

**Prattyush Banerjee** is a true twenty-first century musician, multi-tasking as performer, music composer-arranger, researcher and instrument designer. Among many innovative endeavours, he has remodeled the traditional **sarode** to a great extent and has also created its first electronic version, the **jyotidhwani**.

Born in Kolkata in 1969, Prattyush is a worthy torchbearer of the *Senia-Shahjahanpur gharana* made famous by *Ustad* Md. Ameer Khan and his illustrious disciple *Sangeetacharya* Radhika Mohan Maitra. He was initiated to music at the tender age of eight by his father, Shri **Prasun Kumar Banerjee**, a well-known connoisseur and patron of music. Later, he trained under **Pandit Samarendra Sikdar**, an eminent disciple of Radhika Mohan. Subsequently, for over thirty years now, he has been under the coveted tutelage of the internationally celebrated sarode maestro, **Sangeet-guru Buddhadev Das Gupta, Padmabhushan**.

“Prattyush is taking sarode playing to the next level”. His highly individualistic approach of playing is marked by a solid technique and a rare musical sensibility that has evolved through constant absorption from various genres of music. Among many other developments, he is the first to play the complex *tappa* style of singing on the sarode. He is also a keen student of western music and plays the piano.

Prattyush has been performing in public since he was 11, and has featured at major music festivals throughout India like, the Vishnu Digambar Jayanti Samaroh and ITC-SRA Music Conference, New Delhi; Tansen Sangeet Samaroh, Gwalior; Bhatkhande Sangeet Samaroh, Mumbai; Sursagar in Bangalore, Komal Nishaad in Baroda and numerous concerts in Kolkata including, the Salt Lake City Festival, Ramakrishna Mission Institute and the West Bengal State Music Academy Festival among others. Abroad, he has played at the J.S. Bach Festival in Belgium, Tropentheater in Amsterdam, Jhankar in Cincinnati, Banga Mela in Nashville and the Creations India Concert in Toronto among others.

Prattyush has worked with renowned Bollywood composers like Salil Choudhury, Ravindra Jain, Shantanu Moitra; filmmakers Rituporno Ghosh, Aparna Sen and percussionists like Pete Lockett and Bickram Ghosh. He has played with the UK based group, Samay and has also played at the MTV Coke Studio in 2012.

Besides his solo CDs and DVDs, he has collaborated with recitation artiste Bratati Bandyopadhyay on an album titled, **Gitanjali** and with poet Joy Goswami on an album titled, **Jaijayanti**. He is very successful as a recording musician-composer and has arranged music for more than 60 albums till date. Singers he has worked with include, Pt. Ajoy Chakrabarty, Alka Yagnik, Kaushiki Chakrabarty and others.

He was attached as a research consultant with the **ITC Sangeet Research Academy** and has published many articles on music. He has been honoured with the Ranadhir Roy Smriti Samman and the Outstanding Young Person of the Year Award in 2003, the Pabitra Dasgupta Memorial Award in 2007 and the Sangeet Ratna Award in 2011. His album, Yatra 2 has won the GIMA Award in 2012.

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