

"SHEHNAI MAESTRO" KALAIMAMANI PANDIT DR. S.BALLESH

International Fame Acclaimed - SHEHNAI PLAYER

Hindustani Classical "A" Grade, Shehnai Artist, Hindustani Vocalist & Playback Singer



Brief Introduction :

Name of Artist - **Pandit Dr. S.Ballesh Bhajantri**

Main Genre - **Hindustani Classical "A" GRADE Shehnai Player**

Other Genre - **Classical Hindustani Vocalist, Playback Singer, Ghazal Singer, Playback Musician and Sufi Singer.**

Son of - **"Shehnai Samrat" Pandit Sanna Bharamappa Bhajantri (Shehnai player),**

Date of Birth - **1-04-1958, Age 63years,**

State - **Chennai, Tamilnadu, INDIA**

Shehnai Playing family - **3rd Generation Shehnai players family from MK.Hubli, Karnataka, Performed Shehnai - Classical Performing platform - All Over India and Abroad (in worldwide many countries, still now, more than 55years),**

State Awards - **Ballesh is honored by 3 states,**

- ❖ **Tamilnadu Government** honored him and his son **Dr. Krishna Ballesh** with Tamilnadu State's Highest Civilian Award, **Kalaimamani (Joint Award)** in **2020**, award given by Honorable Chief Minister **Shri. Dr. Edappadi K. Palaniswami,**
- ❖ **Karnataka State Government** honored him with the **Karnataka Kalashree** in **2019 (State Akademi Award),** Given by the Honorable Minister for **Kannada and Culture Shri. C.T. Ravi** in presence of **Chairperson Karnataka Sangeetha Nritya Academy**
- ❖ **Andhra Pradesh Government** honored him with the **SriKalahasti Aasthana Vidwan Award** in **2006** at **SriKalahasti Temple, in Chittoor** by Deputy commissioner.
- ❖ **Uttar Pradesh, India Tourism Varanasi, Government of India** conferred **Ustad Bismillah Khan KalaRatna Samman 2021 Award** (Joint Award along with his son) in **Benaras** in association with **Deepika Cultural Society of India, Varanasi,**
- ❖ He was conferred with **"The Honorary Doctorate" D.Litt., award (Honoris Causa)** by **The International Tamil University.**

The Government of India, Ministry of Cultures, invited Ballesh and his son Dr. Krishna Ballesh for Sangeet Sangam International Music Festival in 2021 (Senior Musicians) organised Kendra Sangeet Nataka Akademi, Delhi.

Pandit Ballesh and Krishna Ballesh (father-son duo) played Shehnai in the Hollywood movies (International English Movies) “ The Hundred Foot Journey - 2014 ” for the track “ India Calling ”

A performing career of 45 years. Played Shehnai since the age of 11 , accompanying his Uncle and grandfather, and later Ustad Bismillah Khan Saheb. Has played in recordings for many Music Composers of India, across 16 languages from 1978 to 2020 .

Shehnai Guru & Gharana

As a third generation Shehnai Player- his first Gurus were his Uncle and Grandfather. He went on to learn from World renowned Shehnai Maestro “Bharat Ratna” Ustad Bismillah Khan Sahab, in the Guru Shishya Parampara and was under his tutelage for nearly 40 years, as his foremost disciple

Vocal Gurus & Gharanas

He started his vocal training as a disciple of “Padma Bhushan” Pandit Puttaraja Gawai of Gadag Veereshwara Punyashrama, as an 18 year old .

He is also a blessed disciple of Padma Vibhushan Carnatic Genius Dr. M. Balamurali Krishna, Kalaimamani Vidwan B. A. Chidambaranath, a renowned Carnatic musician, Playback musician and Music composer, and trained in Carnatic music for many years.

Association with Composers

Pandit Ballesh plays Shehnai for “Padma Vibhushan” Maestro Ilaiyaraaja, “Thenisai Thendral” Deva “Padma Bhushan” ‘Oscar Winner’ A.R. Rahman, Bahubali Music Composer MM. Keeravani, Laxmikant Pyarelal, Naadbrahma Hamsalekha & other Music Composers of South and North India and currently he is playing for all 2021 new music composers from India.

Association with Singers

Pandit Ballesh has played Shehnai and Sung with Kannada superstar Actor Dr. Rajkumar, PB. Sreenivas, KJ Yesudas, Kishore Kumar, S.P. Balasubrahmanyam, Lata Mangeshkar, S.Janaki, P.Susheela, Asha Bhosle, Vani Jairam, K.S. Chitra, Bombay Jaishree, Chitra Visweswaran & Malaysia Vasudevan. He has sung and played shehnai for more than 9,000 background-score's and 45,000 film and more than 50,000 devotional songs. He has also sung Hindustani music Alaaps for films and had also collaborated Shehnai with International musicians in recordings.

