

Shri. Ramesh Narayan has the unique distinctions of being one of the few vocalists from Kerala who has already carved a niche for himself in Hindustani music. Years of untiring, hard labour and abundant inborn talent have helped him scale the formidable heights of this art.

Born on 3rd November, 1959, Shri. Ramesh Narayan hails from a family of Carnatic musicians settled at Kuthuparambu near Kannur, North Kerala. He had his early lessons in music from his parents, learning Carnatic music up to the age of 20. While he was a student at the Music College, Chittoor, he was deeply drawn to Hindustani music and decided to dedicate himself to mastering it.

Moving to Pune, he learnt Sitar under the tutelage of Shri. Satchidananda Phadke, a renowned disciple of the Sitar Maestro Pandit. Ravi Shankar. Becoming a competent Sitarist in no time. Shri. Ramesh Narayan found himself captivated by Hindustani vocal. He joined the Akhil Bharatiya Gandharva Mahavidyalaya and took his "Visharad" with high distinction. He felt entranced by the passionately evocative style of Parampoojya Guruji, Padma Vibhushan, Sangeeth Martand, Pandit Jasraj ji and resolved to hone his talent and technique under the Mewati Gharana Maestro. Pandit Jasraj trained him rigorously in the subtler aspects of music in the traditional Gurukula style. Shri. Ramesh Narayan has accompanied Guruji at several concerts.

Shri. Ramesh Narayan established the Pandit Motiram Narayan Sangeeth Vidyalay in 1996, at Thiruvananthapuram to foster learning and appreciation of Hindustani Classical Music. Inaugurated by Parampoojya, Guruji, Pandit. Jasraj ji, the institution today imparts valuable training and insights to many discerning students. Branches exist at Kozhikode, Kochi, Thrissur in Kerala and at Coimbatore in Tamilnadu. The school also holds the privilege of being the only school in India which is associated with Mewati Gharana.

A truly musical family....

Today, Shri. Ramesh Narayan is accompanied at many of his concerts by his wife and disciple, Hema, She is an exponent in Carnatic music who is also fortunate to have been trained under Parampoojya Guruji, Pandit Jasrajji, for sometime. Shri. Ramesh Narayan is also blessed with two talented daughters, Madhuvanti and Madhushree, also following in their father's footsteps.



A mellifluous career...

Shri. Ramesh Narayan has enthralled audiences in several parts of India and abroad. Blessed with a vigorous and expressive voice, his renditions are noted for their memorable felicity, depth of imagination and power to touch the listener's heart. Be it a weighty Khayal or a moving Bhajan, his renditions take the connoisseurs and masses alike, to ecstatic heights.

Perhaps one of his most celebrated achievements is the 30- hour concert he had performed, dedicated to his father and first guru, the late Narayan Bhagavathar and to Pandit Motiram, the exponent of Mawati Gharana.

On this memorable occasion, the press venerated him thus: "Popular Malayalee musician, Shri. Ramesh Narayan, who has devoted himself to Hindustani Music, has fulfilled his greatest ambition of singing continuously for 30 hours, and created a world record. He started his historic concert on October 8th, 1994 with "Anandeswara Ardhanaree Nateswara' in the Raag Bhairav... The 30-hour marathon concert went on smoothly and without a break. At the end of it, Shri . Ramesh Narayan wept like a child in ecstasy of his achievement, and the crowd showered him with flowers and bouquets in appreciation of the one who dared to scale new heights."

A Gifted music composer and director, Shri. Ramesh Narayan has composed, rendered and directed music for several feature films and Television.

Tuneful Milestones...

- ▶ Performed a non-stop 30-hour hindustani vocal concert at the Soorya Music Festival 1994, Thiruvananthapuram.
- ▶ Honoured by Parampoojya Guruji Pandit Jasraj, at the Pandit. Motiram Maniram Music Festival, Hyderabad, 1994.
- ▶ Sang and directed songs for national integration, produced by Jnanpith Laureate, Shri. M.T. Vasudevan Nair, for Lok Seva Sanchar Parishad.
- ▶ Working as music composer, All India Radio, Kannur, Composed music for a number of films like *Gharshom, Elayum Mullum, Magrib, MeghMalhar, Makkalku, Ratrimazha* etc.
- ▶ Director and Founder of Pandit Motiram Narayan Sangeeth Vidyalay, Kerala, the only institution in Asia under Mewati Gharana.
- ▶ Nominated to the programme committee of the South Zone Cultural Centre, Thanjavur.

Ramesh Narayan

Jasrangi, T.C. 19/1142

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Awards and Honors

- ▶ Honoured by the President of India, Dr.A.P.J.Abdul Kalam on 9th April 2007 in connection with the launching ceremony of the Indian Music Academy, Delhi Chapter
- ▶ Sree Chakra Puraskar- 2006
- ▶ Kerala State Film Award - 2006 (Film Ratrimazha)
- ▶ Kerala State Film Award - 2005 (Film saira)
- ▶ Virtuoso Award 2005, Chennai
- ▶ Kerala State Television Award - 2004
- ▶ Member of Sangeetha Nataka Academy of Kerala.
- ▶ Nominated for the Raj Kamal Academy of Cinematic Excellence, (RACE National Award) known as V. Santharam Award, Mumbai.
- ▶ Film Critics awards for television 2003.
- ▶ 25th Film Critics award 2002 for the best music director for the film *Megh Malhar*
- ▶ Film Critics award for Television award 2002 for the Tele serial *Devaranjini*
- ▶ Star entertainment television 2001.
- ▶ John Abraham award for the year 2001.
- ▶ Mathrubhumi Medimix Film Award 2001
- ▶ Kerala State Television Award for the year 2000.
- ▶ Soma Award 2000.
- ▶ Centre for Media Studies Budha Award 1998.
- ▶ Honored with title "Nada Chinthamani" 1998 to his meritorious service to the cause of Hindustani classical vocal Music
- ▶ Akashvani Annual Award for the year 1997.

They wrote about him

Pandit Jasraj

Today the number of your disciples and followers is legion. In which part of India do you find the maximum? All over India. One of my disciples Ramesh Narayan, is from Kerala, He is very good and runs three school in Trivandrum, Ernakulam and Palghat.

The Hindu Jan. 16, 2005.

Ramesh Narayan, the popular Malayalam singer recently released a cherished dream and rode his name in to the book of world records when he sang continuously without a break for 30 hours.

Screen Oct. 28, 1994, Mumbai

The stupendous effort which may gain Ramesh Narayan a mention in the Guinness Book of World Records....

The Week Oct, 23, 1994.

It is not often that an artist from Kerala opts for Hindustani music as against the more accessible Carnatic style and this makes Narayan's performance significant,

Indian Express Jan, 8, 1995, Chennai

Ramesh Narayan belongs to the rare genre of musicians who are not only well versed in the art and craft of their choice but also well informed of its social, cultural and philosophical dimensions.

The Hindu Oct, 4, 1996, Kochi.

There is an element of individual artistic insight in his deep involvement with the raga's moods and poetic contents.

Pioneer Mar, 29, 1995, Delhi

Ramesh Narayan

Torch bearer of Mewati Gharana

