



Yuva Ratna Award – Application Guidelines

The Milapfest Yuva Ratna is a major national award offered to young musicians of Britain (aged 18-30) in recognition of their talent, ongoing practice and dedication to Indian classical music and dance.

The Yuva Sangeet Ratna and Yuva Nritya Ratna award is an accolade by Milapfest supported by Arts Council, England to recognize significant and outstanding achievements in classical music and dance.

The winner award comes with a coveted title, **Yuva Sangeet Ratna / Yuva Nritya Ratna**, and a **£2,000 award prize** and the runner up will be awarded with the a **£500 award prize** to be spent only on further training and career development. The award winner will be felicitated with a trophy, a citation, and performance opportunities with Milapfest.

Who can apply?

The award is open to anyone who meets the following criteria:

- Is between the ages of 18 – 30 (must have turned 18 years old by 31st March 2016 and must be no more than 30 years old by 20th July 2016)
- Must be a citizen of the UK, a permanent resident or have indefinite leave to remain in the UK. Appropriate proof of residential status will be required at the time of application.
- Must be practicing a form of Indian classical music or dance
- The applicant must be able to demonstrate, through an application form, video clips and references that he/she is dedicated to the practice of their art form, and continues to learn, improve and perform at every available opportunity
- The applicant should outline future goals and aspirations in music and briefly describe how he/she plans to utilize the award money
- The applicant must be available at every stage of the application process, up until the final performance date on **Tuesday July 26th 2016** (Sangeeta Ratna) and **14th July 2016** (Nritya Ratna)
- Shortlisted candidates who were not successful for 2 years consecutively in winning the title are restricted from applying again for the third year. For example, if a candidate was shortlisted in 2014 and 2015 but is unsuccessful in winning the title, he/she will not be eligible to apply again in 2016 but can apply in 2017, assuming the candidate is still within the ages of 18-30.
- The title of Yuva Sangeet Ratna / Yuva Nritya Ratna can only be awarded once - previous winners of the award are not eligible to apply to the award scheme again.
- There is no restriction on the number of times one can apply for the award if he/she has never been shortlisted at least twice or has never won the Yuva Sangeet Ratna / Yuva Nritya Ratna award.

What is the application process?

Step 1: Apply - Eligible applicants will need to fill out a Yuva Sangeet Ratna / Yuva Nritya Ratna application form (which includes a personal statement), provide a DVD or a link to an online clip of their most recent performance (online link is preferable), and return letters of recommendation from two referees.

Deadline for applications: 25th May 2016, 5pm.

Applications can be downloaded from www.milapfest.com

Step 2: Short listing

A distinguished jury of musicians, teachers and creative professionals will assess all applications, paying close attention to technique, musicality, ability to connect to the audience and future potential in addition to evaluating the strengths outlined in your application and from referees.

Shortlist announcement: June 1st 2016.

Step 3: Creative Process

Successful short-listed candidates will be notified on June 1st 2016, after which they will begin preparing for their final assessment. Shortlisted candidates should be able to provide a brief biography which should include the following:

- Full Name
- Years of training and tutelage
- Highlights of their music career so far
- Brief about their music style or instrument or dance style
- High resolution picture (ideally over 1 MB) which may be used appropriately in publicity materials.

Along with the above details, each candidate will also be requested for a detailed document outlining their plans for the financial part of the award. For the competition performance on the award night you will be required to prepare a mini-performance of up to 20 minutes and no shorter than 15 minutes to present in front of a live audience and the jury panel on 26th July 2016 (for Sangeet Ratna) and 14th July 2016 (for Nriya Ratna). Candidates must prepare at least two pieces, one Raga based / improvisation piece and one composition. Please note that each short-listed candidate must arrange for their own musical / percussion accompaniment and shruti box / tanpura if required.

Step 4: Final assessment and Yuva Ratna Award announcement – Each of the six short-listed candidates will be required to present their prepared piece(s) on stage, in front of a jury panel and live audience for final assessment. The winner of the Yuva Sangeet Ratna / Yuva Nriya Ratna award will be announced at the end of the performance evening.

Final assessment date:

Yuva Sangeet Ratna competition date – 26th July 2016 - LIVERPOOL

Yuva Nriya Ratna competition date – 14th July 2016 - LONDON

The Yuva Ratna Award is awarded by Milapfest, the UK's Indian Arts Development Trust, producing world-class performances, education, and artist development opportunities throughout the year. The award is supported and funded by Arts Council England.

Completed application forms should reach the Milapfest office (address below) by post by **no later than 25th May 2016 5pm.**

Milapfest

The Capstone Building – Creative Campus
Liverpool Hope University
17 Shaw Street
Liverpool L6 1HP
United Kingdom

Alternatively, for application forms and any information on Yuva Ratna Awards or any of Milapfest's other work and opportunities, please send an email to Pravinder Singh at prav@milapfest.com or call 0151 291 3949.



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