

25 Years of Musical Excellence by Mr. S. Job Jesudian, RM.

Mr. S. Job Jesudian RM is a multitalented and inspirational leader in music education, renowned for his pioneering contributions to Western classical music and choir training. As the founder of Shepherds Symphony, Bengaluru's first and only all-girls Western Classical Choir and Orchestra, he had demonstrated a deep passion for music and a commitment for nurturing young talent. His vision for empowering girls through music has a lasting impact on the city's musical landscape.

With an extensive knowledge of musical instruments and a profound understanding of melody, Mr. Job Jesudian has become a prominent person in both church and school music circles. His ability to blend Western classical traditions with local musical heritage has set a high standard for choral training and performance. Through his dedication, he has inspired countless students to explore their musical potential and achieve excellence. His contributions have not only enriched church music but also expanded the reach of Western classical music in educational settings, cementing his reputation as a leading figure in the field.

Innovative Music Education

Mr. S. Job Jesudian's talents go beyond instrumental performance, excels in his role as an educator. His innovative teaching methods ensure that students from various backgrounds and skill levels benefit from his vast experience. By designing lesson plans that cater to different learning styles, he makes music education an inclusive and enriching experience for all. His ability to engage with a broad spectrum of church and school music enables him to connect with a wide audience, imparting both his knowledge and passion for music. Under his guidance, countless deserving students have been inspired to explore and develop their musical potential.

Contribution to Tamil Church Music

A key element of Mr. Job Jesudian's legacy is his significant contribution to Tamil church music, where his compositions have become a lasting part of Christian worship across denominations. By composing music for Tamil Hymns and Lyrics, he has played an essential role in preserving the tradition of Tamil Christian music while enriching it with the sophistication of Western classical elements. His work has ensured that Tamil church music remains vibrant and relevant, resonating with congregations both locally and globally.

Mr. Job Jesudian's unique ability to blend Tamil musical heritage with the structure and harmony of Western classical music has left a profound impact on church choirs, many of which continue to perform his compositions. His dedication in standardizing the musical notations for Tamil Hymns and Lyrics, particularly through the use of four-part Western harmonization, has created a sense of unity and consistency in how these hymns are sung. This effort has been widely embraced by churches, helping organists and choirs to perform the hymns accurately and in harmony, regardless of region.

One of his most notable achievements as a choir director is, leading his choir in a stirring rendition of Handel's "*Hallelujah Chorus*" from *Messiah*. This performance not only showcased Mr. Job Jesudian's exceptional music direction but also highlighted his ability to inspire and elevate his students to achieve excellence. The choir's powerful interpretation of this iconic Western classical piece demonstrates both their technical skill and deep emotional connection to the music. Through his compositions and leadership, Mr. Jesudian has imprinted an enduring legacy in Tamil church music, blending tradition with innovation and shaping the future of choral music in the Christian community.

Early Musical Influences

Mr. Job Jesudian's musical journey began at a young age, deeply influenced by his family's rich musical heritage. He is the youngest son of Mr. Samson and Mrs. Jayaseeli, with his grandfather, Mr. Vedhanayagam, being a renowned organist at St. Paul's Church in Meignanapuram, Tuticorin District, Tamil Nadu. Growing up in such a musically inclined family, Mr. Jesudian was exposed to the beauty of church music early on. His grandfather, who played in a band with Bagavathar Vedhanayagam Shastriyar, played a pivotal role in shaping his early musical experiences.

Formal Training and Early Success

Mr. Job Jesudian's formal musical training began in school when he learned to play the harmonium in the eighth grade. His talent quickly attracted the attention of his headmaster, the late Mr. M.A. William from Tuticorin. Recognizing his potential, the headmaster personally taught him musical notations and helped him develop his skills on the organ. Within a few months, Mr. Jesudian became proficient on both the harmonium and the organ, which soon became his instrument of choice for leading school prayer services. These formative experiences, along with the encouragement of **Mr. M.A. William**, were instrumental in shaping his musical journey.

Rising Prominence and Indian Air Force Service

As a student, Mr. Job Jesudian quickly gained prominence in the local music scene. His skill as an organist and commitment for learning earned him numerous accolades. He began organizing and conducting devotional music concerts, further honing his skills as a performer and conductor.

