

Neel Ranjan Mukherjee

(Hawaiian Guitar Player & Composer)



Neel Ranjan Mukherjee is the only performer playing Indian classical music on Hawaiian Guitar in its original form for over two and a half decades. He is one of the prime disciples of the legendary Sitar maestro Pandit Debu Chaudhuri 'Padmabhushan Awardee'. He is also under the tutelage of world renowned Vocalist - Bhajan Samrat, Shri Anup Jalota 'Padmashri Awardee'. Neel has started his journey at the age of 9 and began his initial training under the able guidance of eminent Guitar maestro Dr. Shiv Nath Bhattacharya and his maternal uncle Sitar maestro Dr. Dyuti Kishore Acharyya Chowdhury.

Neel entralls his audience with seven main strings and four octaves without adding any extra strings like sympathetic or drone in it, which is a rare artistic marvel. His inherent musical instinct, intuition and imagination and his natural perceptiveness of the melody of the Raagas and limitless guidance of his guru made him the finest musician of the present era. Being trained under the strict discipline of Jaipur- Senia Gharana, Neel is a traditionalist but his style of presentation illustrates his own brilliance & always leaves a lasting impression on the audience's hearts.



Neel has been keenly interested in other realms of Music as well, which makes him multifaceted. He had the privilege to give Music Direction in 'Shiv Kailashi', released by T Series, wherein his Raag based composition symphonized with Sanskrit text and Kathak bols. The composition has been blessed to have received eternally melodious vocals from his own Guru Shri Anup Jalota ji.

Neel has successfully trained a number of students on Hawaiian Guitar, Santoor, Sitar and Piano across the country, who are now performing successfully in India and abroad.

Recipient of 'Sangeet Prabhakar' from Prayag Sangeet Samiti (Hawaiian Guitar & Santoor) and 'Sangeet Shiromani' from Delhi University, Neel Ranjan has performed in many prestigious festivals in India and abroad and has represented Delhi in a number of occasions including National Youth Festival organized by the State Government of Kerala & Jharkhand, Delhi State Youth Festival organized by the Sahitya Kala Parishad (Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi). He is the winner of Uttar Pradesh Sangeet Natak Academy State Music Competition in the year 1996 & 1999. He has been invited as a visiting faculty in a very prestigious music academy "SAAZ OAWAAZ" in Toronto, Canada.

He is an 'A' Grade performer for both Hawaiian Guitar & Santoor in All India Radio (National Broadcast service of India) and Doordarshan (National Telecast service of India) and an enlisted performer of Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR). As a regular examiner of Uttar Pradesh Sangeet Natak Academy (Lucknow) since 2001 he has been invited to judge the competitions organized by them. His performance has been recorded and broadcasted by the National Channel of All India Radio, New Delhi. He has been interviewed by Doordarshan (National Television) & All India Radio, New Delhi. He has composed many vocal orchestras & recorded music for fusion bands. He has recorded audio albums with Guitarmonk (4CDs) & EMI (1CD). He is the Director of the exclusive venture presenting two poles together through a creative project 'Strings N Steps', New Delhi, India. He has performed with his Guru Pandit Debu Chaudhuri in a number of occasions including SPIC MACAY, National Council of Educational Research and Training, Indian Council for Cultural Relations & in the Central Hall (Parliament House) to celebrate 60th year of Indian Parliament, New Delhi, Sangeet Natak Academy Archive and many more.



Memorable performances:

- **Sankat Mochan Sangeet Samaroha (Varanasi, India).**
- **Jhansi Mahotsav (Jhansi, India).**
- **Baba Allauddin Khan Sangeet Samaroha (Maihar, India).**
- **Horizon Series program by the ICCR (Delhi, Bhubaneshwar, Bhopal, Kolkata - India).**
- **18th & 20th Delhi Book Fair & Literature Festival-Bengal Association(Delhi,India). Performed for Rotary Club (Kolkata, India).**
- **Golden Jubilee Celebration of Faculty of Music & Fine Arts, Benaras Hindu University (Varanasi, India).**
- **Bangladesh Shilpa Kala Academy (Dhaka, Bangladesh).**
- **Bangladesh National Press Club (Dhaka, Bangladesh).**
- **High Commission of India (Dhaka, Bangladesh).**
- **Indian Consulate (Dubai, UAE).**
- **Embassy of India (The Hague, Netherlands).**
- **Embassy of India (Berlin, Germany).**
- **Performed in MDR Landesfunkhaus Sachsen-Anhalt (Magdeburg, Germany).**
- **Embassy of India (Budapest, Hungary).**
- **Swaminarayan Temple (Toronto, Canada).**
- **Performed for the former Prime Minister of Trinidad & Tobago Mr. Basdeo Panday (Brampton, Canada).**
- **Performed at Radio Romania Cluj (Cluj Napoka, Romania).**
- **Recorded music for Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) on an educational project.**
- **Pracheen Kala Kendra (Chandigarh, India).**
- **Performed for Sahaja Yoga (Shri Nirmala Mata ji's Centre) in Amsterdam (Netherlands) and Cluj Napoka (Romania). He also had the privilege of presenting his Guitar recital at Shri Mataji's shrine (Nirmal Dham, New Delhi, India).**
- **Performed for the former Chief Minister of Delhi Late Smt. Sheila Dikshit at Chief Minister's house (Delhi, India).**
- **Performed for the former Lieutenant Governor of Delhi Shri Tejendra Khanna at Raj Niwas (Delhi, India).**
- **Performed for the former Lok Sabha Speaker Late Shri Somnath Chatterjee (Delhi, India).**
- **Performed in 44th Samraat Sangeet Sammelan (Goa, India).**
- **Performed for His Holiness Param Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswati at Parmarth Niketan (Rishikesh, India) & His Holiness Param Pujya Shankaracharya (Varanasi, India) and got their valuable blessings.**
- **Performed for the 'SAARC' delegates & in front of the former Chief Election Commissioner Shri S.Y. Quraishi (Delhi, India).**
- **Performed at 'Gunijan Festival' organized by the Santoor maestro Pt.Satish Vyas 'Padmashri awardee' (Nagpur, India).**

