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## Context to the nugget

Jayashri talks about how she made choices along the way, more specifically, the choice between going deep into Carnatic music versus collaborating with different art forms. She also speaks about how she has learnt from collaborating with other artists and how that has improved her core art form – Carnatic Music

## Transcription

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**Deepak Jayaraman (DJ):** How you made choices along the way? How have you thought about choices along the way, give us a sense of the underlying thinking behind some of the choices that you have made?

**Bombay Jayashri (BJ):** I was blessed because I came into a family that loved music and different genres of music and growing up in Bombay helped every bit because I was hearing the movie song, I was admiring the movie song, I was witnessed to several great Jugalbandis, concerts that I have attended, at home there was Carnatic music, I went through a convent so there was English music there, I learn to play the Piano, my brothers older to me would bring Abba and Michael Jackson music at home and every bit of it we loved, we listen to be admired with equal reverence so when the pathways open for me to be a musician myself, I had to find the ways of creating these opportunities for myself and in doing that I have worked with some of the most wonderful artists whether it was in dialogue or Jugalbandis I have worked with Shubha Mudgal, Ronu Majumdar, Leela Samson, Valli, Chitra Visweswaran in dance, who was a finished composer and every time I have a little journey with them creating a music or singing with them or performing with them am able to closely watch another trained musicians life of how he or she looks at music of his perspectives of his dreams and that fascinates me and am always starving more for that more and more of that is what I would love.

**DJ:** How you made choices along the way? How have you thought about choices along the way, give us a sense of the underlying thinking behind some of the choices that you have made? Are there some common threads across these people?

**BJ:** Yes, hard work, an addiction for perfection, sincerity, never to give up, because sometimes you just cannot get a Raga, the composition doesn't flow but when doesn't give up there are moments of self-doubt frustration but I think all the great people that I have met, they see the greatness of purpose so much that the end of the day what they go through becomes very small and that's what I see.

**DJ:** And when you say sincerity, what you have in mind? What's behind that term?

BJ: Sincerity means to do nothing else but music, to want nothing else but music. The quest for knowing more, to learn more to listen to more music, to perform, I don't know if there's another way of performing other than being the best at sincerity.

DJ: Of the choices that one makes there's often the go broad versus a go deep kind of a choice, in the sense stay rooted and go deeper and deeper into one domain versus embrace how have you thought about that choice?

BJ: So I have had this question with myself and I have share it with a few friends who I thought would help me but at the end I had to find the answers within me, go deeper or do a Jugalbandi, go deeper or sing a movie song look more into Todi Ragam and Karharpriya Ragam because that one Ragam will take a life time or say yes to life of pi, I don't believe I have attained any kind of a balance all I can see is I have learnt where ever and the learning here has helped the other side and am constantly having this multiple pathways in my life and there was a point when I just thought no I should just do one but before I know the most tempting opportunities hitting my back and saying hello it never happened, I see this as my the way of my life.

## Reflections from Deepak Jayaraman

DJ: Three things occur to me here.

1) Each one of us has a unique childhood and context we grow up in and the more we are true to it and listen to it, greater the harmony between our choices and how we feel about the choices. For instance, Jayashri talks about being exposed to and enjoying various forms of music ranging across Abba, Michael Jackson, and Bollywood and so on. To that extent, possibly, when it came to collaborating with other art forms, it came naturally to her.

2) While Jayashri doesn't mention it explicitly, I guess there is something to be said about deep expertise in one area coupled with experimentation in a few adjacent areas. Sometimes, people go abroad without building adequate depth in one area which often is your calling card.

3) I really like what Jayashri says about learning when she collaborates with artists from other genres. She doesn't just talk about learning about other music forms. But she says it gives her an opportunity to learn from how other artists approach the art form and that is a learning too. Paying attention to how they approach their role, their profession, their life is indeed a significant learning opportunity that sometimes people don't pay enough attention to. And that often is a missed opportunity.

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## End of nugget transcription

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## Bombay Jayashri - Nuggets

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## About Deepak Jayaraman

Deepak seeks to unlock human potential of senior executive’s / leadership teams by working with them as an Executive Coach / Sounding Board / Transition Advisor. You can know more about his work [here](#).

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