

Dr. Amrita Sarkhel

Assistant Professor of Music

Department of Education, Vinaya Bhavana, Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan

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An accomplished Hindustani Classical Vocalist and Academician specializing in **Khayal and Thumri-Dadra** with extensive training of Agra gharana and Poorab-ang thumri gayaki. A regular performing classical vocalist with an AIR B-High grading, National Scholarship recipient, and a dedicated researcher with numerous peer-reviewed international publications on Hindustani classical music. Currently serving as an Assistant Professor of Music in the Department of Education, Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan.

Academic Qualifications

- **Ph.D. in Vocal Music (Khayal)**
 - **Institution:** Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata
 - **Thesis Title:** “The Influence of Agra and Kirana Gharana of Khayal on Vilayatkhani Baaj of Sitar”
 - **Supervisor:** Professor Nupur Ganguly
- **UGC-NET – Qualified**
- **Master of Arts (M.A.) in Vocal Music (Khayal)**
 - **Institution:** Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata
 - **Achievement:** Ranked 1st Position (Awarded Achaya Udaybhushan Bhattacharyya & Rajendralal Bandopadhyay Memorial Prizes)
- **Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Zoology**
 - **Specialization:** Molecular Genetics
 - **Institution:** Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan
- **Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.)**

- **Institution:** Burdwan Raj College, University of Burdwan
 - **Certificate Course in Rabindra Sangeet**
 - **Institution:** Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan
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Professional & Teaching Experience

Assistant Professor of Music | Department of Education

- **Institution:** Vinaya Bhavana, Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan
- **Tenure:** 20.07.2026 – Present

Assistant Professor | Department of Performing Arts

- **Institution:** Sidho-Kanho-Birsha University, Purulia, West Bengal
 - **Tenure:** 24.12.2021 – 15.07.2026
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Musical Training & Lineage

- **Disciple Status:** Disciple of **Ustad Waseem Ahmed Khan** (Agra Gharana) and the late **Vidushi Purnima Chaudhuri** (Purab-ang gayaki, Banaras Gharana), specializing deeply in **Khayal and Thumri-Dadra**.
 - **Agra Gharana:** Currently under the advanced tutelage of **Ustad Waseem Ahmed Khan**, a distinguished exponent of the great Agra Gharana. Regularly accompanies her Guru in major concerts across India.
 - **Purab-ang Thumri-Dadra (Banaras Gharana):** Extensive taleem under the late **Vidushi Purnima Chaudhuri**. Currently pursuing further training in light classical music with **Vidushi Sucharita Gupta** (disciple of the late Vidushi Savita Devi).
 - **Foundational Training:** Commenced training at age five under **Dr. Tapasi Ghosh** (disciple of Pt. D.T. Joshi) and **Pt. Manojit Mallick** (disciple of Pt. Amiyaranjan Bandopadhyay and Pt. Jagdish Prasad), focusing on foundational Khayal and Thumri-Dadra.
 - **Instrumental Music (Sitar):** Received training from her father, **Prof. Sabyasachi Sarkhel**, a notable Sitar player of the Imdadkhani Gharana, to enrich her multi-dimensional vocal perspective.
 - **Rabindra Sangeet:** Trained by her mother, **Smt. Sangita Sarkhel** and at **Sangit Bhavana, Visva-Bharati** (Certificate course).
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Awards, Achievements & Honours

- **AIR Artist Grading:** Regular B-High Grade Artiste in both Khayal and Thumri-Dadra for Akashvani Kolkata and Doordarshan.
 - **Icon of ICBM (2020):** Awarded by the International Center for Bengali Music, Bangladesh.
 - **CCRT National Scholarship (2014-16):** Awarded by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, in Hindustani Classical Vocal (Khayal).
 - **All India Radio Competition (2011):** Secured 1st Position in the Thumri-Dadra category.
 - **Dover Lane Music Competition (2011-2012):** Placed 1st in Thumri and 2nd in Khayal; won the *Biswanath Chakraborty Memorial Cup*.
 - **National Inter-University Youth Festival (2016):** Represented Visva-Bharati at Brahmaputra Mahotsava and Yuva Shatha Sambhrama; won Gold Medal in classical vocal music.
 - **Sangit Prabhakar:** Awarded by Prayag Sangeet Samiti, Allahabad, across three categories: Classical Vocal, Sitar, and Rabindra Sangeet.
 - **Vishmadev Memorial Music Competition (2017):** Prize winner in Kolkata.
 - **Empanelled Performer:** Hindustani Classical Music Performer (Vocal) in the Indian National Forum of Art and Culture, India.
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Academic Publications

