



Manch-Pravesh FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions)

Q. What is Manch-Pravesh?

A. This is a forum where a student is selected by the teacher to present a solo recital of Hindustani classical vocal music.

Q Is M-P a graduation and therefore, marks the end of a student's learning at Raganjali?

A. Of course not. Although many years of learning may lead up to a Manch-Pravesh, it is essentially a beginning, rather than an end. M-P marks the beginning of a deeper commitment to Hindustani classical music.

Q. How long is the recital?

A. At least an 1 – 1.5 hours long, maybe longer.

Q. What is the selection criteria?

A. Length of training, vocal stamina, exceptional commitment to practice, loyalty to the Guru and the school, among other things, are some of the key criteria for selection.

Q. If a student meets all the above criteria, and many more, is it certain that he/she will have a Manch-Pravesh somewhere along the line?

A. Maybe, but it is certainly not guaranteed. A student learning at Raganjali may never have a Manch-Pravesh during their entire period of learning. Selection for this forum is solely and entirely based on teacher's discretion.

Q. Is it appropriate for students/parents to approach the teacher and request a Manch-Pravesh?

A. Unfortunately, no. This process can only be initiated by the teacher.

Q. What if a student denies this opportunity when offered, can they still continue learning at Raganjali?

A. Most certainly. Our teachers are dedicated to helping all students take steps forward in growing and progressing musically, regardless of their interest in Manch-Pravesh.

Q. How much does M-P cost?

A. The cost varies, depending on teacher's estimate of how much preparation (duration) the student may need; it is relatively expensive.

Q. Why should students learn at Raganjali, especially school children, if they can't have Manch-Pravesh as a goal? It also looks good on college applications.

A. The real goal behind teaching principles at Raganjali is to help our students grow musically, develop a love and an appreciation for Hindustani classical music, not to prepare students solely to perform. Motivating students to put in sincere effort is another key objective of our teaching. Performance forums are provided only to improve presentation skills, which is only one aspect of learning and understanding music.

Q. Isn't music a performing art?

A. Music is. But the performance aspect of music follows years of training and hard work and achieving mastery over many aspects of it. This is exactly why only the teacher is capable of making the decision if the student is ready for their Manch-Pravesh.

Q. Then why do students at Raganjali get to perform on stage during their learning?

A. The performance forums at Raganjali are provided only as opportunities to improve self-confidence in students' singing outside the classroom. Students also perform on Annual Guru-Purnima day as an offering to the Divine and to their teacher.

Q. Why is learning given more importance at Raganjali than performance and showmanship (as in Manch-Pravesh)?

A. The nature of Hindustani classical music has always been spiritual and rooted in humility; it is essentially an end in itself. Learning solely to perform or participate in competitions may make a student vulnerable to unrealistic expectations and eventually lead to dissatisfaction. At Raganjali, the quest for music is joyous, serene, and free of glamour - we learn, because we want to know, not to compete against others, nor for fame or glory.

Q. My goal is Manch-Pravesh. If there is no guarantee, what is the reason, if any, for a student to learn at Raganjali?

A. At Raganjali, we help all students to learn Hindustani classical music and make continuous progress. We are here to educate, enrich and increase awareness of students for Hindustani classical music. We are here to deepen a student's respect, humility, understanding and appreciation for this spiritual music. That's the reason we offer, the only promise we stand behind, THAT is our mission and our goal.