

SOUMITRA THAKUR

“Understandably, Soumitra belied his age during his performance this evening, with his mature restraint and no nonsense approach, devoid of any artifice.... His complete control on meend of three/four swaras, during the leisurely but systematic alaap, his aesthetic sensibility and most of all his perfect tunefulness was remarkable”

- THE HINDU | MANJARI SINHA | JULY 12, 2019

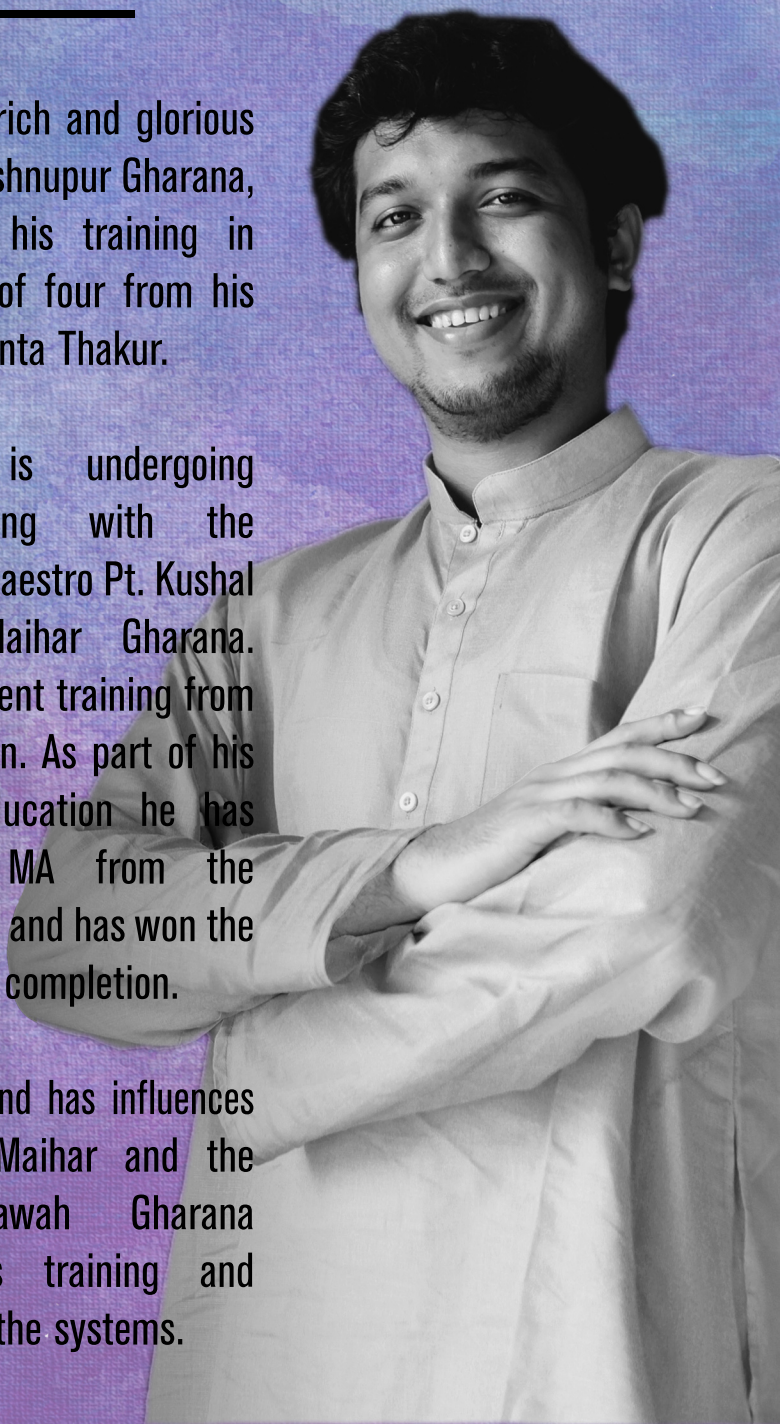


BRIEF PROFILE

Hailing from the rich and glorious heritage of the Bishnupur Gharana, Soumitra began his training in sitar at the age of four from his Uncle Shri Prashanta Thakur.

Presently he is undergoing advanced training with the celebrated sitar maestro Pt. Kushal Das of the Maihar Gharana. Briefly he underwent training from Ustad Rashid Khan. As part of his formal music education he has completed his MA from the University of Delhi and has won the Gold Medal on its completion.

His baaj reflects and has influences from both the Maihar and the Imdadkhani Etawah Gharana because of his training and exposure to both the systems.



NOTEWORTHY ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCES

- Approved **B High Grade Artist** from All India Radio
- Received the **Balshree Award (President's Award)** for **Creative Performance** in 2009 from the then **Honourable President of India, Smt Pratibha Patil**
- Awarded the **1st Position** at the '**Doverlane Music Conference**', Kolkata and was also felicitated as the '**Best Instrumentalist**' of the year 2011-2012 and performed for the subsequent festival
- Took part in the production of Musical adaptation of the **critically acclaimed movie by Meera Nair , THE MONSOON WEDDING**, directed by the veteran **Bollywood director Vishal Bharadwaj** in January 2019
- Collaborated with **French Musicians** and performed under the aegis of **Alliance Francaise** around India in February 2019
- Participated in the **Legends of Tomorrow Concert** series organized by **Pracheen Kala Kendra** in June 2019
- Received of both the **Senior and Junior Scholarships** from the **Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India** in 2007 and 2014
- Performed at "**Rising and Promising artists of India**" at **National Centre of Performing Arts (N.C.P.A), Mumbai** in March 2017 and at "**Young Masters of India**" organized by **Shrutimandal, Jaipur** in July 2017
- Secured **1st Position** at the '**20th National Youth Festival Competition**' in 2016
- Conferred upon the '**Chacha Nehru Scholarship**' from the **National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), India** for Excellence in Creativity at the National Level from 2009 to 2012
- Selected to perform at the '**Shakhri Begum Memorial Trust**' (SBMT), Kolkata, an institute pioneered by the legendary **Ustad Rashid Khan**
- Invited to perform as a guest artist at the **34th National Games Celebrations** at Jharkhand
- Secured the **1st Position** at the **Uttar Pradesh Sangeet Natak Academy** competition in 2014
- Awarded **The Akhil Bhartiya Pratibha Puraskar 2017** from the Cultural Trust of India

Apart from the above Soumitra has had the fortune of performing for **WZCC ,Delhi International Arts Festival,Sahitya Kala Parishad, UNESCO, The American Embassy (Delhi), Doordarshan** etc. He has also toured the country and performed in many cities including Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Pune, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad and Jaipur.

In addition to performing in solo concerts, Soumitra has also performed in innumerable jugalbandis and collaborations with a bevy of other instrumentalists and vocalists from both India and abroad. He is also a part of a group Project 'Sangam' which seeks to bring a melodic amalgamation of the Hindustani and Carnatic genres of Indian Classical music through a fusion of their respective styles and symphonies.

He has also been conducting regular workshops and lecture demonstrations at various schools and colleges to promote the music and art among the youth

