

DEPARTMENT OF PERFORMING ARTS

Progressive Education Society's
Modern College of Arts, Science and Commerce (*Autonomous*)
Shivajinagar, Pune – 5

ANNUAL REPORT 2025 - 26

The department stepped into its third year of operations in June 2025. As per the new NEP 2024, 46 FY students chose Music as one of their three core subjects. We had 3 SYBA (Music Major) students in 2025-26 and 4 students of Minor continuing with their TYBA (Music Minor) in 2024-25. 9 students of SY and 20 FY students took music subjects for their OE (Open Elective). We continued with our afternoon **hobby classes** in **Tabla, Bharatanatyam, Violin, Harmonium** and **Sugam Sangeet**.

We successfully conducted the first batch of '**Intermediate Course in Western Music**' course for kids with the support of **Suzuki School of Violin**. The course spread over 12 online and offline interactive sessions (Aug-Oct 2025) was attended by 13 students and their parents. Sessions were conducted on Fundamentals of Western Music, Instruments used in Western Music, Periods in Western Music, Musical forms and contexts and Western Popular and Film music by **Shri. Kuldeep Barve** and **Shri. Shardul Bapat**. The course was conceived, coordinated and executed by Dr. Pushkar Lele (HoD, Dept. of Performing Arts) with the course contents being planned by **Ms. Rama Chobhe** (Suzuki School of Violin), Shardul Bapat and Kuldeep Barve. We had the pleasure to host **Mr. Dhruva Sheshadri ji**, an IRS officer and pianist of repute as our guest, to give away the certificates and encourage these bright young musical minds.

Due to the efforts of Dr. Pushkar Lele, HoD, selected students of SY and TY BA (Music) and FYBA attended the prestigious **Lonavala Khandala Sangeet Sammelan** from 8th – 10th August 2025.

Dr. Pushkar Lele successfully conducted yet another batch (5th) of the 'Certificate Course in Music Appreciation' (Online) from Jan to April 2026. There were **44** participants who benefitted from this prestigious course joining in from different parts of the country like **Pune, Panchgani, Mumbai, Thane, Solapur, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Gurugram** and **Delhi** as well as some from **Kuwait** and **USA**.

The department facilitated the processing of accident insurance claim of our TYBA student Aniket Humbare as offered by SPPU, with the help of respected Principal Dr. Nivedita Ekbote.

The Department organized the following activities for the year 2025-26:

1. We had the privilege to host Shri. Milind Vasudev Kulkarni, a renowned harmonium artist, for a full day harmonium workshop on 26th June 2025 in collaboration with MIVA Universal Studio. Known for his rich experience as a soloist, accompanist, and educator, Shri. Milind Vasudev has significantly contributed to the field of Hindustani Classical music and music education. The workshop was divided into two focused sessions and was designed to build a strong foundation in harmonium playing. Participants learned basic practice techniques and fingering methods essential for developing fluency on the keyboard. The session introduced the twelve musical notes and helped students gain a basic understanding of the structure and role of the harmonium in Indian classical music. Students practiced various palta-s in selected taal-s and received insights into how these rhythmic patterns function in performance. The workshop was attended enthusiastically by students, accompanists and music faculty. The sessions were appreciated for their clarity and structured approach offering students both theoretical understanding and practical tools.



Workshop in progress



Shri. Milind Vasudev being felicitated by
Dr. Anjali Sardesai (VP – Academics)



2. We had the pleasure and honour of hosting Pt. Ajay Pohankar ji on 16th July 2025. He captured our hearts with his easy demeanor, grace and mellifluous singing. Pt. Pohankar blessed the department and wished it a bright future.



