**Dr. Ranjani Ramachandran**

**Brief Biography**

Dr. Ranjani Ramachandran is a renowned vocalist of Khayal in the North Indian classical Music tradition. She specializes in the Gwalior and Jaipur gharana gayakis. She is a versatile musician equally well versed in other forms such as Thumri, Dadra and bhajans. Initiated into music by her mother Vijaya, her formal training began under the tutelage of Pandit Kashinath Bodas from Kanpur, and subsequently continued under Vidushi (Dr.) Veena Sahasrabuddhe in Pune. In 2001, she was awarded a five-year resident scholarship at the prestigious ITC Sangeet Research Academy (SRA) in Kolkata, with Pandit Ulhas Kashalkar as her guru. While at SRA, she also received guidance from Vidushi Girija Devi. Ranjani combines an active career as a performing artiste with contributions towards dissemination of Hindustani music at various levels. She considers the multiple roles of a performer, pedagogue and researcher as mutually reinforcing. Ranjani has performed in major music festivals across India and abroad including the Chandigarh Sangeet Sammelan, ITC SRA Sammelans, Serendipity Arts Festival, and MUSICON in Durham UK, to name a few. She has been recognized with a number of distinguished awards and honours including the Charles Wallace Grant from the UK and the Surmani award. She is empanelled **as a performing artiste for ICCR (Indian Council for Cultural Relations)**, is a graded artiste of AIR and Doordarshan and has many commercial audio CDs to her credit. Ranjani is regularly invited to conduct workshops on Hindustani music and has lectured at institutions such as SPIC MACAY and the Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute (SRFTI), Kolkata. Ranjani is a PhD in music and is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Hindustani Classical Music at Sangit Bhavana, Visva Bharati University, Santiniketan in West Bengal., an institution founded by Rabindranath Tagore. She has collaborated with ethnomusicologists in India and abroad and has participated in inter-disciplinary projects with visual artistes. Ranjani is passionate about environmental issues and often lends her voice in support of climate action including most recently at the Music 4 Climate Justice (M4CJ) streamed live during the United Nations Climate Change Conference ( COP 26) in Glasgow, Scotland in November 2021. As a conscious and sensitive person, she believes in social justice and actively supports organizations working towards fundamental rights and free education.