Collaboration with international musicians

Pt Ballesh & Shri.Krishna Ballesh duo played Shehnai in the Hollywood movies (International English Movies) “The Hundred Foot Journey -2014” for the track “India

Calling” and he has also worked for many background scores for **several Hollywood movies** named **“Blinded by the Light - 2019, Viceroy's House - 2017, Pelé: Birth of a Legend - 2016, The Hundred-Foot Journey - 2014, Million Dollar Arm - 2014, People Like Us - 2012, 127 Hours - 2010, Couples Retreat - 2009”** for **A.R. Rahman**. He had collaborated **Shehnai** with Hungarian musicians in several recordings, albums, live in concerts in **India and Abroad** for **Maestro Ilayaraja** and he has worked with **Chicago Symphony Orchestra (USA), Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra (Austria), Toronto Symphony Orchestra (Canada), Budapest Symphony Orchestra, Hungary.**

ABOUT PANDIT Dr.S.BALLESH :

“KARNATAKA KALASHREE” & “Shehnai Chakravarthy” Pandit Dr. S.Ballesh (Ballappa Sanna Bharamappa Bhajantri) is a shehnai artiste following the Benares gharana style. He is also a Patiala gharana Hindustani vocalist and ghazal singer, an **Akashvani All India Radio and Doordarshan “A” Grade Hindustani Classical Shehnai Artist.**

He was blessed to be the foremost disciple of world renowned Shehnai Maestro and BharatRatna Ustad Bismilah Khan, and carries forward his legacy of Benares Gharana Style today.

Pt. Ballesh hails from a family of renowned Shehnai players from M.K.Hubli (Belgaum District), Karnataka- tracing back to Court musicians to the ruling Lingaraja Dynasty, with a performance history of over 30 decades (300 years).

Initiated into music by his father- Pandit. Sanna Bharamanna Gawai, he continued to learn under the guidance of his uncle Pandit Dodda Bharamanna Gawai. He further trained under Guru Dr D.P Hiremath - Kirana Gharana and Patiala Gharana from Pandit Kodanda Singh Salunke Maharaj. He was blessed to train under the guidance of Padma Bhushan Pandit Puttaraja Gawai (gadag) Gwalior Gharana- Kirana Gharana.

Ballesh was then accepted by Shehnai virtuoso **“Bharat Ratna” Ustad Bismillah Khan Saheb** as his disciple, and is one of the five, and only surviving direct disciple of the maestro.

Following the traditional Guru Shishya Parampara, he served his guru Ustad Bismillah Khan for 42 years. He has accompanied ‘Ustad Bismillah Khan’ Saheb on several occasions and has received worldwide acclaim for his illustrious career as a Shehnai Vidwan, spanning over five decades.

Ustad ji had bestowed the title of “Dakshina Bharat Bismillah Khan” on Pandit Ballesh.

He is also renowned Hindustani classical vocalist and Ghazal singer and has been the preferred musician for many music Directors in Bollywood, Kollywood and all languages across India (such as Maestro Naushad Ali, Maestro Ilayaraja, Oscar winner AR Rahman and MM. Keeravani) He has also played for Hollywood music directors.

As a performing musician - he has played in many prestigious Music Festivals and collaborated with senior musicians for Jugalbandis - both Carnatic and Hindustani Notably, Padmashri Ustad Shahid Parvez Khan (sitar), Padma Bhushan Pandit. Vishwa Mohan Bhatt (Mohan Veena) Pandit. Atul Kumar Upadhyay (violin), Ustad Shafique Khan (sitar), Vidwan G J R Krishnan (violin).

Karnataka State Government has co-opted Pandit Dr. S.Ballesh as member of the Honorary Board of Karnataka State Sangit and Nritya Academy (2016 to 2018) and T. Chowdiah Award Selection board in 2017 which decides on the music awards presented by the state.

SHEHNAI STYLE OF PT.S.BALLESH :

Known for bringing the sweetness and flexibility of his vocals in his shehnai vadan , Pt. Ballesh can play on his Shehnai, Aalaap like khayal singing, Jhala like Sitar, Sarod , the Tatkar bols like kathak-dancers, Harkats like sarangi & violin, continuity of tone (Meend) like Been and the adorability of Bansuri to all these.

Due to his ability to straddle the worlds of classical, folk and popular music with equal ease and distinction, he is well recognised and sought after artiste, globally in both Hindustani classical circles and film circuits for his mastery over the Shehnai. **He is the only artist who can play all scales on a Shehnai instrument.**

VOCAL STYLE OF PT.S.BALLESH :

Equally accomplished vocal artiste, Pt. Dr. S. Ballesh is a member of the Ganayogi Panchakshara Gawai & Puttaraj Gawai brotherhood and is one of the famous scholars of Sri Veereshwara Punyashrama.

He received Hindustani vocal training in KiranaGharana from Dr. D.P. Hiremath, Patiala Gharana from Pandit Kodanda Singh Salunke Maharaj & Pt.Prakash Singh Salunke and Gwalior gharana from Padma Bhushan Pt. Puttaraja Gawai (Gadag).

His gayaki style is inspired from Ustad Bade Ghulam Ali Khan, Ustad Salamat Ali Khan and Ustad Nazakat Ali Khan.

PRESERVING SHEHNAI CRAFTSMANSHIP :

Pt. Ballesh remains one of the few musicians with equal skill in crafting the instrument. He is from the Shehnai - Bhajantri (Karnataka) Vajantri (Maharashtra) is a community famed for the Shehnai vadan and crafting skills .

Research and Development in handcrafting the Shehnai :

1. With every endangered art , the other aspect is preserving the instruments. Pt. Ballesh is also a renowned Shehnai Craftsman, making his pipes from the finest sesham. burma teak, ebony and rosewood to the Benarasi reeds bringing alive the mesmerising sounds of Shehnai.

2. The process involves preparing the wood, whittling it to fashion a pipe, preparing the “Nali” i.e. silver pipe which involves tempering the silver metal to right thickness, soldering the silver to the wooden pipe , drilling the holes, attaching the Shehnai ka Pyala which gives the unique sound.

