

# Ruchira Panda

Hindustani Classical Vocalist | Senior Fellow, Ministry of Culture, Govt of India |  
Composer | Researcher | Community Activist

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## Highlights:

- ❑ “Senior Fellow”, awarded by the Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India.
- ❑ “A” grade artist of All India Radio and Doordarshan.
- ❑ Represented India as an outgoing delegation from ICCR (Ministry of External Affairs, Govt. Of India) in the Sharq Taronalari - UNESCO International Music Festival (Samarkand, Uzbekistan; 2017).
- ❑ Playback-singer - “Traditional development of Thumri’ , National TV Channel. India.
- ❑ Discography: “Unusual Dialogues”(Paramparik Records) “Raga Ripples”(Paramparik Records), “Live in New York” ( Raga Music Circle, NY); “Spring Alone” (Paramparik Records; DVD (Live)) “Diyaraa Main Waarungi” ( Raga Music); CD Saanjh (Questz World); “Spring Alone” (Paramparik Records) also on iTunes, Google Play Music, Amazon Music, Spotify.
- ❑ Performed in almost all of the major Indian Classical Conferences (Tansen Samaroh, Harivallabh Sangeet Sammelan, Dover Lane Music Festival, Saptak, Gunijan, AACM, SIFAS, LearnQuest etc.) in different countries (India, USA, Canada, UK, Bangladesh, Singapore, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan).
- ❑ Empaneled Established Artist of Hindustani Classical Music : ICCR (Indian Council for Cultural Relations, Government of India), and SPICMACAY.
- ❑ Awarded as Junior Fellow of The Ministry of Culture, Govt. Of India (2009).
- ❑ Award of Scholarship to Young Artists from The Ministry of Culture, Govt. Of India (1998).
- ❑ JADUBHATTA AWARD, by Salt Lake Music Festival (2009) ; SANGEET SAMMAN, by Salt Lake Silver Music Festival (2011) ; SANGEET KALARATNA , by Matri Udbodhan Ashram, Patna.
- ❑ Awarded Ustad Amir Khan Award as best vocalist for the first position in Khayal in Dover Lane Music Competition (1998- 1999).
- ❑ Awarded Rotu Sen Memorial Award for first position in Thumri in Dover Lane Music Competition (1998- 1999).
- ❑ Awarded H.M.V Award as best young talent of the year (1998- 1999).

# *Vidushi Ruchira Panda*

## ***Short Bio:***

Kotali Gharana rose from the riverine fields of undivided Bengal. This is music that is intellectually rich yet as emotive and alive as the soil that it came from. A musical tradition that is also steeped in fine arts and literature—the unmistakably Bengali notes of aesthetics, the tunes of experimentation and the beats of creativity. The compositions from the house of Kotali are exclusive. Beyond the khayals, thumris, tappas and tap-khayals, its treasure chest includes some near-extinct classical-based sub-genres of India, like Bundelkhandi Pasar ke Geet, Patjhar, Jaad ke Geet and Phaag etc. etc.

Vidushi Ruchira Panda, is the global face of Kotali Gharana today. Her taalim under Pandit Manas Chakraborty lasted two and a half decades, till his passing. Twenty four long years of mentoring by her guru, Pandit Manas Chakraborty, the son of legendary vocalist Sangeetacharya Tarapada Chakraborty, shaped her *gayaki* (style), Raagdari (command over the Raga) and finesse.

A Kolkata based vocalist, composer, she also happens to have a signature vocal tone that is a mix of raw power and flexibility. She is a guru herself and her disciples are already graded artists of AIR and performing in conferences. So the tradition is in good hands. As a composer and Guru, Ruchira keeps creating new lyrics and tunes, sometimes just before or even during a concert. That, naturally, adds to the freshness and magic of the core Indian Classical tradition centered around live music settings. Like in Jazz music, exploring intellectually uncharted routes through a Raga's structure in live performances is what sets her apart - so that all performances seem unique.

In a career spanning twenty-eight long years, Ruchira has been performing in the major Classical Conferences in India, USA, Canada, UK, South Asia and Central Asia. She represented India in the UNESCO International Music Festival “Sharq Taronalari” in Samarkand.

Ruchira holds a Master’s in Economics. She is an Established Empaneled Artist of Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), SPICMACAY, Senior Fellow of The Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India and an “A” grade artist of All India Radio.

Vidushi Ruchira Panda is also an ardent social worker. She founded Paramparik in 2001. Paramparik has sponsored thousands of underprivileged students of rural Bengal to become teachers, doctors and engineers. The Paramparik Classical Music Conference is well-known in the connoisseur circles of India.