3. We organised the screening of फूल का छंद / 'Rhythm of a flower', (82 min, dir. Amit Dutta), a creative animated film essay on the life, music and ideas of Pt. Kumar Gandharva (Best Film, MAMI International Film Festival 2024) on Saturday 19th July 2025 at 10.30 am in collaboration with Jaipur Gunijankhana. The screening was followed by a discussion with Kuldeep Barve (co-writer & music consultant) and Dr. Srijan Deshpande (eminent musicologist, UCLA). The screening was attended by many eminent artists like playwright Satish Alekar, Bharatanatyam exponent- Guru Sucheta Bhide-Chapekar, violinist Swapna Datar, musicologist scholar Dr. Keshavchaitanya Kunte, artist Shriram Hasabnis and several other *rasiks* n students.





Dr. Keshavchaitanya Kunte felicitating
Dr. Srijan Deshpande



With Prof. Dr. Satish Alekar



4. We hosted '**Sahaj Yog**' – a unique music programme presented by the international artists from Austria, Ukraine, Russia, and other countries on 6th August 2025. The programme included Devotional songs presented by these International volunteers in Marathi and Hindi languages with the **guided meditation sessions in between the musical performance**, offering a serene and introspective experience for the audience.

5. We organised the 'Guru Abhivadan Sohala' in collaboration with the disciples of the renowned tabla maestro Pt. Ramdas Palsule ji from the 11th to 15th August 2025 at Bharat Ratna Lata Mangeshkar Sabhagriha. The programme was organised on the occasion of 'Guru Poornima' and was held in five sessions. The students of the department were present along with a large number of tabla students, music lovers and connoisseurs from Pune city as well as other parts of Maharashtra. Many eminent musicians like Padma Shri Taalyogi Pt. Suresh Talwalkar, eminent Shehenai player Shri. Kalyan Apaar, Shri. Satyajeet Talwalkar, Pt. Pandurang Ghotkar, Pt. Pramod Marathe, Shri. Milind Kulkarani, Shri. Ravindra Kshirsagar, Pt. Milind Tulankar, Shri. Vishal Moghe, and many others attended the programme.





Taalyogi Padmashree Pt. Suresh Talwalkar Guruji with Pt. Ramdas Palsule





Dr. Pushkar Lele, Shri. Satyajeet Talwalkar and Prof. Shripad Shirwalkar





6. We hosted a unique demonstration of Innovative Card Games developed by Mr. Hemakant Navdikar and Ashwin Chikerur on 12th August 2025. These specially designed card games proved to be both entertaining and intellectually stimulating, offering students an engaging way to learn, arrange, and think about Raag-s. Beyond being enjoyable, the activity highlighted the potential of this method as an effective teaching tool for music education.



7. We presented 'काव्यसुमनांची ओजळ', a musical programme featuring the poems of our respected Principal Dr. Rajendra Zunjarrao, on Saturday 23rd Aug 2025 jointly with Kala Mandal at 10.30am at Bharat Ratna Lata Mangeshkar Sabhagriha. The programme featured a Ganesh Vandana sung by students of DPA, an abhang by our student Suranjan Jaybhaye followed by several poems beautifully composed and set to music by renowned singer and tabla player Parag Pandav as well as some poetry reading by Swati Patwardhan. The programme featured several song types like Saraswati Vandana in Raag Hansadhvani, children's song, gazal, bhavgeet, folk inspired melodies etc. The co-artists were Shripad Shirwalkar (Tabla), Aditi Garade (Harmonium), Raturaj Dhupkar (Keyboard), Ashish Behere (Violin) and Prof. Renu Bhalerao (compering). It was attended by a large number of staff and students from the college.
8. We organized a cultural program for a group of German students and their accompanying teachers from Johanna-Wittum-Schule, Pforzheim, Germany on Monday, the 8th of December. The program was designed to introduce the rich traditions of Indian performing arts, offering both practical demonstrations and interactive discussions. The event served as a meaningful platform for cross-cultural exchange, fostering appreciation and understanding of India's diverse musical and dance heritage. The program saw presentations of Tabla solo, Vocals and Bharatanatyam by our BA and Hobby classes students and faculty.
9. We organised a workshop in collaboration with **Baithak Foundation** on 14th Jan 2026 as part of the 4th **Pune Kabir Festival 2026** on 'में भी कबीर' by Shri. **Prateek Narsimha** (Ahmedabad) exploring Kabir as a living presence within us through music and dialogue. The event was free and open to all explorers of music and spirituality. 'Main Bhi Kabir' was an intimate inquiry that invited participants to encounter Kabir Das not as a distant saint-poet, but as a living presence within their own lives. Through conversation, listening, and shared experiences, the workshop explored how Kabir's sharp questions, fearless honesty, and compassionate rebellion echo in our everyday struggles - faith and doubt, love and conflict, tradition and self-inquiry. Moving beyond texts and interpretations, 'Main Bhi Kabir' became a space to recognise how each of us carries a fragment of Kabir's दृष्टि (worldview); questioning, inclusive, and deeply human—within ourselves.