3. Uniquely hand-crafted the Shehnai has the best reeds from Ganga- - conditioning it to get the right tautness and stretch for the wind instrument - a specially made Sui - or needles for opening reeds made by bronze metal, and Bamboo- - used for flattening the reeds.

4. The Bronze cups or Shehnai ka Pyala- has come about after years of research and development and are and designed for melodic output and tone. The tone varies with the diff cup size.
5. All this is made with specialised handcrafted drilling rods and tools to create the unique sound
6. The crafting skill is also passed from generation to generation .
7. Many of the Shehnai vidwans in the country use the handcrafted Shehnai made by Pt. S. Balleh Having mastered the art, he is the only player to use ebony shehnai - a rarity in this field.

AWARDS / RECOGNITIONS Received by Pandit Dr.S.Balleh :

Because of his accomplished performances, dedication and commitment towards music, He has received numerous Awards and to mention few,

Classical Music Awards :

1. *Ustad Bismillah Khan KalaRatna Samman 2021 Award (Joint Award along with his son) in Benaras by India Tourism Varanasi, Government of India and Deepika Cultural Society, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh*
2. *Kalaimamani 2020 (Joint Award) with Dr. Krishna Balleh Tamilnadu State's Highest Civilian Award " Given by Tamilnadu Government by Honorable Chief Minister Shri. Dr. Edappadi K. Palaniswami, in presence of Deputy Chief Minister O. Panneerselvam, Tamil Development and Official Tamil Culture and Language Minister K. Pandiarajan, Information Minister Kadambur Raju and Chief Secretary Rajiv Ranjan and Chairman of Eyal Isai Nataka Manaram, Thenisai Thendral Shri. Deva*
3. *Karnataka Kalashree 2019 (State Akademi Awardee), Award Given by Karnataka State Government, (Karnataka Sangeetha Nritya Academy) honored by the Minister for Kannada and Culture Shri. C.T. Ravi, Carnatic Vocalist RK. Padmanabha and Chairperson Vidwan Shri. Anoor Anantha Krishna Sharma*
4. *Mahatma Gandhi Award 2019 Gandhi 150th International Peace Festival, Gandhi World Foundation Chennai Award given in presence of Our Excellency Governor Thiru. Banwarilal Purohit ji*
5. *Excellence In Music Award 2019 ZeeTv Awards, Chennai, Karnataka*
6. *Chennai Kannada Rajyotsava Award 2018 Karnataka Rajyotsava Samithi Chennai, Karnataka*
7. *Bhimsen Samman Award 2017 KalaVikas Parishad Gadag Karnataka*
8. *Manju Das Award 2017 MohanTarangini Sangeeta Sabha, Badravathi, Karnataka*
9. *Certificate of Appreciation 2017 given by Ambassador of India to Romania*
10. *Smt.Leena Gupta Memorial Award 2016 given by Leena Gupta Memorial Music Foundation, Assam*
11. *Nudisiri Award 2016 from 13th Kannada Nadu-Nudi-Culture Conference, The Annual Kannada Literary and Cultural Meet of Alva's Education Foundation, Mangalore*
12. *Shree Baba Harivallabh Sangeet 2015 honor from Satguru Uday Singhji in 140th Shree Baba Harivallabh Sangeet Sammelan in Jalandhar at Shri Devi Talab Mandir, Punjab and Haryana*
13. *Bijapur District Navaraspur Utsav Sangeet Sanskriti Award 2015 Kannada and Culture Depart Govts Given by District Commissioner of Bijapur, Karnataka*
14. *Kittur Chennamma Sangeet Sanskritka Award 2014 Kannada & Culture Depart Govts Given by District Commissioner of Belgaum, Karnataka*
15. *Sangeet Ratna Award 2014 from Bhimsen Music Foundation, Gadag, Karnataka*
16. *Shehnai Nadabrahma Award 2014 Given by Sri Dasa Maha Vidhya Peetam Trust Chennai, Tamilnadu*
17. *Shehnai Samrat Award 2014 Given by Dharwad Bhajantri Sangha R Dharwad, Karnataka*
18. *Siddheshwar Ratna Award 2013 Siddadeshwar Samithi Vijapura, Karnataka*
19. *AsthanaVidwan Award 2013 Given by Sri Gnana Advaita Peetam, Chennai, Tamilnadu*

20. **Bagalkot District Raan Vaibhav Sanskritka Award 2012** Kannada & Culture Depart Govts Given by District Commissioner of Bagalkot, Karnataka
21. **Excellence In Instrumental Music 2011** Dr.MGR University Chennai Award given by Er. A.C.S. Arun Kumar Pro Chancellor, Tamilnadu
22. **Sanadi Appanna Kalashree Puraskar Award 2011** Sannadi Appanna Kalakar Sangha, Bagalkot, Karnataka
23. **Sangeeta Kala Prathibha Puraskar 2011** Sree Poornathrayeesa Sangeetha Sabha Kerala & Jalandhar
24. **Sangeet Kalashree Bhushan 2011** Lions Clubs International Chennai, Tamilnadu
25. **AsthanaVidwan Award 2010** Sri Sripuram Peedam Award given by PujyaSri Sri Sakthi Amma, Vellore Sripuram, Tamilnadu
26. **Lifetime Achievement Award 2009**, Master Ratan Sangeeta Sabha (Regd) Naya Nangal, Punjab
27. **Ustad Bismillah Khan Memorial Award 2008** from Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi Uttar Pradesh
28. **Asthana Vidwan Award 2007** Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam Award given by Pujayasri Jayendra Sraswati Swamiji Association of Hindu Dharma, Tamilandu
29. **Bharat Sangeet KalaRatna Award 2006** Poona Sangeetha Sabha, Pune, Maharashtra
30. **SriKalahasti Aasthana Vidwan Title 2006**, (Joint Award) SriKalahasti Temple, Chittoor Andhra Pradesh Government
31. **Shehnai Chakravarthy Award 2005** Sri Guru Ganayogi Panchakshara Trust Chennai, Tamilnadu
32. **Gaurav Kala Ratna Puraskar Award 2003** Kala Pradarshini Chennai, Tamilnadu
33. **Shehnai Ratna Award 2004** SGGPY Trust Chennai, Tamilnadu
34. **AsthanaVidwan 2003** of Sri Sharadha Peetham, Sringeri Math, Karnataka
35. **Surmani Puraskar Award 1986** Sur Singar Academy Bombay Award given by Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma Ex Hon'ble Governor of Maharashtra and former President of India, Maharashtra.

