

NISHANT PANICKER

Hindustani Vocalist, Agra-Atrauli Gharana

Disciple of the late Vidushi Lalith J. Rao

Initiated into Hindustani classical music at six, Nishant received vocal lessons and early inspiration from the sarod maestro **Pandit Rajeev Taranath**. Taranathji, then in his seventies, seemed tough and demanding to the seven-year-old; yet by nine, Nishant was already imbibing the art of *raga* elaboration and *taan* creation. When Taranathji moved to Mysore, he entrusted Nishant to **Vidushi Lalith J. Rao**, doyenne of the Agra-Atrauli Gharana. Under her caring and astute guidance for almost two decades, Nishant has blossomed into a delightful performer with confidence and skill in *raga vistaar*, *layakari* and *bol banaav*, in line with the Agra tradition.

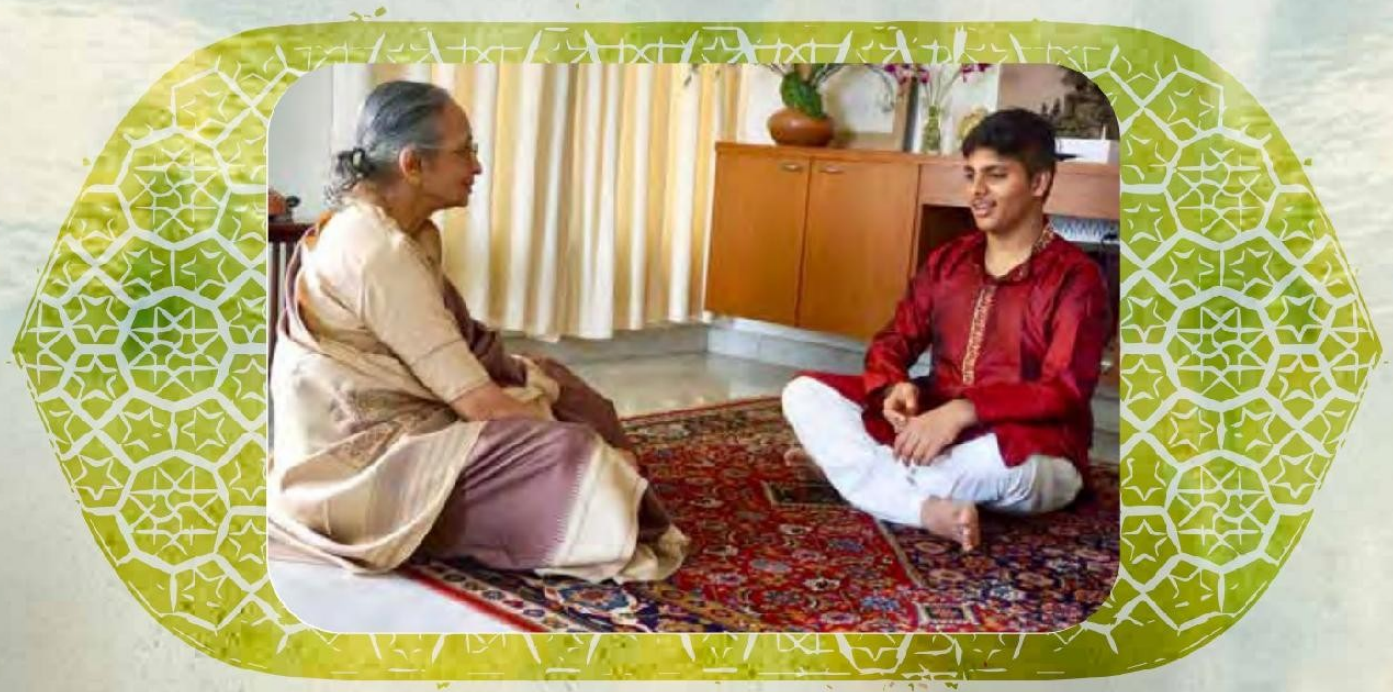
At 15 Nishant was a finalist in **Naad Bhed**, the national televised classical music talent search run by SPIC MACAY and Doordarshan for musicians under 26. At 18 he was among the youngest recipients of the prestigious **NCPA Hindustani Vocal Scholarship**. He recorded for *The Legacy Continues* (2013), an Agra Gharana Heritage Collection and compositions of Padma Bhushan Ustad Khadim Hussain Khan for the archival project namansajanpiya.com. He is also a trained Kathak dancer.

PERFORMANCES

Nishant has performed extensively in prestigious venues across India, including NCPA Mumbai, India International Centre Delhi, Bharat Bhavan Bhopal, Chowdhury House Kolkata, Bangalore International Centre, Chowdiah Memorial Hall and Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, and at venues in the US. At Stanford University he presented a concert of the six seasons, with curated scents and paintings heightening the music.

"An impressive command over laya. His delineation of Bhimpalas was mature and melodious." **Mumbai Mirror**

Nishant is pursuing a PhD in Systems Biology at the University of Pittsburgh.



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