After completing his academic studies, Mr. Job Jesudian joined the Indian Air Force in 1984, marking a new chapter in his life. He received intensive training in Bengaluru before being assigned to various cities including Delhi, Chandigarh, and Allahabad. Despite the

demands of Indian Air Force service, Mr. Jesudian's commitment to music remained steadfast, as he continued to teach and perform in his spare time. His talent garnered appreciation from IAF officers and he glorified God by playing the organ and teaching various instruments, including the piano, keyboard, guitar, violin, cello, double bass, xylophone, recorder, and accordion. Additionally, he successfully completed six grades in Bassoon conducted by Trinity College, London.

During his tenure with the Indian Air Force, Mr. Job Jesudian was nominated for specialized training as a Regimental Musician at the AEC Training College and Centre in Pachmarhi, Madhya Pradesh. This prestigious institution is part of the Military Music Wing under the Army Educational College, aimed at enhancing musical proficiency in military personnel.

Distinguished Career with the Air Warrior Symphony Orchestra

Mr. Job Jesudian had a distinguished career as part of the Air Warrior Symphony Orchestra from 1984 to 1994, showcasing his musical talents globally. During this period, he performed at prestigious events in countries such as England, Germany, Finland, and Thailand. One of his notable accomplishments was performing at the Royal Tournament in London in 1990 and 1995 before Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, showcasing his exceptional talent and dedication. In 2004, Mr. Jesudian took on the significant role of directing the International Military Band Festival, representing the Indian Air Force. His leadership and musical expertise were further highlighted when he led his team in a performance at the renowned Hamina Tattoo Program in Finland, a prestigious military music festival.

Roles and Honors in Military Music

Throughout his service, he held various roles as a troop member, band instructor and music conductor. Mr. Job Jesudian had the distinguished honour of performing in the prestigious

"Beating Retreat" which marks the culmination of Republic Day celebrations. In this ceremonial event, he played the traditional Christian Hymn "*Abide with Me*" a favourite of Mahatma Gandhi, on the tubular bells during the tenures of two Indian Presidents: Shri Giani Zail Singh in 1987 and Shri R. Venkataraman in 1988.

Transition to Music Education

After completing 20 years of dedicated service in the Indian Air Force, Mr. Job Jesudian transitioned to music education in 2004, joining Cluny Convent High School, Bengaluru, as a music teacher under the guidance of **Sr. Maria Theresa**, then principal and **Dr. Sr. Jancy Thengumpalli**. He served there from 2004 to 2012. During his tenure at Cluny, in 2005, he founded Shepherds, a distinguished band, with the name suggested by **Mr. Lancelot J. Paul** and activities co-ordinated by **Mr. Johnny Thomas**. Over time, Shepherds evolved into Shepherds Symphony, incorporating stringed instruments based on Western notation and unique four-part vocals by girls. In 2012, Mr. Jesudian joined Bishop Cotton Girls' School, Bengaluru motivated by **Mrs. Lydia Joshua**, then Principal, where he served as a music teacher until 2015. In 2017, Shepherds Symphony expanded to include male voices, further enhancing its musical diversity.

Mr. Job Jesudian while serving with Indian Air Force, received an invitation to perform on the Bassoon, a French instrument, at the annual International Symphony Music Festival, organized by the Delhi Philharmonic Symphony. This renowned event bridges together musicians from across the globe. It was during this experience that Mr. Jesudian was inspired to form his own symphony orchestra, drawing from the rich musical collaborations and diverse talent he encountered at the festival.

Blending Tradition with Innovation in the published works

Mr. Job Jesudian is a distinguished figure in music education, known for blending tradition with innovation. He has dedicated himself to preserve Western classical music while incorporating Tamil church hymns and lyrics into his compositions. His work has enriched the cultural

landscape, bridging musical traditions and influencing his students. Mr. Jesudian's notable contributions include arranging Western music in four parts and publishing key works such as *Krishthu Sabai Paamalai Ragangal* (Music for Tamil Church Hymnal: 410 Hymns) in 2000 and *Krishthu Sabai Keerthanai Ragangal* (Music for Tamil Church Lyrics: 335 Lyrics) in 2004.

In order to facilitate the publication of the Tamil Church Hymnal, Mr. Job Jesudian obtained permission from the Christian Literature Society for India, which released the first edition of the Tamil Hymnal in 1949, to compile and publish music along with lyrics. He drew materials from various renowned hymnals, including the American Lutheran Hymnal, Bavarian Music Book, Ancient & Modern Hymns, Methodist Hymnal, Songs and Solos, Golden Bells, Songs of Praise, Spiritual Songs, English Hymnal, *Cantica Evangelica*, and Church Hymnary.

