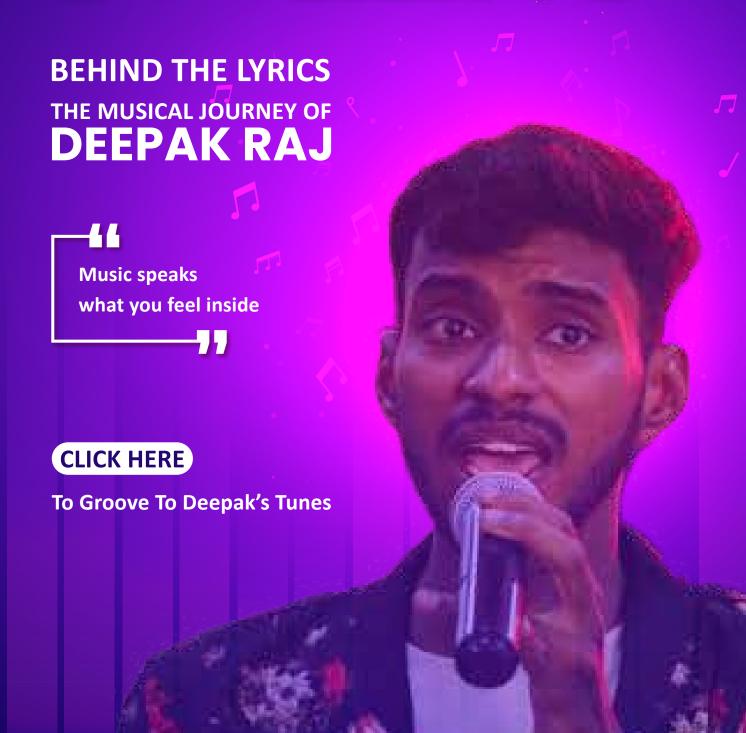


# CHOLA'S GOT CHOLA'S GOT CHOLA'S GOT





Deepak Raj is a Chennai based talented singer who proved his mettle in various stages. The 9 Asian records he has alongside his name show his immense love and dedication to music. Intrigued by his heroics, we decided to meet and greet and get to know him and his world of music a little bit.

Here's how our conversation went.

#### How did your musical journey begin?

My journey into music had a unique start influenced by my parents, with my father being a talented Violin Player and my mother, a Classical Singer. Although initially disinterested, the intricacies of classical music eventually captivated me, marking the beginning of my beautiful musical journey.



# Can you walk us through your creative process?

After a decade of pursuing Classical Music, I ventured into Fusion Music where we blend two or more styles of music together to create a new piece of music. Currently, I'm experimenting with the fusion of Arab and Indian Divine music, adding a unique flavour to my repertoire.

# Are you a part of any music band?

I am proud to be a part of two fantastic music bands – 'Aukuli,' where we delve into Indian Regional Music, and 'Major Misfits,' dedicated to Western music. I've also been associated with the 'On The Streets Of Chennai' band during their early days. On weekends, my musical group and I perform at a couple of cafes across Chennai.



#### Are there any artists who inspire you?

There are many actually. Some of the notable ones are Susheela Raman, Aruna Sairam, and Anushka Ravishankar. I do like some Western stars like Michael Jackson, Shawn Mendes, and Sia.

#### What do you think is the biggest recognition you've received so far?

Among the many highlights, sharing the stage with Ms. Sailaja and Mr. SP Charan has been a significant recognition. Additionally, being selected among the Top 20 contestants in 'Super Singer' holds a special place in my heart.



#### What is your proudest moment so far?

My proudest moment so far is being a part of 'Naadha Vaibhavam' a historic Carnatic Music Ensemble where 5,700 musicians came together and performed for 24 hours. The event had some of the biggest names in music including Shankar Mahadevan, Chitra, and Hariharan. This was in front of "His Holiness Sri Sri Ravishankar". To talk about my recent performances, winning the Raga Saga event conducted by the Murugappa group was also a memorable one.



#### What do you do in your free time?

I train kids in Carnatic Music in my apartment complex. It gives me great pleasure to see young kids master the art of singing.

#### What do you think Al's impact will be in the Music industry?

An interesting question to be honest. Artificial Intelligence's impact has been both positive and negative to the music industry. Looking at the positive side of things, AI has greatly improved sound quality in music and made rarer sounds more accessible. The use of instruments is being destroyed by AI, which is a negative. There was a time when only skilled professionals could handle these instruments and today, those huge instruments came into man's fingertip.

## What is something the general audience doesn't know about music?

One aspect many may not know about music is the depth and intricacies within this rich world, waiting to be explored and appreciated.

#### What are your future aspirations?

Looking ahead, my aspirations include becoming a playback singer in cinema and opening a studio dedicated to recording music and nurturing creativity. In my musical journey, each note resonates with passion, dedication, and a harmonious blend of tradition and innovation. I'm excited about what the future holds as I continue to explore and contribute to the beautiful world of music.



As Deepak keeps exploring the world of music, Chola stands behind him cheering and supporting him along the way.

# Chola is proud of you Deepak!