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- *Performed for the Prime Minister of Bhutan Honorable H.E. Dasho Tshering Tobgay during his official tour to India hosted by the Honorable Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi (Delhi, India).*
 - *National Program of Music, presented by All India Radio.*
 - *Conducted workshop and performed for Post ART, organized by the City Council (Budaors, Hungary).*
 - *Performed at Shambhala Buddhist Centre (Budapest, Hungary).*
 - *Performed at Opera Gallery (Budapest, Hungary).*
 - *Performed at Casa De La India (Valladolid, Spain).*
 - *National Program of Music, presented by Doordarshan.*
 - *Classiqui Mausiqui, presented by All India Radio (Urdu Service).*
 - *His live performance was recorded by the Central Sangeet Natak Akademi (Delhi, India) for their archive.*
 - *Performed at the prestigious Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams, Organized by Sri Venkateshwara Bhakthi Channel (Tirumala, India).*
 - *Performed for the Indian Coast Guard on 'Vijay Diwas', on completion of 51 years of the victory in 1971 war, at Jawahar Lal Nehru Stadium (New Delhi, India).*
 - *Performed at Ellora Ajanta International Festival (Aurangabad, India).*
 - *Performed for the prestigious Namdhari Sangat at Caledon (Canada).*
 - *Performed to Celebrate India's 76 years of Independence at the famous Fountain Square in Cincinnati (Ohio, USA).*
 - *Performed to Celebrate India's 77 years of Independence at the prestigious Olympus Theater (Male, Maldives).*
 - *Performed at the Indian Cultural Center (Male, Maldives).*
 - *Performed at Kingston River Festival (Kingston Upon Thames, United Kingdom).*
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Recipient of State / National Scholarships:

- *Uttar Pradesh State Scholarship in the year 1999 for Hawaiian Guitar.*
- *National Scholarship from Human Resource and Development, Ministry of Culture, Government of India in the year 2001 for Hawaiian Guitar.*
- *Delhi State Scholarship from Sahitya Kala Parishad in the year 2003 for Hawaiian Guitar.*
- *National Scholarship from Human Resource and Development, Ministry of Culture, Government of India in the year 2004 for Santoor.*

Workshops / Lecture Demonstration:

- *He has conducted music workshops as a director in the year 2007, 2008, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 & 2015 organized by the Sahitya Kala Parishad, Government of National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi.*
- *Demonstrated 'Guru Shishya Parampara' (Teacher - Student Relationship) in Indian Culture at Shambhala Buddhist Centre (Budapest, Hungary).*

Awards:

- *Neel Ranjan has been awarded in the year 2009 and 2016 by the Member of Parliament (House of Commons, Canada) for his outstanding performance & contribution to Indian classical music.*
- *Pandit Jotin Bhattacharya Smriti Samman by Baba Alluaudhin Khan Music Foundation (Delhi) in the year 2022.*
- *Saptak Excellence Award by Saptak (Delhi) in the year 2022.*
- *Awarded 'Elite' certificate on appreciation of Hindustani Classical Music, by NPTEL, an initiative by IIT Madras in the year 2022.*
- *Guru Ravi Jain award by Kala Kunj (Delhi, India) in the year 2023.*
- *Kala Anuyayi Award by Nrityanjali Sai Foundation (Delhi, India) in the year 2024.*

Countries performed in:

Bangladesh, Canada, Germany, Hungary, Maldives, Netherlands, Romania Singapore, Spain, United Arab Emirates (UAE), United Kingdom (UK) & United States of America (USA).





About Strings N Steps:

Strings N Steps is an amalgamation of North Indian classical music on Hawaiian Guitar (Western instrument) and the most popular North Indian classical dance form Kathak by danseuse Sangeeta Majumder. Neel Ranjan and Sangeeta started this exclusive duet performance in 2011 and still continuing to perform around the world. It is a concept performance presented simultaneously complementing Music and Dance each other which is a rare combination. Perhaps this kind of presentation is performed by Strings N Steps only. In this performance other than Hawaiian guitar and Kathak, Tabla, Vocal, Flute, Sarangi, Pakhawaj, Sitar and other music instruments are performed by various internationally famed artists.

"I have a vision to make our organization Strings 'N' Steps Academy of Performing Arts & Festivals flourish and become one of the major institutes of Indian Art and Culture. I am also working hard to reach to the masses through our creative works and generate opportunities for budding artists and students."

GURU-SHISHYA PARAMPARA

(Senia Gharana)



On the basis of scanty records available, **Maseet Sen (Khan)** [Originator of Maseet Khani Baaj (Style)] emerges as direct descendent in the 6th generation from **Miyan Tansen** (Founder of **Senia Gharana**). **Maseet Sen (Khan)** was the son of the famed 'Adarang' (**Firoz Khan**), a court musician of Mughal Emperor **Muhammad Shah** (Delhi). **Adarang** was a descendent of Veenkar **Naubat Khan (Misir Singh)** who was the son of the great Veenkar **Raja Sanmukhan Singh** and Son-in-law of **Miyan Tansen**.



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