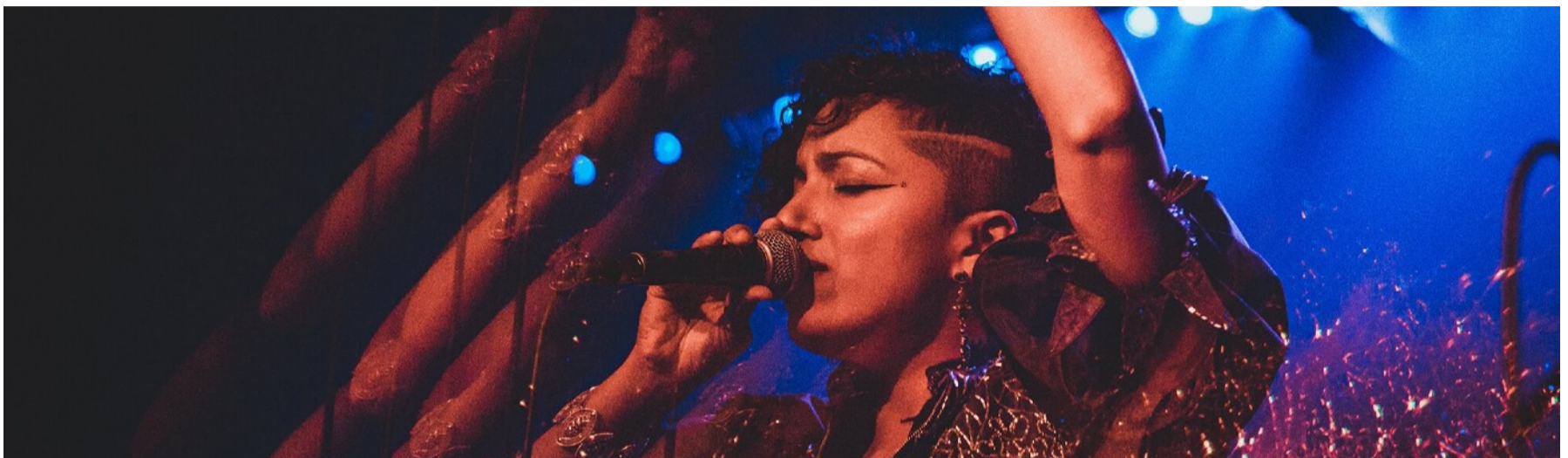


Get to Know Guides

Shilpa Ananth



[Shilpa Ananth](#) is an Indian vocalist, songwriter, and performing artist based between the US and the UAE. With a unique sound that fuses the dreamy landscapes of South India with soul, jazz, and electronic influences, Shilpa brings together 3 of India's languages - Tamil, Malayalam, and Hindi - with English, creating art that transcends borders and cultures.

Get to Know... [Shilpa Ananth](#)

Shilpa Ananth grew up in Dubai studying Indian classical music, singing bhajans from a young age. As a teenager, her older brother introduced her to new sources of inspiration in Western styles of music, such as jazz, rock, and hip hop. After graduating with honors from Berklee College of Music, and releasing a successful debut EP '[Indian Soul](#)', Shilpa has recorded and performed with Grammy award-winning composers, and toured extensively with notable vocal groups and ensembles. She is the recipient of several prestigious awards and grants, and is a featured vocalist on the recently Grammy-nominated album '[ONA](#)' by [Thana Alexa](#). Shilpa is currently finishing up her second EP of original music titled 'Reproduction', set to release in fall 2023.



WHAT ARE BHAJANS?

Bhajan refers to any devotional song with a religious theme or spiritual ideas, specifically among South Asian religions. The term 'bhajan' is also commonly used to refer to a group event with vocalists, instrumentalists, and sometimes dancers. Traditionally, bhajans are accompanied by percussion instruments such as tabla, dholak or a tambourine. A modern Bhajan has no fixed form: it may be simple or complex, with music based on classical ragas and talas.

Artist Inspiration

Growing up learning Indian classical music, Shilpa Ananth was also exposed to a variety of Western genres, including jazz, rock, and hip hop. Ananth's music is a blend of all these influences, creating a unique style that is both traditional and contemporary. She is also inspired by the works of legendary musicians like Norah Jones, Lalah Hathaway, and Ella Fitzgerald. Ananth's music is a reflection of her own experiences, bringing together the music of South India with the contemporary sounds of soul, jazz, and electronic music. Her music connects cultures and people, transcending boundaries through artistic expression.

ACTIVITY

Influenced by various musical styles and artists, Shilpa grew up in the UAE. In order to become more familiar with her composition style and songwriting, listen to [some of her songs](#) and try to identify themes that appear in her music. Is there one in particular that you can relate to? Can you find a song that reflects or connects you with your experience of living or studying in the UAE?



Learn More



FURTHER VIEWINGS

[Shilpa Ananth - The Search | Official Video](#) →

[Shilpa Ananth | LIVE at The Fridge Dubai](#) →

[Shilpa Ananth - Enge Nee | NPR Tiny Desk Contest Submission](#) →

[i Dwell - Shilpa Ananth & Aleksandra Denda](#) →

[Shilpa Ananth | LIVE at Agganis Arena](#) →

[Shilpa Ananth, Spotify channel](#) →



FURTHER READINGS

[The Cultural Setting of South Indian Music](#) →

[Reflecting Surfaces: The Use of Elements from Indian Music in Popular Music and Jazz](#) →

[Dance, music and cultures of decolonisation in the Indian Diaspora](#) →

[Songs of Experience: The Poetics of Tamil Devotion](#) →

[Indian Classical Music in North America: Cultural Give and Take](#) →

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TheArtsCenteratNYUAbuDhabi
www.nyuad-artscenter.org

nyuad.boxoffice@nyu.edu
+971 2 628 4555

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