## ***Her live performances:***

**Ruchira's** cerebral approach to classical and light classical music weaves a new tapestry at each performance. Ruchira is a featured artist of major music conferences and venues. Here is a short list.

### ***India***

- ❑ *West Bengal State Music Academy Annual Conference (Kolkata, 2023)*
- ❑ *Annapurna Devi Foundation, Antarik (Kolkata, 2022)*
- ❑ *Sawan Aayo, Kailas Sangeet (Hyderabad, 2022)*
- ❑ *Basanta (Shantiniketan, 2022)*
- ❑ *Dadar Matunga Cultural Center (Mumbai, 2020)*
- ❑ *Thumri Samaroh (Maihar, MP, 2019)*
- ❑ *Gururao Deshpande Sangeet Sabha (Bangalore, 2019)*
- ❑ *Nadaneeranjanaam (Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam, 2019)*
- ❑ *Bangiya Sangeet Parishad (Kolkata 2019)*
- ❑ *Kashi Sangeet Samaj (Varanasi, 2019)*
- ❑ *Pandit Bhimsen Joshi Shastriya Sangeet Mahotsav (Jalgaon, 2017)*
- ❑ *Jashn-E-Deccan (Hyderabad, 2017)*
- ❑ *'Raag Ameer' - Ustad Amir Khan Festival (Indore, India; 2017)*
- ❑ *Tansen Samaroh (Gwalior, India; 2015)*
- ❑ *Sangeet Piyasi Silver Jubilee Festival (Kolkata, India; 2016, 2010, 2000)*
- ❑ *Gunijan Sangeet Samaroh (Indore, India; 2015)*
- ❑ *Baba Harivallabh Sangeet Sammelan (Jalandhar, India; 2014)*
- ❑ *Saptak (Ahmedabad and Surat, India, 2013)*
- ❑ *The Dover Lane Music Conference (Kolkata, India, 2012)*

### ***Abroad***

- ❑ *MITHAS (Cambridge, MA 2023)*
- ❑ *Swaranjali, ICMDs (Morrisville, North Caroline, 2023)*
- ❑ *LearnQuest Music Academy Conference (Boston, USA; 2017, 2015, 2007)*
- ❑ *Raga Music Circle (New York, USA; 2017)*
- ❑ *Chinmaya Mission, Kalanjali, (Los Angeles, USA; 2017)*
- ❑ *SIMA (State College, USA; 2017)*
- ❑ *Sharq Taronalari - UNESCO International Music Festival ( Samarkand, Uzbekistan; 2017 )*
- ❑ *Basant Bahar (Fremont, USA; 2015)*
- ❑ *Sarb Akal Music Festival (Calgary, Canada; 2015)*
- ❑ *SIFAS Singapore (2015)*
- ❑ *Ragmala (Toronto, Canada; 2013)*
- ❑ *Chitresh Das Dance Company (California, USA, 2013)*
- ❑ *Chhandayan (NewYork, 2007)*
- ❑ *Nehru Center (London, UK, 2006)*
- ❑ *Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan (Kensington, UK, 2006)*
- ❑ *Ali Akbar College of Music (San Rafael, USA, 2006)*





*Antarik by Annapurna Devi Foundation (Kolkata, India, 2020)*



*The Dover Lane Music Conference (Kolkata, India, 2012)*





*The State Academy Classical Music Conference (Kolkata, India, 2022)*



*LearnQuest Music Academy Conference (Boston, USA, 2017)*





*Tansen Sammelan (Gwalior, India, 2015)*





*Workshop at Presidency University (Kolkata, India, 2018)*

## ***Lecture-Demonstrations and Workshops:***

- ❑ *Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan (London)*
- ❑ *World Music Department, Augustana College (Illinois)*
- ❑ *Ali Akbar College of Music (San Rafael)*
- ❑ *Saptak Archive (Ahmedabad)*
- ❑ *Roopkala Kendra (Kolkata)*
- ❑ *Rajya Charukala Parshad (Kolkata)*
- ❑ *Presidency University (Kolkata)*





Receiving 'Sangeet Samman' by Salt Lake Cultural Association from Pandit Amiya Ranjan Bandyopadhyay



Audio CD Saanjh ( Questz World ) released by Pt. Vishwa Mohan Bhatt

## ***The Social Worker and The Music Conference Organizer:***

Vidushi Ruchira Panda is also an ardent social worker. She founded [Paramparik](#) in 2001. Paramparik has sponsored thousands of underprivileged students of rural Bengal to become teachers, doctors and engineers. The Paramparik Classical Music Conference is well-known in the connoisseur circles of India.