In order to bring out the Tamil Church Lyrics, Mr. Job Jesudian used the "Tune Book to Tamil Christian Lyrics," edited by **Rev. H.A. Popley** in 1932, as a reference. The tune book was aimed to correct inconsistencies in how Tamil Lyrics were sung across the country, often to incorrect melodies. Rev. Popley, along with Rev. L.I. Stephen and Mr. G.D. Eleazer, published uniform single-melody for these lyrics. Mr. Job Jesudian then transformed these single melodies into four-part Western notations, which gained global popularity and these customized Western notations ensure organists play the correct melody in four parts, promoting consistency where music were previously played by hearing. Thereafter, the Tamil Church Hymnals and Lyric notations are widely used in C.S.I. churches abroad, leading to a significant demand for these music books.

Further, he published notations for *Jebathotta Jeyageethangal* (2007) 1 – 25 Volumes which was written and composed by Father S.J. Berchmans, *Old Christian Songs* (2009), *Praise and Worship – English* (2012) for Sunday School children & Christmas carols, *New Christian Songs* (2015) and *Golden Bells – Vol. 1 & 2 for 750 Hymns* (2018).

His forthcoming publication of *Traditional Tamil Christian Songs* from the gramophone recording era, currently in progress, will feature a dedicated collection of traditional Tamil wedding songs, complete with customised music notations for the benefit of church organists.

Collaborative Efforts in Publication

Mr. Job Jesudian receive invaluable support from **Mr. A. Rabin Kennedy** in all his publications, who played a key role in the editing process, ensuring a refined and professional outcome. The expert technical advice provided by Pressense **Mr. Johnson Kelley** and **Mr. Manoj** are instrumental in achieving a professional standard. also offered invaluable support by providing notation software and crucial editing expertise.

The combined efforts of this dedicated team significantly contributed to both the editorial quality and technical excellence of all his publications.

International Performances of Shepherds Symphony

The Shepherds Symphony has shared its musical joy on international stages. In 2011, the choir performed Christmas carols in London with students from Cluny Convent High School, Bengaluru, and in 2013, they visited London to perform with students of Bishop Cotton Girls' School, Bengaluru. In 2018, their performances expanded to include Birmingham, United Kingdom, followed by European tour in 2019 covering Switzerland, Germany, and France. Most recently, in 2024, the choir travelled to London and Manchester, sharing their music with churches, schools, and nursing homes.

As a dedicated teacher, Mr. Job Jesudian has been conducting online classes for international students since the COVID-19 pandemic, preparing them for grade examinations of Trinity College, London and teaching church music. He consistently creates opportunities for Shepherds Symphony students to perform abroad, broadening their musical exposure and experience.

Current Role and Impact

Since 2012, Mr. Job Jesudian is serving as an organist in the 200-year-old Memorial Church in Bharathinagar, Bengaluru. His dedication to church music is remarkable, having established choirs in nearly 15 churches across Bengaluru and its surroundings, with the number steadily growing. In Churches where no choirs previously existed, he introduced this initiative as a ministry aimed at glorifying God through music. His untiring efforts have not only enhanced the musical culture of these churches but have also

strengthened the sense of community worship, inspiring musicians through his work.

Recognition and Accomplishments

In addition to his role as a music teacher, Mr. Job Jesudian and his choir students have received numerous awards and accolades for their performances in music competitions, with their most notable achievement being their victory in the All-India Carol Singing Competition in 2012. His performances are acclaimed for their profound emotional impact and technical proficiency, qualities that have made him a highly sought-after musician in the region.

Shepherds Symphony delivered exceptional performances in the Christmas carol competitions organized by Basel Mission, winning consecutively from 2004 to 2015 with talented students from Cluny Convent High School and Bishop Cotton Girls' School. This remarkable streak of success, marked by consistency and dedication to excellence, has set a new benchmark for girls choir. The choir's four-part harmonious melodies and passion for music have touched many hearts, embodying the true spirit of Christmas. Their achievements are a testament to the unity, hard work, and immense talent within the team, reflecting their commitment to musical excellence.

A Vision for the Future

Mr. Job Jesudian remains dedicated to share his passion for music and inspiring others, with the blessings and guidance of God Almighty accompanying every step of his journey. As he continues his mission to uplift communities through the transformative power of music, we trust that divine support will lead him to even greater achievements. His work not only enriches the spiritual lives of those around him but also fosters unity and growth. May his steadfast commitment to this noble cause bring lasting impact and joy to all he touches in the days ahead.

With Prayers and Best wishes,
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