

Immersed in music

Ramneek Singh specialises in khayals but loves to sing shabads as well

profile

ramneek singh

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With her two children, Malhaar (7) and Ragini (11), it is easy to see that Ramneek Singh is totally into her music. A Hindustani classical singer and a mother of two, Singh has a tried and tested potion for bringing out her soulful music.

“I completely shut myself off from the roles of my life such as being a wife and a mother while singing on the stage.”

Once she totally loses all her individuality to the music, the singer in her takes over and thus begins her offerings to the ragas she worships.

For her, music is akin to devotion. She is drawn to the creativity and the freedom to adopt one's own personal style that Hindustani classical music offers to the singer.

Singh's journey into classical music started at the age of six. Today, she is an accomplished vocal artist with more than 20 years of strict vocal training.

She has a Visharad (degree) from Bhatkhande Sangeet Vidyapeeth and prides herself in being a purist from the Indore Gharana, a distinctively meditative and serene style of Khayal presentation, as instituted by Ustad Amir Khan.

Singh has given numerous performances in India and North America and teaches advanced vocal Hindustani music.

She feels that an artist has to be given the right atmosphere so that he can go deep



■ Ramneek Singh's soulful voice has become finer with years of riyaz.

ANJALI SINHA/ HT PHOTO

While singing on stage, I completely shut myself from the roles of life such as being a wife and a mother as one goes deep within.

RAMNEEK SINGH
classical singer

within and bring out the best. Raag Bairagi, Marwa and Malkos are some of the ragas that she loves and likes to sing often.

Furthering her intimacy with tala and swara, she found the strict discipline and advanced

training under the tutelage of Amarjeet Kaur (a senior disciple of late Ustad Amir Khan and late Pt. Amarnath of the famous Indore Gharana) in New Delhi. She has also taken lessons from Pt. Vinayak Torvi, a disciple of Pt. Bhimsen Joshi.

Singh's deep soulful voice and years of learning and riyaz, combined with an attractive style of presentation won her acclaim.

Her speciality is in the presentation of Vilambhit Khayal with the utmost imagination and very slow progression of the notes, typical of the Amir Khani style.

Singh has come a long way since her critically acclaimed

debut concert at the Triveni Kala Sangam in New Delhi in 1995.

To widen her horizons of artistic experience, Singh is also very keenly interested and sings shabads strictly in the classical style.

Despite her preference for pure classical music, she enjoys performing in semi-classical styles too, and sings thumris and horis with equal ease and excellence.

Apart from her performances, Singh has whole-heartedly dedicated herself to propagating the rich heritage of classical arts to the culture conscious masses in India and abroad.

PERFORMANCES

- Triveni Kala Sangam, New Delhi, 1995.
- Wong Auditorium, Boston, USA, 1997
- Learn Quest Academy of Music, Boston, USA, 1998
- Music in harmony with nature
- Lecture demonstration at MIT
- Nashua, New Hampshire
- OMNI Television, Toronto
- Mozart Transliteration documentary
- Habitat Centre, January 2010

HER CLASSICAL JOURNEY

- Ramneek Singh hails from the Indore Gharana (school of music). It has a distinct meditative style of presentation. A raga is slowly and deliberately unfolded note by note.
- Ati-Vilambit laya is the soul of this gharana. Meticulous exploration of a raga through distinct rumination on lower notes adds to the serenity of the style. All these impart a relaxed and devotional character to this school of music.