine, Provoke and Sruti on a number of occasions apart from newspaper reviews and articles.

COLLABORATIONS & CREATIONS

- Co-creator of the experimental album “PERUMAL & PROVIDENCE Vol 1,2,3” composed, curated and arranged during the COVID-19 pandemic under the banner of Sound Creed LLP. This album involved over 30 classical artists in a variety of capacities, led ably by Sumesh as both “Creative Director” of Sound Creed, and performing artist.
- One of the 8 spotlight artists from the production “WEAVING VOICES” by Award-winning Director Roysten Abel that premiered in 2022, starring Vid. Bombay Jayashri Ramnath, Pt. Udhay Bhawalkar and Deu Khan Manganiyar among others.
- Curator and Creative Director of “EZHISAI : The Reign of Rasas”, an audio-video production comprising 9 concert-episodes thematized around each swaram produced by Sound Creed LLP.
- Composer and performer for the live theatre production “HERE & NOW” along with acclaimed dancer Mythili Prakash and acclaimed singer Aditya Prakash which premiered in LA Dance Project in 2018. This production was later staged at the prestigious UK based Dance Umbrella’s “Four by four commissions”.
- Composer for the theatre-dance production “Human | Nature” produced by SIFAS Productions Ltd that premiered in the Esplanade Theatre Studios, Singapore.
- Featured performing artist as part of “NAVA” from the Blue Planet Series produced by The First Edition Arts, Mumbai.
- Performed alongside Ustad Shujaat Khan and Vid. Sikkil Gurucharan in a classical presentation as part of India in the Artist’s Eye Festival held at the University of California, Davis (USA).
- Staged a jugalbandhi alongside ace artist Rimpa Siva on the Tabla at the Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre, Mumbai as part of their inaugural series of concerts.
- Performed alongside Vid. Aruna Sairam as part of AIKYA 2019 held in Coimbatore.
- Co-developed an app alongwith Kalyan Studio Apps called Mridangam Studio for iOS and Android that is aimed to aid and guide students of music through realtime accompaniment by way of loop creations, realtime tempo quantizations etc.

FELLOWSHIPS

- The ‘Cultural Talent Search Scholarship’ instituted by the Centre for Cultural Resources and Training (CCRT), Govt. of India, New Delhi, from January 2002 to March 2012.
- Bharat Ratna M S Subbulakshmi Fellowship award instituted by Sri Shanmukhananda Sabha, Mumbai between 2015-2017.

AWARDS & PRIZES

- Outstanding concert prize in the Senior category, The Music Academy Madras - 2019
- “Maharajapuram Youth Excellence Award” from Maharajapuram Trust - 2019
- Best Mridangam Artist prize in the Sub-senior category, The Music Academy Madras - 2018
- Best Mridangam Artist prize in the Sub-senior category, The Music Academy Madras - 2016
- Best Mridangam Artist prize in the Junior category, The Music Academy Madras - 2012
- Best Concert prize in the Junior category, The Music Academy Madras - 2012
- Prof. Mahadevan Padmanabhan Endowment Award for the Best Young Mridangam Artist, Narada Gana Sabha - 2012
- Best Mridangam Artist in the Spirit of Youth Festival of Music & Dance, The Music Academy Madras - 2009
- First Prize in the Senior Category Music competitions, Instrument – Mridangam, The Music Academy Madras - 2008