Film Music Awards :

36. **Mellisai Mannar M.S.Viswanathan Memorial Award 2018** Parinati Productions
37. **Man Behind 150 Million Streams 2018** Celebrating Meesaya Murukku ThinkMusic Award given by Actress Kushboo
38. **KIMA Awards Kannada International Music Awards 2015** for Outstanding Contribution Organized by Taurain Bangalore Award given by Film Director and Actor T.S. Nagabharana
39. **Mellisai Mannar Award 2013** In Appreciation for outstanding contribution and dedicated services to Indian Cinema Award presented by Mellisai Mannar M. S. Viswanathan
40. **Radio Mirchi Jury Awards Winner 2009** Radio Film Music South Award given by Music Composer Nada Brahma Hamsalekha
41. **G. Ramanathan Award 1999** Given by Cine Musicians Union, Chennai

HONORARY POSTS SERVED ON GOVERNMENT BODIES TO PRESERVE AND PROMOTE ART & CULTURE

1. **Vice President of Cine Musician's Union, (CMU) (2020 - 2022)** Chennai
2. **Vice President of Cine Musician's Union, (CMU) (2018 - 2020)** Chennai
3. **Former Board Member (2016 to 2018)** of Karnataka Govt. **Sangeeta Nirutya Academy** where government honors a musician with Karnataka Kalashree Awards for notable musicians and also creates performing platform for upcoming musicians
4. **Former Board Member of Selection Committee 2017** T Chowdaiah National Awards which decides on the music awards presented by the state by Chief Minister

5. *Former Board Member of Selection Committee 2016 State Sangeetha Vidwan National Awards which decides on the music awards presented by the state by Chief Minister or Cultural Minister in Mysore Dasara in Mysore Palace*
6. *Former Board Member of Selection Committee 2014 Tansen Samman National Awards which decides on the music awards presented by the state by Chief Minister or Cultural Minister in Tansen Music Festival Samaroh in Gwalior Palace*

RECOGNITIONS :

1. *Pandit. Dr. S.Ballesh has been conferred " The Honorary Doctorate " D.Litt., award (Honoris Causa) from The International Tamil, University United States, Maryland 2017 along with Legendary Playback Singer's Dr. SP. Balasubrahmanyam, Dr. KS. Chitra, Drummer Dr. Sivamani, Dr. Nagoor Babu (Mano) and after his son Dr.Krishna Ballesh in 2019.*

NURTURING GENERATIONS OF SHEHNAI PERFORMERS :

Pt.Dr.S. Ballesh has significantly contributed to preserving the Shehnai an endangered musical instrument by inspiring and nurturing new talent by training in the gurukula mode , nurturing the legacy of Ustad Bismillah Khan Saheb and keeping the Shehnai Vadan tradition alive.

In a milieu which academic and corporate pursuits are preferred over music as a career, Pt. Ballesh has inspired his three sons to take a musical career even after qualifying in professional spheres like engineering and Management and holding corporate positions .

All three are accomplished Shehnai players & vocalists .,

His son Surmani Dr. Krishna Ballesh apart from accompanying, has also grown into a solo performer, following in his father's footsteps.

Prakash Ballesh and Shivanand Ballesh are also accomplished artistes who accompany their father and other renowned musicians with Dukkad, Harmonium , tabla etc.apart from playing the Shehnai and vocal.

The Village Mugut Khan Hubballi from where Pandit Ballesh hails, has over - 20 scholars with different levels of proficiency - who have learnt shehnai vadan art from him and are performing artists in local and national arenas.

NURTURING MUSICAL TALENT AMONG DIFFERENTLY - ABLED YOUTH :

Following the tradition of his Gurus and pioneers of the **Veereshwar Punyashrama,Gurus Padma Bhushan Pt. Puttaraja Gawai, Ganayogi Pt.Panchakshara Gawai and Shivayogi Shri. Hanagal Kumaraswami, Pt. Dr.S. Ballesh** volunteers time at the Ashram , as an alumni - teaching differently abled youngsters Vocal and Instrumental music.

Most of these students are from economically backward families , who have been able to lift their families out of poverty , with the skill of music.They have found gainful employment as performing musicians, teachers in Government schools and recording artistes.

Tansen Academy , founded by him holds individual classes for **Autistic childrens, Physically Challenged and Special Needs** (Blind Born Childrens) for a very negligible and nil guru dakshina, teaching them for Sangeet Seva.