- **Sarkhel, A.** (2025). "The History And Art Of Thumri Music." *International Journal of Creative Research Thoughts*, Volume 13, Issue 6. ISSN: 2320-2882.
- **Sarkhel, A.** (2025). "The Vilayatkhani Baaj: A Creative Exploration of Khayal Style in Sitar Baaj." *International Journal of Innovative Research in Technology (IJIRT)*, Volume 12, Issue 1. ISSN: 2349-6002.
- **Sarkhel, A.** "Kheyal Shoilite Agra-Atrauli Gharanar Utpotti o Bikash." *Wisdom Speaks*, Kolkata. Volume 5, Issue 1. ISSN 2456-5121.
- **Sarkhel, A.** "Kirana Gharana of Khayal: Its Origin, Development and Characteristics." *Multidisciplinary Subjects for Research*, Sweden, Vol-2. ISBN 978-1-71650-380-1.
- **Sarkhel, A.** "Development and Characteristics of Agra-Atrauli Gharana of Khayal." *Naad Nartan Journal of Dance and Music*, New Delhi, Volume 8, Issue 2. ISSN 2349-4654.
- **Sarkhel, A.** "Sangeetajna Acharya Jnanprakash Ghosher Shrishtisheel Jibone Bohumatrikota." *Roots of Music*, Bangladesh. Volume 5, Issue 1. ISSN 2708-7689.

Notable Performances

Major Recitals & Festivals

- 47th Sangeet Samrat Alladiya Khan Sangeet Samaroh (2026), Ravindra Natya Mandir, Mumbai
- D.R. Khadke Pratishthan Baithak Series, (Music Mehfil), Mumbai
- India Habitat Centre, New Delhi
- Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi
- Prof. Tara Singh Patiala Sangeet Sammelan, Patiala
- Satyajit Ray Auditorium, Kolkata
- Rajya Sangeet Sammelan, Kolkata
- Rajya Sangeet Yuva Sammelan, Kolkata
- Madhyami, Kolkata
- Omkarnath Mission Parampara, Mahamilan Math, Kolkata
- Yuva Shastriya Sangeet Utsav, Karigar, Kolkata
- Subah-e-Banaras, Varanasi
- Sur Arpan, Nagari Natak Mandali, Varanasi
- Gurukul Sangeet Mahotsav, Asansol
- Bharat Sanskriti Utsav, Burdwan
- Sangit Bhavana, Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan
- Chhandayan, Burdwan
- Centenary celebrations of Pt. D.T. Joshi, Burdwan
- Centenary celebrations of Ustad Karamatullah Khan, Burdwan
- Centenary celebrations of Pandit Indranil Bhattacharya, Santiniketan

Institutional Concerts & Media

- The Valley School, Bengaluru | Visva-Bharati | Rabindra Bharati University | Tezpur University | Mysuru University | Patiala University
- Regular Performer: Akashvani, Doordarshan, Sangeet Samvaad Radio, Rupasi Bangla
- Virtual Shastriya Sangeet Utsav, Bangladesh

- Streamed Concert: Curated by Mihir Thakore (Ahmedabad)
- Streamed Concert: Viewcy (New York)
- Streamed Concert: Art and Soul Foundation, Ahmedabad
- Streamed Concert: Sammilito Sanskritik Mancha, Silchar
- Streamed Concert: Dhrubapada Performing Arts and Research Centre, Toronto, Canada

Seminars & Workshops

Participated as an Invited Speaker, Paper Presenter, or Observer at:

Banaras Hindu University (BHU), Varanasi | MS University, Baroda | ICH Symposium, Sri Lanka | Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata | Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan | Bankura University, Bankura | Sidho-Kanho-Birsha University, Purulia | Kailas Sangeet, Bengaluru

Academic & Advisory Panels: Frequently serves across various universities as an External Expert, Moderator, and Subject Specialist for curriculum evaluations and university examinations.
