

Anagi Thanuja Gunasekera
Pianist - Violinist – Soprano - Mezzo Soprano

Music CV

Piano Studies

I have been learning the piano since the age of 3, under the guidance of my piano teacher mother, Mrs. Ruvini Gunasekera.

Violin Studies

I took violin lessons from the age of 6 to 17, under the guidance of my violin teacher, Mr. Ananda Dabare.

Vocal Training

I took singing lessons from the age of 8 to 12, under the guidance of my first singing teacher, Mrs. Naomi Gooneratne, and from the age of 13 to 15, under my second singing teacher Ms. Peshali Yapa.

Highest Musical Achievements

- Highest distinction mark for piano - LLCM in Performance (Concert) from the London College of Music in 2023. This licentiate diploma is equivalent to a final-year undergraduate recital. LCM is a part of the University of West London, UK.
- Highest distinction mark for ATCL in piano recital (Trinity College, London 2019)
This Associate Diploma is equivalent to the performance component of the first year of study in an undergraduate course at a conservatoire or university.
- Distinction in violin – ARSM in Performance from the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music, London in 2021

National Piano Competitions

Beethoven Piano Competition 2020 – Organised by the Institute of Western Music and Speech (IWMS is the premier local music examination board in Sri Lanka)

- First place Winner of the intermediate category.

Youth Music Competition 2022 – Organised by London College of Music

- First Place Winner of the “21 years and under” piano category
- Best performance of a Classical Sonata in the “21 years and under” piano category
- Best performance of a prescribed work by London College of Music in the “21 years and under” piano category
- Sujeeva Hapugalle Award: Overall best performance of a Classical work in piano category (13 years and over)
- Overall best performance of a Baroque/Classical work in the “21 years and under” piano category.

Top Music Award in High School (Ladies' College)

Mrs. Ena Corera Memorial Cup 2022 - Proficiency in Music in all 3 languages.

This is the highest award presented by my high school for music.

Music Leadership in High School

- **President of the Music Circle (2022)**

As the leader and living by my own motto, "Music accepts, connects and unites to make one beautiful song", I initiated musical activities and events that embodied the theme "***peace and unity***" for the year 2022.

Organised and directed the school's first ever fusion music flash mob. I directed 40 students belonging to the school's English, Sinhala and Tamil ethnic music groups in a performance that united all musical cultures of my country (Western, Eastern and oriental).

Organized and directed a multilinguistic peace and unity music concert in my school to celebrate International Day of World Peace, bringing together all the diverse music groups in all three languages (English, Sinhala and Tamil). On the same day, I extended invitations to host other schools for an all-day event of celebrating united music making through music related team activities followed by the peace concert at the end. (2022). 236 students from my school and the guest schools participated in this concert.

- **Leader of the Senior English Choir (2022)**

Apart from leading the senior choir during my penultimate year in school, I helped my choir director to train the choir, regularly, wrote additional parts and harmonies to enhance performances, and accompanied and conducted the choir.

- **Deputy Leader of the Western Orchestra (2021)**

Since practices were held mostly on-line due to the pandemic, I often gave motivational speeches to inspire regular practice and discipline, performed and analyzed music, (example: Beethoven's Spring Sonata). I also initiated interactive music education sessions to stimulate and sustain musical interest.

- **Leader of the Western Orchestra (2022)**

Helped our orchestra trainer to raise the standard of the orchestra by helping the string players in the orchestra individually with their parts. I built a sense of team spirit and camaraderie amongst all players by initiating fun music making and playing a supportive role to each member in the orchestra.

- **Leader of the Sinhala Orchestra (2022)**

Coming from a Western music background, I was quick to embrace and learn a new tradition of music and notation. I encouraged other western-music-trained students to join the orchestra and taught them how to read oriental notation.

Judges of the Sinhala choral competitions commended my violin-playing when I used to accompany the singers on the violin.

- **Assistant Trainer – Primary and Middle School Choirs (2022)**

I helped train the primary and middle school choirs of my school.

- **Assistant Trainer – SOSL Pops Concert (September 2023)**

After graduating from high school in July 2023, I assisted the choir directress of my school's alumni choir with practices for the SOSL Pops concert presented by the Symphony Orchestra of Sri Lanka.

Performances

Participation in Competition-Prize-Winner public concerts

- London College of Music - Youth Music Competition 2022 (See above for details)
- IWMS Beethoven Piano Competition 2020 (See above for details).

