



The banner features the 'play to potential' logo on the left. To its right are contact details: a WhatsApp icon with the number '+91 85914 52129*', a Twitter icon with the handle '@PlayToPotential', and a globe icon with the website 'playtopotential.com'. Further right, under the heading 'Also available on:', are icons for Spotify, Apple Podcasts, and Google Podcasts. On the right side of the banner is a portrait of a man in a suit and glasses, identified as 'Podcast Host Deepak Jayaraman'. At the bottom left of the banner, there is a small text note: '*Just send us a Whatsapp with your name, number and email and we will add you to our distribution list.'

Context to the nugget

Jayashri talks about her approach to giving back to the community through the various things she does, whether it is helping children who have autism or performing for seniors at locations where they live. She also talks about her work through SPIC MACAY in using art to improve lives.

Transcription

Deepak Jayaraman (DJ): You do work in the space of autism, I am curious about the therapeutic role music play in people's life not just in the context of autism but just a wider point? Am curious about the role music can play in improving people's lives.

Bombay Jayashri (BJ): I don't think there anything better than art in making one a better person happier person, a more sensitive person, a person with some amount of equilibrium, at every point in life, whether it's a young child, a student, or someone who is getting married, music is always around like a dear friend, a friend that demands nothing of you except to give. With respect to autism, it was more than a decade ago that I met a child after a concert in Dubai who came straight up to me and looked into my eyes and said, you sand it wrong, and I didn't wanted to believe it and believe nobody around me heard because we are so used to hearing only adulatory comments after the concert and then I did found out that child was right when I heard record of my concert and I had made mistakes and I also remember another four year old in Bangalore who was signing very difficult Raga with such ease, something which students who have learned music for 10 or 15 years find very hard to navigate, one thing lead to the other and I started sharing the music with children with autism in schools, in specials schools in Chennai in Bangalore wherever I could find the time when I was visiting and this lead finally to my forming a trust kind of an umbrella for me to carry on the activities with my students where we share the music with children with autism. I do believe many children with autism have a special flare for music the roles reverse sometimes in a typical classroom it's not that I sing or I teach and they repeat, sometimes I am singing several times and they will not repeat but after about few weeks, you will find the child singing the whole song in a refreshingly different way sometimes adding nuances which I have not sang which I have not heard before so its magical how this happens with children with autism and I just feel I need to do it as much as I can and I do it with the help of many of my students.

DJ: I think the broader question is how have you thought about using your platform, music have reach to make a difference to the wider community apart from this initiative in autism are you involved in other social causes?

BJ: I work closely with Speak Mickey enriching music to school and colleges in remote areas in India and even outside, I remember a military school in regiment in Himachal Pradesh where they hadn't

even seen Mridangam or they hadn't even seen anything like this so it's usually satisfying to be part of Speak mickey or some such organizations at my own small level I and with the help of my students I try to reach some homes where we have seniors staying to reach the music today because they can't commute because they just sit back in there home and then enjoy the music so some small things like that.

Reflections from Deepak Jayaraman

DJ: Sometimes we have this theoretical notion of social work where you are of service to a community by doing grass-roots social work. But in the podcast, it is fascinating to see how people have combined their passion and background with purpose. Vinita Bali of Britannia spoke about her efforts with GAIN to improve nutrition, Vedika Bhandarkar spoke about how she leverages the power of markets and finance in solving the Water problem, Nandan Nilekani spoke about using Tech to solve large intractable problems, Paralympian Deepa Malik spoke about Wheeling Happiness foundation where she is building awareness about physically handicapped. I guess we all have our respective strengths, resources and passion and there is an opportunity for us to leverage that and be of value to the community than look at Community Service or Social Impact as a separate sector or a different set of activities. The real question often is, how can we use our background, our networks, our relationships and capabilities and put it to best use to be of service to the world around us and what are the platforms that we could plug into for that purpose.

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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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