

Anand Bhate (Anand Gandharva)

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Anand Bhate is one of the most promising artistes in the new generation of the great Kirana tradition. He started his musical journey in the childhood and since then he has continued to present different exponents of Hindustani Classical Music. He has a privilege of being the **disciple of the great classical vocalist, Bharat-Ratna Pandit Bhimsen Joshi**.

Anand has given classical music performances all over India and abroad, which includes many prestigious music conferences like Sawai Gandharva Sangeet Mahotsav, Tansen Samaroha, Pandit Jitendra Abhisheki Sangeet Samaroha, Saptak Music Festival, NCPA concerts, LearnQuest Music Conference (Boston) etc. He has given the playback in the film Balagandharva and has won **The National Award for Best Playback Singer** for the year 2011. He shows a remarkable versatility in being able to present a wide variety of music, right from the classical *Khayal gayaki* to the semi-classical exponents like *Thumri*, *Natyageet* and *Bhajans/Abhagas*. He has also contributed to the Marathi stage by performing the role of Shri Krishna in the musical play *Sangeet Saubhadra*. He has been felicitated by awards like Dr. Prabha Atre puraskar, Pt. Sangameshwar Gurav puraskar, Vidushee Manik Verma puraskar, etc.

Anand was a gifted child prodigy from a family that had a musical legacy originating from his great-grandfather, famously known as Bhatebua. Anand's natural talent for music was apparent at a very young age, when he could play the harmonium without any tuition. With the guidance from his father and his guru Chandrashekhar Deshpande, Anand was soon able to sing *natyasangeet* in a style similar to Balgandharva himself and also started to give public performances.

He gave his first television performance in 1981, at the age of 10, and became a young star almost overnight. Connoisseurs were spellbound by Anand's luminous rendering of Balgandharva's *gayaki* and affectionately conferred on him **the 'title' Anand Gandharva**. In the ensuing few years Anand gave performances on All India Radio, T.V. and in public concerts in various cities. He was also invited to perform at the first Brihan Maharashtra Mandal convention in Chicago in 1984.

Meanwhile, Anand had also begun his systematic training in classical music with Pandit Yashwantrao Marathe, who initiated Anand into the intricacies of *Khayal gayaki*. He got many opportunities to perform, particularly at the residence of Hirabai Badodekar, another stalwart of the Kirana *gharana*. He invariably impressed his audience—which, on occasion, included stalwarts like Pandit Ravi Shankar, Ustad Alla Rakha and Ustad Zakir Hussain, among others.

Anand became a disciple of the great Pandit Bhimsen Joshi in 1988, which was, indeed, a long-cherished dream coming true for Anand. Under Bhimsenji's guidance, Anand has emerged as a notable *Khayal*-singer of the younger generation that has to carry forward the glorious tradition of Indian classical music in general and the Kirana *gayaki* in particular.

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Alongside his career in music, Anand has also had a brilliant academic career. He figured in the merit list at both the SSC and HSC examinations and went on to do **B.E. (Electronics)** and **M.Tech. (Computer Science)** from the University of Pune. After working in the IT field with Zensar Technologies for 17 years, now he focuses full time on pursuing his passion, music.

Prestigious concerts

- Anand has performed in various music festivals across India and abroad including
 - **Sawai Gandharva Music Festival, Pune**
 - **Tansen Samaroha, Gwalior**
 - **Pandit Bhimsenji Centenary tribute concert at IGNCA, Delhi**
 - Rashtriya Sanskruti Mahotsav, Cultural Dept. of the State Govt., Mumbai
 - Aarohi – The Gharana Festival, Delhi
 - **Saptak Music Festival, Ahmedabad**
 - Pandit Jitendra Abhisheki Sangeet Samaroha, Goa
 - Devgandharva Mahotsav, Mumbai
 - Ganasaraswati Mahotsav, Pune
 - Kalajayi – Tribute to Pt. Kumar Gandharva Smriti Mahotsav, Bhopal
 - Dr. Vasant Rao Deshpande Smriti Mahotsav, Nagpur
 - **LearnQuest Music Conference, Boston, US**
 - Sangeet Shankar Darbar Music Festival, Nanded
 - Pt. Kumar Gandharva Smriti Samaroha, Dewas
 - Swar-Jhankar Music Conferences in various cities
 - Megh-Malhar – Malhar based concert at Nehru Center, Mumbai
 - **“Adalaj-Ni-Vav” Water Festival** – A fusion concert with renowned musicians including Louiz and Gino Banks, George Brooks, Ustad Fazal Qureshi, Rakesh Chaurasia, Sheldon D'silva
 - **Brihan Maharashtra Mandal conventions in Los Angeles and Chicago, USA**
 - **European Marathi Sammelan (EMS), Newcastle, UK**
- (As a child Artist)
 - **Brihan Maharashtra Mandal convention in Chicago, USA** in 1984
 - Maharashtra Day function in Delhi in 1982
- Anand has given numerous concerts throughout India in cities like Pune, Mumbai, Nashik, Nagpur, Goa, Bengaluru, Mangalore, Hubli, Dharwad, Vijayapura, Chennai, Indore, Bhopal, Gwalior, Dewas, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Delhi, Varanasi, Baroda, Ahmedabad, etc.
- Anand has been **privileged to perform with Ustad Zakir Hussainji** for 2-3 times in Mumbai and Nashik
- Anand has travelled abroad for concert tours in various countries like USA, UK, Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland, Australia, New Zealand, UAE, etc.
- Apart from the iconic film “Balgandharva” (2011), Anand has given playback in other films viz. “Panghrun” (2019), “Mi Vasant Rao” (2021), “Pushpak Viman” (2018), “Sangeet Manapman”(2025).