Participation in Music Concerts

- Performed with the Symphony Orchestra of Sri Lanka at the SOSL Pops Concert (2018 and 2023)
- Performed the piano at the Chamber Music Concert 2023 organized by the Symphony Orchestra of Sri Lanka in collaboration with the Alliance Française Colombo
- Performed the piano at the Magical Christmas Concert (2022)
- Directed and performed the violin at the Euphonic peace and unity concert (2022)
- Played the piano and collaborated with other young musicians at the "Young Musicians at the Wendt" concert series (2019, 2020, and 2021)
- Performed as a member of the National Unity Orchestra at "The Homage to the Great Italian Opera" concert, organized by the Italian Embassy in Colombo (2018)
- Performed the piano, violin and sang at the Musical Journey Continues concert (2018)
- Performed as a member of the Junior Symphony Orchestra at the Young Musicians in Concert (2017)
- Performed the piano, violin and sang at Muzikaale (2013 and 2017)
- Performed the piano, ukulele at the Christmas concert at the Australian High Commissioner's Residence (2017)
- Performed the piano, violin and sang at Musical Joy (2015)
- Performed the piano, violin and sang at Tribute (2015).

Participation in Prize-giving performances (Piano, Violin and Singing)

- Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music, London (2015 to 2018)
- Trinity College of Music, London (2018 to 2019).

International concerts and collaborations

World Down Syndrome Day 2021 (Malta)

My friend, Angela Bettoni, who has Down's syndrome and lives in Malta, is an advocate and educator for Down's Syndrome. To mark World Down's Syndrome Day (2021), Angela released a YouTube music cover "Wear your crown", in which I sang and provided a piano accompaniment.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5OzDLQcqdG4>

Child Aid International 2020 (Japan)

I was selected to represent Sri Lanka at the “Child Aid International 2020” concert organized by Little Creators of Japan. The concert was held on-line due to the pandemic. It showcased young talent from Japan, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Korea, Mexico and South Africa. The concert raised funds to buy laptops for Japanese orphans to access school lessons.

Other competitions

South Asian Choir Games Grand Prix of Nations (2017)

I took part in this choir competition where my high school won a Gold Medal.

High School Inter-house English Solo Singing Competitions

- 2nd Place in the Junior Category (2018)
- 3rd Place in the Senior Category (2019).

Other musical achievements

Piano

Completed all Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music London graded exams with distinctions for piano. Highest-mark prizes were awarded for:

- Grade 6 award (2016)
- Grade 8 award (2018)
- Challenge shield for gaining the highest overall mark for grades 6 to 8 (2018)
- Highest distinction mark for ATCL in piano recital (Trinity College, 2019).
- Highest distinction mark for LLCM in piano performance (London College of Music, 2023).

Violin

Completed all Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music London violin exams up to the ARSM performance diploma, of the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music London with distinctions. Highest-mark prizes were awarded for:

- Grade 4 (2015)
- Grade 5 (2016)
- Grade 6 (2017)
- Grade 7 (2018)
- Special award for gaining the highest mark for Grades 6 to 8 strings (2018)

Singing

- Prize winner for obtaining the highest mark from grades 1 to 5 (ABRSM 2014)
- Grade 1 (ABRSM 2014)
- Grade 2 (ABRSM 2015)
- Grade 4 (ABRSM 2017)
- Grade 5 (Trinity College 2018)
- Special award for obtaining the highest mark from grades 4 to 6 (Trinity College 2018).

Innovation and Creativity – Compositions

- “Super Hero Mum” – A song dedicated to my mother on her 50th birthday (April 2023).
YouTube link- <https://youtu.be/jEr-eb0TW6Y>
- “Where has Christmas Gone?” – A Christmas carol with Sajani Ratnayake (2022)
YouTube link- <https://youtu.be/08wreOtWlxl>
- Leprechaun song written for my high school's primary musical “Button Box” (2022)
YouTube link- <https://youtu.be/YFZ-UAo6BtQ>
- “Be a Hero” song and Cream Cookie song written for my Goodville Program (2021)
YouTube link- <https://youtu.be/7hzmQcZBiE?si=5uvdzM70TJX3yR0I> (Be a Hero song)
https://youtu.be/IW_tjzS_aYs?si=40Asyem754eifBt (Cream Cookie Song)

Participation in Training Programs & Master Classes

- Piano Master Class with Steinway Artist, Maria Garzon (2024)
- Piano Master Classes with Steinway Artist, Sujeeva Hapugalle (Before competitions and diploma exams)
- West-End Theatre Camp organized by Cinnamon Hotels and Resorts and directed by Jonny Bowles, Jon Scott Clark and David Roper (4-8th August 2019)
- Violin Master Class conducted by Midori Gotō at the Midori Foundation violin training program (2018)
- Violin Master Class conducted by Mr. Kavan Rambukwelle (2015).

Volunteer & Social Outreach Activities

- Volunteered at 4 separate music-education summer camps run by my piano-teacher mother: Music Qwest (2014), Music Explorers Camp (2018, 2019, and 2023).
- Participated in and sang with “The Piccolinis” choir at the World Autism Day Event, which was organized by ReachBeyond Autism and Child Development Centre, to accept and include all children (31st March 2018).

- End of Music CV -