Shri. Prateek Narsimha conducting the session on Kabir poetry



Shri. Prateek Narsimha with staff of DPA Modern and Prof. Shamakant Deshmukh (VP – Admin)



10. We hosted a musical programme titled 'Ehsaas' under the initiative 'Swaranubhuti' by the Postgraduate Department of Music, Pune, under Shreemati Nathibai Damodar Thackersey (SNDT) Women's University, Mumbai on Friday 20th February 2026. The programme featured performances by the artists Savani Joshi, Shriya Shinde, Shruti Vaidya, Shrutika Kode, and Harsha Wankhede, who presented a captivating musical recital.
11. The student of our department were invited to present a musical programme titled 'Naach re mora naach' for young children as part of the 'Yuva and Baal Sahitya Sammelan 2026' organised by Vivek Sahitya Manch held at Fergusson College, Pune on 31st January 2026.
12. We organised the 29th edition of state-level 'Swarmadhuri' Hindustani Classical Vocal Khayal Gayan Music Competitions 2025 jointly with Modern College, Ganeshkhind. The competitions have been held by Modern College, Ganeshkhind since the academic year 1993-94 in memory of PES's founder, respected Late. Shri. Shankarrao Kanitkar. This year the competitions were made open to all those in the age group of 16-30 years, within the state of Maharashtra. A total of 52 entries were received from all over the state. An independent panel of judges screened the music videos sent by participants and selected 24 talented vocalists for the second (final) round, which was held on 28th February 2026.





Accompanists being felicitated by Prof. Shamakant Deshmukh (VP – Admin) and Prof. Varsha Joshi



Winner being felicitated by Judges Anuradha Kuber and Pt. Chandrashekhar Vaze



Winner being felicitated by Shri. Anand Deshmukh (Chief Guest)



With all the prize winners

Personal Achievements of the staff of Department of Performing Arts:

Dr. Pushkar Lele:

1. Conducted an orientation session for students of Lalit Kala Kendra Gurukul on 10th July 2025
2. Ideated and executed 'Intermediate Course in Western Music'
3. Judged the Pt. D V Paluskar Smriti Hindustani Classical Vocal Music competitions on 28th Sept 2025
4. Successfully curated and conducted the 5th Batch of 'Certificate Course in Music Appreciation'
5. Successfully completed a 5-day FDP on IKS by Malviya Mission Teacher's Training Centre and UGC
6. Worked as external examiner for MA Part 2 exams of Lalit Kala Kendra, SPPU
7. Was invited as Subject Expert for PM SHRI Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya interviews for engagement of contractual teachers

Dr. Priyal Sathe

1. Delivered three solo music performances at prominent cultural platforms in New Delhi and Bangalore
2. Released an original musical composition on Spotify
3. Invited as an Examiner for Masters and Ph.D. programs at Bharati Vidyapeeth
4. Conceptualized and initiated an M.A. course in Staff Notation at Bharati Vidyapeeth

Prof. Shripad Shirwalkar:

1. Published and presented a research paper in a Refereed and Peer-Reviewed Annual Multilingual "Naad Nartan" Journal.

Title: "खानदेश के जनपदीय लोकवाद्य परंपरा और वर्तमान"

Organized by: Ministry of Culture, Government of India & Bhatkhande Sanskriti Vishwavidyalaya, Lucknow

ISSN: 2349-4654

2. Published and presented a research paper in a Refereed and Peer-Reviewed Annual Multilingual “Naad Nartan” Journal of Dance and Music (UGC-CARE Listed).