Ganayogi Utsav organised annually , under the aegis of the music school provides a platform for upcoming musicians and **differently abled musicians** of all age groups to perform in concert .

PHILANTHROPY :

Pt. Dr.S. Ballesh is also known for his philanthropy . He along with his team of musicians have performed several music concerts to raise funds for construction of Temples, and to help religious Mutts and for Masjids with their operations. A true follower of Bharat Ratna Ustad Bismillah Khan Saheb, he performs at both Hindu and Muslim ceremonies and promotes religious harmony.

CONTRIBUTION TO THE SOCIETY :

In a digital world without borders , the biggest challenge is in absorbing new cultures and traditions without losing one's own identity .

In this challenging environment - Pt.Dr.S. Ballesh has made the most significant contribution towards Preserving Classical Traditions and Nurturing Environment for Shastriya Hindustani Sangeet

Pandit Dr. S. Ballesh and Dr. Krishna Ballesh established the "**Tansen Academy of Music**" School in 2011 and has been teaching Hindustani, Carnatic, Playback music, devotional songs and musical instruments to over **750 students** in Chennai, Trichy, Coimbatore, Bangalore and around the worldwide (online).

The school teaches classical Carnatic, Hindustani and screen music songs to Differently abled , Visually handicapped and Autistic Spectrum children. All of them are given the opportunity to perform at the annual Ganayogi Sangeet Utsav.

Every year Tansen Academy school students organise an event called "Rus Barse" in memory of Guru Ustad Bismillah Khan. The school aims to preserve the legacy of the illustrious Gurus and propagate the traditional styles all over the world.

At Tansen Academy, people between the ages of 6 and 70 (including IAS Officers, Retired Judge, Police, Lawyer, Playback Singers and Musicians) learn music with full devotion. All Students including upcountry branches at Trichy, Coimbatore, Madurai, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Dharwad are given the opportunity to sing on stage every year.

In addition to the School of Music, the Academy hosts **6 major events** to promote the Shastriya Sangeet and to preserve the rich cultural heritage of their gurus .

EVENTS ORGANISED AND AWARDS CONFERRED BY PANDIT BALLESH, FOUNDER OF TANSEN ACADEMY OF MUSIC ®

With Preserving, Nurturing and Promoting the legacy of the Gurus are the DNA for this endeavour, the academy also organises an Annual event **Ras Barse Utsav, Ganayogi Sangeet Utsav**.

The Academy organises Ganayogi Utsav - in honour of Gurus of Veereshwara Punyashrama, Gadag-Shivayogi Hanagal Swami, Pt. Panchakshari Gawai & Pt. Puttaraja Gawai. Most of the Hindustani Musicians of Southern India & Maharashtra and North India are trained in this gurukul - notable

among contemporary vocalists and Shehnaiplayer being Pt. Dr. S Ballesh, Pt. Dr. Venkatesh Kumar and Pandit Somnath Mardur. Every year in Veereshwara Punyashrama June-July “ **Gadag’s Ganayogi Panchakshara Sangeet festival starts with Shehnai recital of Pandit Ballesh and Party**, in coincide of GadagGanayogiFestival, Ballesh celebrates same festival in Belgaum, Dharwad, Bangalore, Chennai, Hyderabad, Delhi & confers **Ganayogi Kala Ratna Award** to leading musicians.

1. RAS BARSE UTSAV

The **Ras Barse Utsav** is Conceptualised as a platform to present Music in the purest form as a tribute concert in honour of **Shehnai Maestro Bharat Ratna Ustad Bismillah Khan** and Shehnai Samrat Pt. Sanna Bharamanna Gawai ,this event is organised every year by the academy students under the aegis of Tansen Academy and supervisory board of the BK Shehnai Foundation in it provides a medium to bring the **Best Top Musicians** of Hindustani Gharanas to perform at Belgaum, Hubli, Dharwad, Bangalore and Chennai and confers the **Ustad Bismillah Khan National award** to performing legends, **Gaurav Puraskar** for the musicians for their contributions and film music and **Yuva Kala Puraskar Award** on upcoming artistes.

This is a **daylong festival** - and we have multiple artists featuring in the show , paying homage to the great gurus. We have both instrumental and vocal music with focus on providing a vibrant platform and a genuinely interested and knowledgeable audience for the **unsung but highly talented artists and rare instruments** , coupled with **celeb performances in peak time** .

The third is **Taan Utsav**- an annual student showcase - We have a mosaic of student performances starting with **2 year olds to 65 year olds** - covering classical and semi classical music. We also have many celeb students who are **playback artistes in Bollywood and South India** .

2. GANAYOGI UTSAV

Ganayogi Utsav is celebrated in memory of Shivayogi Hangal Kumar Swamiji, Gurudev Ganayogi Panchakshara Gawai and Padma Bhushan Danayogi Pandit Puttaraj Gawai (Gadag), Continuing the traditional music, culture and legacy of our Veereshwara Punyashrama where India's leading musicians will be performing in Bangalore, Chennai, Hyderabad, Belgaum, Dharwad and Tansen Academy Senior Students will be sharing the stage.

3. GURU SAMARPAN

An annual tribute to Ustad Bismillah Khan Saheb - this is held in the Month of March- April to commemorate Ustad Ji Birth Anniversary. This is a short format - with 3 hours of Shehnai performance Solo or Jugalbandi with a visiting artist.

