

Satyasheel Deshpande

Pt. Satyasheel Deshpande - Curriculum Vitae

Born on 9th January, 1951, Pt. Satyasheel Deshpande is a uniquely creative Hindustani classical vocalist who is widely respected for his immense contributions to the field of Indian classical music as a performer, composer, musicologist, scholar, researcher, author and Guru. He is the son of the renowned musicologist Pt. Vamanrao Deshpande and the senior disciple of Padmavibhushan Pt. Kumar Gandharva.

Satyasheelji is a regular performer in major music festivals and events all over the country such as the Sawai Gandharva Festival, Saptak Annual Festival, Sankat Mochan Samaroh, Tansen Samaroh and many others. He has performed extensively in the USA, UK, Holland, France, UAE, Dubai and many other countries internationally.

Satyasheelji has also sung for films, his most popular performance being that in 'Lekin' with Smt. Asha Bhosle, for which he won the Best Playback Singer of the Year award. He has also sung with Bharat Ratna Lata Mangeshkar. His albums – '*Kahen*' and '*Thumri Katha*', among others, have become immensely popular. '*Kahen*' was published by the Deenanath Mangeshkar Foundation and inaugurated by Lataji. It was on the number One spot on the Rhythm House, Mumbai music charts for over 10 months.

With the help of repeated grants from the Ford Foundation, USA, Satyasheelji has established the Samvaad Foundation, at his residence in Mumbai. Here he has created one of the largest and most valuable collections of Hindustani music in India. Samvaad Foundation's recordings were made by Satyasheelji himself through intimate sessions with every great master of the time. In these sessions, Satyasheelji himself imbibed the knowledge and the insights of these masters together with their varying perspectives on the art of music making. It was through this process that Satyasheelji's unique, wide-ranging, eclectic and complex musical personality was forged.

Thus, in continuation of the scholarly and performative traditions of his father and his guru, Satyasheelji is known today to be one of the very few performing musicians with a thorough scholarly understanding of the various, contrasting gharana and non-gharana approaches to music making within the Hindustani tradition. Through Samvaad Foundation, he has been working towards the preservation and dissemination of these rare and dying traditions. This he does through formal archival work at the archives, his immensely popular lecture-demonstrations on music as well as through his prolific writing on music in various prestigious publications

Satyasheelji is a recipient of many awards including the Homi Bhabha Fellowship in 1996, the Kumar Gandharva Fellowship in 1999, Sursingar Samsad's Tansen award, the Raza award for creativity in 2006, the Vimla Devi Foundation award for social work, for his work with the Samvaad Foundation, the Vatsalabai Bhimsen Joshi award, 2013 and, most recently, Kusumagraj Pratishthan's Godavari Gaurav Puraskar, 2018.

Satyasheelji currently divides his time between performances, lectures, teaching, writing and serving as Chair Professor, Pt. Bhimsen Joshi Adhyasan, University of Pune.

Some of Satyasheelji's recent scholarly initiatives and performative work over the last year include:

- Performative lectures on the gharanas of Hindustani music on the **Surmayee Divali Zee 24 Taas** TV channel for two annual episodes
- Appearance on **Loksatta Gappa** - a series inviting luminaries from the arts for intimate conversation with select audiences
- Performance of select bandishes of the Gwalior Gharana for the **Sangeet Natak Akademi Archives**, New delhi
- Lecture on the Evolution of Khayal at the **Mahagami Sarangdev Prasang**, Aurangabad
- Year-long performative lecture series at **Saptak Archives**, Ahmedabad
- Presentation on P.L. Deshpande's world of music at the **P.L. Deshpande Academy**, Mumbai
- 'Kalaanand' Concert tours introducing classical music to visual-arts practitioners in 8 cities across India for the **Prafulla Dahanukar Art Foundation**
- A performance-study of Pt. V.N. Bhatkhande's influence on the music of Kumar Gandharva, presented at the **Y.B. Chavan Center, Mumbai**
- Panel Member for the **Rohini Bhate Dialogues, Pune**

Some of Satyasheelji's recent concert performances over the last year include:

- Saptak Annual Festival, Ahmedabad, 2017
- Sannidhi 2017, Gandharva Mahavidyalay, New Delhi
- Morning Ragas, India Habitat Center, New Delhi
- Svar-Prabhat, Sangeet Natak Academy, New Delhi
- Monsoon Ragas Performance at the Barkha Ritu Festival 2017, Nehru Center, Mumbai
- Virasat festival 2017, IIT Mumbai
- Sarangdev Samaroh 2018, Mahagami Mission, Aurangabad

For more information, as well as audio and video recordings of Satyasheelji's music and lectures, please visit www.satyasheel.com.