(Thematic Concerts)

- **GandharvaGaan (Webseries)** – A webseries containing the elaboration on the Gandharva Gayaki with performance of Natyasangeet of various Gandharvas including Bal Gandharva, Chhota Gandharva, Dev Gandharva (Pt. Bhaskarbua Bakhle), etc. This webseries is produced by “Jai Kaja” and published by Smrutigandha on their facebook page and youtube channel
- **Bhimsenji – A Tribute by Anand Bhate (Webseries)** – A webseries to mark the Birth Centenary Year of Pandit Bhimsenji. This webseries is available on Smrutigandha facebook page and youtube channel

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- **Swar Amrutache** – A concert highlighting the *gayakis* of Balgandharva and Pandit Bhimsenji and presenting the chosen songs/bandishes of the two legends
- **Gandharva** – A thematic concert on the life work and songs of the legendary singer and actor Balgandharva
- **Vaikunthanayaka**- A concert with Sanjeev Abhyankar and Raghunandan Panshikar presenting new compositions by Jeevan Dharmadhikari, produced by Sant Seva Sangh

Commercial Recordings

- Raagopanishad – Contribution to this album of Classical music compositions (2025)
- Classical music album on RagaNxt.com (2017)
- Yei Ga Vitthala – Sant Tukaram Maharaj Abhangas, composed by Dr. Saleel Kulkarni (2016)
- Gandharva – Natyasangeet renditions (2016)
- Anand-Swar – Classical and Semi-classical renditions (2013)
- Nandadeep – A set of 4 CDs with Shounak Abhisheki, Arti Anklikar and Sanjeev Abhyankar, music by Ashish Keskar (2013)
- Kirana Heritage – Classical and Semi-classical renditions, produced by RagaRanga®, USA (2009)
- Anand Nidhaan – Abhangawani, produced by RagaRanga®, USA (2009)

Awards and Recognition

Following awards as The Best Playback Singer of 2011 – for the film Balgandharva:

- **National award**
- **Maharashtra State award**
- Zee Gaurav award
- MIFTA award
- Sahyadri Cine Award

Other awards / recognitions:

- **Manik Gandhar Award 2025** – In memory of the legendary singer Vidushi Manik Verma
- **MiMA (Marathi Indi Music Awards) 2024** – Best singer in Marathi Classical / Semi-classical category
- Sitar Maestro Ustad Hameed Khan Sangeet Sadhak Award 2024
- **Invitee (Classical Music field) at the At-Home Reception hosted by The President of India, 15-Aug-2023**
- **Pandit Sangameshwar Gurav Puraskar, Pune in 2015**
- Sanskruti Vaibhav Puraskar, by Sanskruti Vaibhav, Nahik in 2015
- Pulotsav Tarunai Sanman, Pune in 2012 and Ratnagiri in 2013
- **Dr. Prabha Atre Puraskar, by Ganawardhan, Pune in 2012**
- Balagandharva Puraskar by Akhil Bharatiya Natya Parishad, Mumbai in 2012
- **Manik Verma Puraskar by Swarananda Pratishthan in 2011**
- Kala Gaurav Puraskar by Anantrang Art Foundation in 2008
- **Pandit Ramkrishnabua Vaze Young Artiste Award in 2006**
- Sou. Malati Pande (Barve) award in 2006

(As a child Artist)

- Honoured with the title 'Anand Gandharva' in 1981 at the age of 10 years