4. USTAD BISMILLAH KHAN SHEHNAI SANGEET MAHOTSAV

Ustad Bismillah Khan Sangeet Mahotsav is celebrated in memory of Bharat Ratna Ustad Bismillah Khan Sahab

5. YUVA UTSAV

Yuva Utsav is celebrated for Indian Classical upcoming Musicians of India and invited to perform in Bangalore, Chennai, Hubli Dharwad, Belgaum.

6. TAAN UTSAV

Taan Utsav is celebrated as Annual Day of Tansen Academy Students and dedicated to Grandparents Smt. Ellamma Ammaji and Pandit Sanna Bharamanna Gawaiji, nearly 750 Students perform- Bhairav Se Bhairavi Tak . Conducted at Bangalore, Chennai, Hubli Dharwad, Belgaum.

POPULAR MUSICAL COLLABORATIONS :

Shehnai In Popular Music :

Pt Balleśh is also known for his extensive body of work in the non classical circuit- taking Shehnai through popular music to familiarise, general public about the richness of this rare instrument .

He has been instrumental in taking the Shehnai music to masses through interpretation of films compositions of generations of music directors like Maestro Naushad Ali, Mellisai Mannar MS Viswanathan, Maestro Ilaiyaraaja & Oscar Winner AR. Rahman in various Indian Films & Foreign films

Pt Balleśh & Shri.Krishna Balleśh duo played Shehnai in the **Hollywood movies (International English Movies) "The Hundred Foot Journey -2014"** for the track **"India Calling"** and he has also worked for many background scores for **several Hollywood movies** named **"Blinded by the Light - 2019, Viceroy's House - 2017, Pelé: Birth of a Legend - 2016, The Hundred-Foot Journey - 2014, Million Dollar Arm - 2014, People Like Us - 2012, 127 Hours - 2010, Couples Retreat - 2009"** for A.R. Rahman. He had collaborated **Shehnai with Hungarian musicians** in several recordings, albums, live in concerts in India and Abroad for **Maestro Ilaiyaraaja** and he has worked with **Chicago Symphony Orchestra (USA), Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra (Austria), Toronto Symphony Orchestra (Canada), Budapest Symphony Orchestra, Hungary.**

He played Shehnai in 'Rockstar' **Bollywood movie**, for the track titled "The Dichotomy of fame". Few more prominent tracks are "Ye Jo Des HaiTera" song from the movie "Swades", Raanjhanaa movie, "Hamma Hamma" song from the movie "Bombay" for A.R. Rahman. He has played for many movies of **Karnataka Ratna Dr.Rajkumar** and also played for **M.M. Keeravani** for **Baahubali** movie, In **Baahubali Part 1 and 2**, He has sung and played Shehnai in Songs and Background Score. The **pathos-romantic Shehnai bits of Ilaiyaraaja** music like "Sundari Kannal Oru Sethi" and "Rakkamma Kaiya Thattu" the fourth most popular song in **BBC World Service** worldwide in 2012, song from the movie "Thalapathi", "Ala pol Vela pol" song from actor superstar **Rajnikanth** movie "Ejaman", "Gurucharanam Saranam" song from the movie "Guru 1997" and also for background score of the movie for **Malayalam superstar Mohanlal** were played by **Pt Balleśh with Hungarian Solo musicians of Budapest Symphony Orchestra, Hungary, music by Maestro Ilaiyaraaja.** This was the first time in history Indian cinema.

LISTING OF NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY IMPORTANT CLASSICAL CONCERTS :

Early on his career - he single-handedly played shehnai in the All India Music Conference held at Dharwad in 1975, in the presence of PanditBhimsenJoshi ,Vidushi Smt. Gangubai Hangal & other eminent artists where he gave an outstanding shehnai performance and received standing ovation in the conference. Unlike vocal performing solo on a word instrument like Shehnai is a really feat.

He has also performed in many **Jugalbandhi** concerts with Hindustani & Carnatic senior musicians like **Padma Bushan Pandit Vishwa Mohan Bhatt (Mohan Veena), Ustad ShahidParvez Khan (sitar), Pt Atul Kumar Upadhaya (violin), Ustad Shafique - Rafique Khan (sitar), Vidwan G J R Krishnan (violin)** and on tabla accompanied by **Pandit Yogesh Samsi, Pandit Subhankar Banerjee, Pandit RavindraYavagal, Pandit Raghunath Nakod, Pandit Vijay Gathe** and with **Padmashri Drummer**

Sivamani, Drummer Ranjit Barot, Pandit Ramesh Narayana (Kerala). He has also performed in India as well as many other countries.

Pt Balleh is also a renowned playback singer. He sang many Hindustani alaaps in the songs, background score for films and had also sang several songs along with noted singers like K. J. Yesudas, S. Janaki, P. Susheela, Smt. Vani Jayaram, S. P. Balasubrahmanyam, Laxmikant-Pyarelal, Maestro Ilaiyaraaja, GK. Venkatesh, M.M. Keeravani, Hamsalekha and A.R. Rahman, He has sung and played shehnai for more than **9,000 background-score's** and **45,000 film songs** and around **50,000 devotional songs**. He has also sung Hindustani music Alaaps for films and had also collaborated Shehnai with International musicians in recordings.

TAKING THE SHEHNAI TO A GLOBAL AUDIENCE :

Pandit.Balleh has extensively travelled in India and Abroad. His concert tours have included countries like United States of America, South Africa, United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, France, Belgium, Russia, Dubai, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Germany, Srilanka, Switzerland, Netherlands, Indonesia, Philippines and many more countries over a span of 45 years. On several occasions he has been invited and sponsored by government music festivals.

