

Hindustani  
Classical  
Khayal  
Traditional Sufi  
Ghazal  
Thumri | Chaiti  
Retro-film hits



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Smita Bellur is a versatile Indian classical vocalist who **specializes** in the field of **Hindustani Classical Khayal** and traditional **Sufi** music. She is also adept at other genres such as **Ghazal/Thumri/Chaiti** and other **semi-classical varieties**, does collaborative work with **fusion** bands, and thematic concerts such as 'Rang Diyo – Mystic colours music' on mystic traditions.

Having sung (live in concert) at more than **360 venues** ranging from Classical/Sufi music festivals to Corporate events, Fund raiser/Charity shows, harmony gatherings, she also performs at weddings and private HNI family functions/Chamber music.

Smita has **3 album** releases to her credit: *Kaisi Madhur Shyaam* – itunes/Amazon, *Vachan Kirana* – Lahari Audio, and *Shareefara Pada* – GIPA/Kalkur Audio. She is working on new musical productions and recordings of specialized Sufi music/Ragas.

She has **won 3 awards** for her contribution to the field of music - Rotary Vocational Excellence Award 2010, 'Sangeeta Shri 2007' and 'Dr. Puttaraj Gawai Krupa Bhushana Prashasti'.

She **regularly broadcasts** as a graded artiste (B High) from India's national broadcasting network- All India Radio/Doordarshan, and from media/TV Networks and radio channels such as ETV, Zee, Doordarshan, TV9 and Suvarna/Asianet and All India

Radio/Doordarshan, FM channels such as 92.7BIG FM in addition to Twaang, Youtube, Facebook, Sound Cloud on the Internet.

She is committed to regularly working with her music to **support causes**. She has a keen interest in propagating Hindustani Classical and Sufi music through her **NGO Nadanubhava Foundation®**

She also actively **teaches** in an online mode or face-to-face in the *guru shishya parampara* style, and has taught for more than 1500 hours. Smita has earlier been a senior faculty at the **Shankar Mahadevan Academy**. In addition, she is working on a **research project** commissioned by **India Foundation for the Arts** on the Mir Musicians of Bikaner.

She has performed in Wales and Scotland in collaboration with international folk artistes and storytellers in festivals like the Paisley festival, Beyond the Border festival and Festival of Voice.

She holds a masters degree **MS (QM)** from BITS Pilani and Bachelor of Engineering (Bangalore University) and **has earlier** worked in software **multi-national companies** like Oracle and the German software giant - SAP, before giving it up to focus full-time on her passion-turned-profession.



## Training

She has trained for more than 25 years from gurus - late **Shri. P.R. Bhagwat**, late **Pt. Arjunsu Nakod**, briefly from late **Pt. Rajabhau Sontakke** and **Shri Bhalachandra Nakod**.

She is currently taking her *taaleem* from 'Gaan Saraswati' Vid. **Dr. Alka Dev Marulkar** for Hindustani Khayal, and **Ustads Naasir – Nazeer Ahmed Warsi (Warsi Brothers)** of Hyderabad for Sufiana Qawwali rendition. She is mentored by the likes of Janab **Syed Zia Alvi**, **Ejazuddin Ashrafi** and **Janab Shamim Tariq Sahab**.



## Past performances

Some of her performances include:

- Beyond the Border Festival 2018, Wales
- Festival of Voice 2018, Wales
- Wajid Ali Festival, Lucknow
- Spree Paisley festival 2017, Scotland
- Bangalore Poetry festival 2017
- Muzaffar Ali's 12<sup>th</sup> Jahan-e-Khusrau 2017
- Jodhpur RIFF 2016, 2017
- 7<sup>th</sup> Khusro Kabir Festival (Banyan Tree), Mumbai
- Kala Ghoda Arts Festival 2016, Mumbai
- Maulana Azad National Urdu University Conference, Hyderabad
- 'Jashn-e-Urdu', Directorate of Urdu, Patna
- INTACH and India Habitat Centre - New Delhi
- Govt. of Bihar: Rajgir Mahotsav, Sonepur Mela and Mandar Utsav
- Hyderabad Heritage Festival - Chowmohalla Palace - Hyderabad
- Raj Bhavan - Bangalore
- Saptak – Ahmedabad
- Hamara Hindustan's Eid – e- Milap Harmony programme
- Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan (Centenary Year Special)
- Ustad Imammuddin Dagar Music festival , Pt. Manmohan memorial festival - Jaipur
- Pt. Sawai Gandharv Punyatithi – Kundgol,
- Parthasarathy Sangeet Sabha – Chennai
- Govt. of Karnataka, Dept. of Kannada and Culture Festivals like 'Chalukyotsav', 'Karavalli Utsav', 'Lakkundi Utsav' and Navraspur Utsav, Bijapur
- Corporate events: Zoya, Mercedes, Sony Ericsson, Nippon, SAP, ETV, Centre for Human Genetics, GVK group, ORF Mumbai, Infosys Foundation, SAP CIO conference etc

- Private baithaks for HNIs like GVK Reddy, Kiran Majumdar, Janab Khalil Ahmed, Nawab Shah Alam, Damani family, Anantula, Vaish and the Merkumbe families.