Title: “खानदेशी लोकसंगीत परंपरा और स्वरूप”

Organized by: School of Kalayoga & Naad Nartan Journal

ISSN: 2349-4654

3. Presented and published a research paper at an International Conference held at the Department of Dramatics, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda

Title: “खानदेशी तमाशा लोकनाट्य परंपरा, स्वरूप, सादरीकरण”

4. Presented a research paper (selected for publication in a reputed journal) at an International Conference organized by Alliance University

Title: “The Aesthetic Essence of Farukhabad Gharana Tabla Presentation: Traditional and Contemporary Approaches”

5. Successfully completed the Two-Credit Course on Research and Publication Ethics (RPE), a UGC-mandated course conducted by the Centre for Publication, Savitribai Phule Pune University.

6. Published and presented a research paper at a National Conference organized by Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University

Title: “लिपीपद्धतीची आवश्यकता आणि आव्हाने”

ISSN: 2278-9308

7. Presented a research paper at a National Conference organized by Kavayatri Bahinabai Chaudhari North Maharashtra University (under PM-USHA).

Title: “कथक नृत्य तथा तबला वादन के निहित सौंदर्य तत्व”

8. Participated in a Webinar on “Performing Arts and Research Approach”, organized by Insieme Arti Journal for Performing Arts.

9. Presented a research paper at a National Conference organized by Mahilaratna Pushpatai Hire College Malegaon

Title: – “लोकसंगीत परंपरेत खानदेशातील स्त्रियांचे योगदान आणि शैक्षणिक मूल्य”

10. Presented a research paper at a National Conference organized by Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University and SBBS College, Chatrapati Sambhajinagar

Title: – “खानदेशातील संत सखाराम महाराजांच्या भजन कीर्तन परंपरेतील सांगीतिक वैशिष्ट्ये”

Personal Achievements of the students of T. Y. B.A. (Music Major) of the Department of Performing Arts:

Vaishali Ingawale:

Has sung 3 songs in the Marathi film 'Phula', releasing on 17 April. One of her songs "Hind Kesari" is now available on YouTube. She is also part of a devotional band 'Namha' that performs regularly.

Rohit Dake

Worked as Backing Vocalist for Marathi Movies & TV Serials. He also contributed backing vocals to the Marathi film 'Krantijyoti Vidhyalay' and background music for TV serials 'Tu Tevha Tashi' and 'Lavangi Mirchi'. He also performs in the live concert 'The Folk Aakhyan', showcasing Maharashtra's folk music forms.

Tushar Gore

Received the 'Pt. Babanrao Haldankar scholarship' instituted by Rasa Rang Gurukul Pune

Suranjan Jaybhaye

Received the 'Naad Sadhana' Puraskar instituted by Dhananjay Kharwandikar (Belwalkar Sanskrutik Manch, Pune). He also received the first prize in the Sudhakar Jadhwar State level music competitions organised by Sudhakar Jadhwar College.

Aniket Humbare

He worked as playback singer in the short film titled "निर्जली" that was selected for Pune International Film Festival. He was part of the chorus for a song based on Swami Samarth's "जिंकण्याचा मोह नाही हरण्याचे भाय नाही" and for the Marathi album song "एक चांदण्याची रात". Aniket sang a song and provided voice for the entire background music in the Marathi movie "नवरदेव Bsc एंग्री" by "Zee talkies"

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