On several occasions he has been invited or sponsored by government music festivals. He had collaborated Shehnai with Hungarian musicians in several recordings.

1. IN KANNADA FILM MUSIC INDUSTRY :

He has worked with G.K. Venkatesh , Hamsalekha , UpendraKumar , Rajan-Nagendra, M.RangaRao, C. Aswath, Vijaya Bhaskar , V.Manohar, L. Vaidyanathan , Mano Murthy etc.,

2. IN BOLLYWOOD FILM MUSIC INDUSTRY :

He has worked with O.P.Nayyar , Naushad Ali , Laxmikant Pyarelal , Ravindra Jain, Jatin-Lalit, Kalyanji Anandji, Anand-Milind , R.D. Burman , Kailash Kher etc.,

3. IN TAMIL FILM MUSIC INDUSTRY :

He has worked with KV Mahadevan, M.S. Viswanathan, Illaiyaraaja, Kunnakudi Vaidyanathan, Sankar Ganesh, Deva, AR. Rahman, Vidyasagar, S.A. Rajkumar, Drums Sivamani etc.,

4. IN TELUGU FILM MUSIC INDUSTRY :

He has worked with Chellapilla Satyam, Chakri (composer), Chakravarthy, M. M. Keeravani, Raj-Koti & S. P. Balasubrahmanyam etc.,

5. IN MALAYALAM FILM MUSIC INDUSTRY :

He has worked with V. Dakshinamoorthy, Raveendran Master, G. Devarajan master, Shyam Joseph (composer), S. P. Venkatesh & M. Jayachandran etc.,

MAJOR PERFORMANCES :

NATIONALLY: CLASSICAL HINDUSTANI MUSIC.,

Government of India

- 1. Government of India, Ministry of Culture, Sangeet Sangam International Music Festival in 2021 (Senior Musicians) organised Kendra Sangeet Nataka Akademi, New Delhi**
- 2. Sabarang Utsav Benaras by India Tourism Varanasi, Government of India and Deepika Cultural Society, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh**
- 3. Festival of India in USA, Canada, Singapore, Malaysia and Australia,**
- 4. Delhi Classical Music Festival, Sahitya Kala Parishad , Delhi**
- 5. Shehnai Mahotsav , Bharat Bhavan , Bhopal**

India's Oldest Music Festivals

6. *Sawai Gandharva Bhimsen Mahotsav (Pune)*
7. *Shree Baba Harivallabh Sangeet Sammelan (Jalandhar)*
8. *Swami Haridas Sangeet Sammellan (Mumbai)*
9. *Bhopal Bharat Bhavan Shehnai Samaroh (Bhopal)*
10. *Lokmania Ustad Bismillah Khan 100th Birthday Shehnai Mahotsav (Pune, Kolhapur, Belgaum, Goa, Mumbai)*
11. *Ganayogi Panchakshari Sangeet Sammelan (Gadag, Bangalore)*
12. *Tansen Sangeet Samaroh, Bhopal*
13. *Sur Singar Sansad Sangit Sammellan (Mumbai)*
14. *Thyagaraja Music Festival, Thiruviyaru*
15. *Sri Guru Ganayogi Panchakshara Trust Chennai, Tamilnadu*
16. *Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi Uttar Pradesh*

Uttar Pradesh Government

17. *Ganga Mahotsav UP. Govts (Varanasi)*
18. *Taj Mahal Mahotsav (Varanasi)*
19. *Kashi Vishwanath Festival , Benares*

Andhra Pradesh and Telangana Government

20. *SriKalahasti Temple, Chittoor Andhra Pradesh Government*
21. *Nadaneerajanam, SVBC Tv, Tirupati Tirumala temple, AP Govt*
22. *World Wind Festival (Visakhapatnam), AP Govt,*
23. *Spirit of Unity Concert Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh)*

India's Sangeet Sabhas / Religious Music Festivals

24. *Pandit Motiram Pandit Maniram Sangeet Samaroh (Ernakulam)*
25. *Bharat Kalachar Sangeet Utsav (Chennai)*
26. *Smt. Krishna Hangal Memorial Festival (Hubli)*
27. *Alva's Nudisiri Music Festival (Mudabidri, Karnataka)*
28. *Karkala Shastriya Sangeetha Sabha (Mangalore)*
29. *Tansen Sangeet Sammelan (Chennai)*
30. *Sangit Ratna Ustad Abdul Karim Khan Sangit Samaroh (Miraj)*
31. *Mudhara Sangeet Ustav (Chennai)*
32. *Raag Rangi Raat Sangeet Sammellan (Cochin)*
33. *Ustad Rahmat Khan Sangeet Ustav, (Chennai)*
34. *Kalarasana Music Festival, (Chennai)*
35. *Swarna Jayanthi Hindu Dharma Foundation, (Chennai)*
36. *Sri Krishna Utsava Sri Gnana Advaita Peetam, Chennai, Tamilnadu*

Karnataka State Governments Festivals

Celebrated by District Deputy commissioner's Office

37. *Karnataka State Govt Sangeetha Nritya Academy Festival, Dharwad*
38. *Pandit Mallikarjun Mansur Sangeet Ustav, Dharwad*
39. *Pandit Kumar Gandharva Sangeet Sammelan, Belgaum*

40. Pandit Basavaraj Rajguru Sangeet Sammellan, Dharwad
41. Hampi Utsav, Bellary
42. Sangolli Rayanna Utsava, Belgaum
43. Kittur Rani Chennamma Utsava, Kittur
44. Lakkundi Utsav, Gadag
45. Kadambotsava, Banavasi
46. Chalukya Utsava, Bagalkot
47. Banavasi Utsava, Banavasi
48. Belavadi Mallamma Utsava, Belgaum
49. Basava Utsav at Basavakalyan, Bidar
50. Navarasapur Utsav, Vijayapura
51. Kanakagiri Utsava, Koppal
52. Dharwad Utsav, Dharwad
53. Karavali Utsava, Mangalore
54. Veera Rani Abbakka Utsava, Ullal, Dakshina Kannada
55. Nalwadi Krishnaraja wodeyar Utsava, Mysore
56. Kempegowda Rashtriya Utsav 2017 , Belgaum
57. Ranna Ustava Mudhol, Bagalkot etc....