## Press Comments

- “Message of a mystic Sufi” – The Hans, Jan 2017
- “Amazing Sufi Renditions” – Telengana Today, Dec 2016
- “Making Classical music resonate with the masses” – Sunday Guardian Nov 2016
- “शाम को यादगार बना गई स्मिता की दिलकश आवाज़” – Dainik Jagran Mar 2015
- “देर शाम तक गज़लों और कलाम की दुनिया में खोये रहे श्रोता” - Prabhat Khabar, Mar 2015
- “जश्न-ए-उर्दू को सुरीली गुफ्तगू के साथ विराम”- Hindustan, Mar 2015
- “Music is all Soul” – The Hindu, Jan 2015
- “पहाड़ी वादियों में गूँजे स्मिता के मधुर स्वर “ – Prabhath Khabar, Jan 2015
- “दमादम मस्त कलन्दर से गूँजा मंदार महोत्सव झूमे दर्शक “ – Hindustan, Jan 2015
- “... Jo dooba so paar - Sufi Sangeet ko samarpit Smita Bellur” – Hindi Milap, Aug 2014
- “Immersing herself in music” – The New Indian Express, Feb 2014
- “The Audience was charged up with the beautiful ghazal “Aye Muhabbat tere anjaam pe” – Hyderabad Hans, Feb 2014



“Get Inspired – An Ode to Music” - Femina , Dec 2013

“दमदम मस्त कलंदर - पर कुर्सियां छोड़ थिके युवा” - Hindustan Times Hindi , Dec 2013

“Music, Milap and a Message” – Times of India, (Hyderabad), Aug 2013

“सरहदों में नहीं बंधा सुफी संगीत” - Dainik Jagran, Dec 2013

“Aman aur Rawadari ko aam karne ki zaroorat” – Siasat, Aug 2013

“A new breed of Sufi singer plays for soul” – Siasat English, Jun 2013

“Timeless tunes wins hearts” – Deccan Herald, May 2013

“She plays music for the soul” – The New Indian Express, Oct 2012

“Exploring common threads of pholisophy” – Indian Express, Sep 2011

“Music for the Soul” – DNA, Apr 2011

“Sufi Strains: Striking a chord with the masses..Presenting carefully selected verses in her melodious voice, Smita stole the show with her scintillating performance” – Deccan Herald, April 2011

“Graceful Alliance”...“Her voice traversed the three octaves with ease, dazzling the audience. The synchronisation was perfect, thereby enhancing the euphonious appeal.” – The Hindu, Feb 2008

“Carving a niche in the realm of Classical music” – Indian Express, Mar 2007

“Honesty in art and spirit” – The Hindu, Oct 2005

“Melodious monsoon recital” - The Hindu, Aug 2005

“...not only did she develop the raga beautifully, her exquisite taans made her recital magnificent.”- Dainik Bhaskar, April 2004 (translated)

“extraordinary talent in Hindustani music...” - Deccan Herald, Nov 2003

**Expression through writing:** Smita is also a freelance writer on music. More than 50 of her articles have been published and appreciated too.

## Working with causes

As a thinking musician who believes in contributing back to society, Smita Bellur has joined many causes with her music contribution:

- **Urdu Kitab Mela 2016** for National Council for the promotion of Urdu Language. Participated for the sake of promoting Urdu.
- **Fund-raiser** (gratis) for a leading **Charitable Cancer research hospital – Sri Shankara Cancer Foundation** - 2013
- **Rotary's End-Polio Cause** (gratis) that aims to raise 200 million dollars as a matching grant to Bill gates foundation grant. The proceeds from the sale of the CD are entirely for the End-Polio cause - 2010
- working with an NGO that **spreads awareness about the National rural Employment guarantee scheme** such that rural unemployed get to know their rights to employment/wages – composing and singing songs about the scheme. This will be aired by A.I.R in rural areas - 2009

## Music for Communal harmony and national integration

Music has no borders of religion, caste, race, or language. The universal nature of Indian classical and spiritual music is explored to the fullest to bring out the harmonious aspects of different faiths.

### ○ *Shishunala Shareef special*

Compositions of Karnataka's great Muslim poet whose works depict the harmony among religions and different strata of society.

### ○ *Jashn-e-Soofi*

Compositions of the great Sufi poets of India were presented by Smita Bellur along with explanations.

Presented at several fora like corporate events (SAP Labs India, SAP Analyst Day etc), Indian Institute of World Culture; televised and broadcast by news channel TV9, Dargah Shareef.

### ○ *Daasa-Soofi-Sharanara Anubhaava Lahari*

Exploring the common threads of Dasa, Soofi and Shivasharana philosophies with multi-lingual music that celebrates 'unity in diversity'.

## Propagation and promotion of Indian Classical music:

Nadanubhava Foundation® – aimed at providing a platform for talented artistes and high quality classical concerts to music lovers, Smita has successfully hosted more than 70 well-received programmes in about 5 years under this banner which was earlier called Nadasree Sangit Sabha.

