

KAVITA BALIGA

American Soprano, Entrepreneur and TED Fellow

www.kavitabaliga.com

BIOGRAPHY

With a fierce commitment to transforming the world through music, the young American soprano Kavita Baliga has sung in concerts around the U.S., Switzerland, France, Italy, Germany, and India with repertoire ranging from Opera and Oratorio, Musical Theatre to Indian film.

The classically trained singer earned her Bachelors in Music degree in vocal performance from The University of California at Irvine, and Masters in Music degree from The Boston Conservatory. As a young prodigy, her honors and awards included winning 1st place in the Youth Focus competition of California and 1st place in the Satya Devi Memorial Trust competition.

For the past six years, Kavita has been working in India singing in Bollywood scores, building the curriculum for A.R. Rahman's KM Music Conservatory, conducting choral studio sessions for Indian films, and developing her startup company, Desi Music Entertainment. She has sung in the films *Yuvraaj*, *Ghajini*, *Blue*, and *Jab Tak Hai Jaan*, but she is most known for singing 'Moi, je nage dans l'espoir' and 'Lux Aeterna' from the film *Passage*, directed by Shekhar Kapur with music by A.R. Rahman. The film premiered as an accompaniment to a sculpture exhibition at the Swarovski Kristallwelten museum in Austria. She also conducted the KMMC Chamber Choir for the *In Memoriam* segment of the 2012 OSCARS!

Notable performances have included the *Martin Luther King Jr. Tribute* concert to mark the 50th anniversary of King's pilgrimage to India and to recognize his non-violent activism toward human rights. The concert featured Ms. Baliga, the KMMC Chamber Choir and faculty, and included Martin Luther King III and Indian film actor Kamal Haasan who both spoke at the event. In 2009 Ms. Baliga sang at the premiere of the film *Passage* at the Venice Film Festival in Italy where the Venetian String Orchestra, conducted by Matt Dunkley, accompanied her. Amy Kaufman, Haley Bennet, and Nadja Swarovski were among those present. In January 2012, Ms. Baliga sang pieces from *Passage* and *Lord of the Rings*, *The Musical* in a 5-city concert tour called *Classic Incantations: The German Film Orchestra Babelsberg plays A.R. Rahman*. The event featured Rahman's film and stage scores in a concert setting, conducted by Matt Dunkley. She also trained the KMMC Chamber Choir to sing in the event. And since 2013, she has been performing across France with the group, *Olli Goes to Bollywood* with Asad Khan and other musicians.

In 2014 she began developing an idea for a startup company that would nurture amateur artists and represent them internationally. Solidarity Song was the first track that she produced through Desi Music Entertainment and it included Bollywood hit artists like Benny Dayal, Neeti Mohan, BlaaZé, Shweta Pandit,

Shakthisree Gopalan and many more. The song released on August 15th, and is a celebration of India.

Her voice has been described as “the voice of an angel” by Shekhar Kapur. Stanley Meyerson, the father of the Hollywood sound engineer Alan Meyerson who has worked on films such as *Sherlock Holmes*, *Pirates of the Caribbean* and *Inception* said, “I think she has a magnificent voice. I love her voice. [she] impresses me a lot.” Alan Meyerson said, “[It’s] a voice that crosses the boundaries of style and genre.” Following the *Classic Incantations* tour, conductor and arranger Matt Dunkley described Ms. Baliga as his ‘favorite soprano’. Shabhana Azmi, the art film actress and activist who was present during the *Classic Incantations* concert in Mumbai exclaimed, “Who is that? Where did she come from?! What an incredible voice.”

Ms. Baliga is currently developing her startup company Desi Music Entertainment, LLC which is set to launch early 2015.

QUOTES

“I cannot begin to comprehend the various twists and turns life has thrown at me, but I am overwhelmingly grateful for the opportunities I have been given, the people I have had the honor of working with, and my loved ones. My family, friends, coworkers and Mr. ARR have enriched my life more than I can say. I feel blessed.”

Kavita Baliga