Tamilnadu State Governments Festivals

58. Sri Sakthi Amma, Vellore Sripuram, Tamilnadu
59. Sri Jayendra Saraswathi Swamiji Association of Hindu Dharma, Tamilnadu

INTERNATIONAL : CLASSICAL HINDUSTANI MUSIC.,

60. SwarSudha - Santa Clara , California , USA
61. Saaz Music Organisation , London, UK
62. Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Music Festival , Florida , USA
63. Essential of Living Art Festival - British Council , Bristol UK
64. World Music Festival , Chicago , USA
65. KhayalFEST , Nehru Centre , London
66. The Honorary Doctorate , The International Tamil University (USA) , 2017

FOLK & POPULAR MUSIC PERFORMANCES :

With Padma Vibhushan Maestro Ilaiyaraaja

67. 14th Edition Of Angelica, Festival Internazionale Di Musica, With The L'Altro Suono Festival , 2004 ,
68. Raja's "Netru Indru Naalai" , Jaya TV , October 16 , 2005
69. Infotainment, Gachibowli Indoor Stadium, Hyderabad, On Saturday, October 22, 2005
70. Endrendrum Raja , Jaya TV Concert , Chennai 28 December 28 , 2011
71. Bengaluru Ganesh Utsav , Bengaluru , September 23, 2012
72. Engeyum Eppothum Raja , Rogers Centre In Toronto, Canada, February 16 , 2013
73. Engeyum Eppothum Raja , Newark, New Jersey , San Jose , Chicago, Los Angeles, California, Florida 23 February 2013
74. "Raja The Raja" Concert, The O2 Arena In London On August 24 2013, Live In London
75. Ilaiyaraaja Live In Concert , USA Tour Sanjose, Seattle, Dallas, Atlanta & New Jersey , 2016
76. Ilaiyaraaja Live In Concert , Hyderabad October 2017,
77. King Of Kings - Singapore , Malaysia Tour, October 2017

78. *United States in Houston, Dallas, Chicago, San Jose, Connecticut, Washington D.C. and Toronto, March 2018*
79. *Raaja Raajathan , Australia Concert Series , 6 City Tour*
80. *Ilaiyaraaja Live In Dubai , Sharjah*
81. *Raaja The One Man Show , Live In Kuala Lumpur , Malaysia*
82. *Sydney Hillsong Convention Centre , Sydney , August 11, 2018*
83. *Singapore Star Performing Arts Theatre , August 18 , 2018*
84. *Isai Celebrates Isai , in EVP Grounds, Chennai , 76th Birthday Of Maestro, June 2, 2019*
85. *Rajathi Raja , Codissia Grounds, Coimbatore , June 9, 2019*

With Padma Bhushan A. R. Rahman

86. *RahmanUnplugged , Concert series across India*
87. *Netru India Naalai , India and USA , Multi City tour series*
88. *Nobel Peace Prize Concert , Oslo, Norway*
89. *A R Rahman Live in concert , Jaya Tv*
90. *Rockstar AR Rahman , Live in Concert and many more.*

PERSONAL DETAILS :

Academic Background :

He done his Sangeet Alankar in Akhila Bharat Gandharva MahaVidyalaya, He has done his Karnataka State High Sec Examinations Hindustani Music Vocal and Shehnai - Junior Exam, Senior Exam, Vidhwat Poorna Exam and Vidhwat Athim Exam

FAMILY:

*Pt. Dr. S Balleesh is married to Smt. Ratna , and is blessed with three sons - **Prakash Balleesh**- And accomplished Harmonium and Dukkad exponent, **Dr. Krishna Balleesh** - a Shehnai Vidwan & Vocalist , who accompanies him in all major concerts, and **Shivanand Balleesh** , Shehnai Vidwan and Vocalist . All three sons are actively involved in the day to day running of the Tansen Academy, based in Chennai, with branches Bangalore, Coimbatore and Hyderabad.*

Permanent Address

Chennai Address :

Pandit Dr. S.Balleesh Bhajantri

No 37, AVM Street

Venkatesh Nagar

Saligramam

Chennai - 600093

Tamilnadu, INDIA

09884295357 / 09381027573

(Karnataka) - MK. Hubli Address :

Pandit Dr. S.Balleesh Bhajantri

Bhajantri Galli

At Post - MK. Hubli

Taluk - Bailhongal

Belgaum - District - 591118

Karnataka State, INDIA

09884295357 / 09381027573

Website - www.shehnaiballesh.com, www.tansenacademy.com ,

[www.panditsballesh@weebly.com](http://www.panditsballesh.weebly.com) , www.krishnaballesh.com ,

Mail us at - krishnaballesh@gmail.com , panditsballesh@gmail.com ,