

# *Music in blood, Engineer in sweats!!*

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*Pournami Krishnan K*

Born in an ‘unorthodox’ Iyer family full of musicians, Abhay was expected to have the talent that has been running through his family for generations. He did have it in him. Yet, he converted music as his hobby and aspired to become an engineer. Abhay Shankar Anand, 21 year old student of Amrita is currently doing his final year in Electronics and Communication Engineering department. He is the current head of the musical club in Amrita, Raagasudha. He was recently placed in a core company, Robert Bosch through campus interview. From childhood itself he was fascinated by wireless communication and also liked to dig deep into a product. He wanted to know how a ‘certain product is made, its functions and applications’.

He was born in Thiruvananthapuram, actually his family were Tamilians settled in Kerala. He was in Mumbai till his 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and then he moved to Bahrain. He was there till his 10<sup>th</sup> standard, and completed his high school in Dubai. His parents are still settled in Dubai and he has his grandparents in India. He had a bad time when his father got transferred to Dubai. He had to leave his 10<sup>th</sup> half-way and was forced to continue in Dubai. There he had to learn Arabic as it was a mandatory subject. He had to attend beginner’s class when all his classmates were in advanced Arabic lessons. Abhay expected a huge change in the lifestyle when he came to India from Dubai. But he was surprised to find that he felt comfortable here. “I never felt alien”, he said. “Maybe I was mentally prepared but, there wasn’t even the slightest bit of awkwardness.”

He has a huge mouth and glowing eyes when two topics are put forward for him- ECE and Music. He was ‘spell-bound’ by these two things. “Music has always played a complementary role in my life. Nothing is complete without music”, he said when asked about music. He strongly feels that ‘immense dedication and good environment’ is required to make music as a profession. “Having been brought up in the Gulf, the concept of music as a profession has never struck me. If I were in India, it would have been a different scenario.”

Abhay likes to experiment with music- using signal processing in music. That is known as Techno. He is interested in knowing ‘what goes behind making such a processed music.’ He lately got into the habit of watching TV series and love watching movies on his spare times. He also read books occasionally.

His first music performance was a solo one in front of his Guru during his 6<sup>th</sup> grade. At first, he liked listening to classical music and now he got interested in another type of music - Fusion. His guru influenced him a lot by suggesting certain fusion band. He started his musical life with Mridangam and then moved to Tabla. He also learned Harmonium and Keyboard, ‘not properly, just the basic notes and crude music’. He has done many cultural shows and competitions in college, both solo and group.

His father, Anand Sivan S, is the Managing Director/ Vertical Transportation Consultant, Barker Mohandas Middle East LLC. His mother is an architect, who graduated from Trivandrum Engineering College. She is now helping her husband with the business. His family was always supportive. They gave him the freedom of choice in his life. Nothing was imposed upon him. He had the right to choose his own path. He wanted Engineering and he was allowed pursue it.

“Abhay is a very energetic and involved guy who lives life to the fullest”, said Mr. B Sabarishnarayanan, Senior Lecturer of ECE department and also Abhay’s favourite faculty in Amrita. “If you ask him to dance in front of the class, he will be ready to do it. He is that kind of a guy. Ask him to do anything; he does it without any hesitation.”

“He is a fun loving, babyish person who annoys me a lot because he is a teetotaller. He doesn’t act as a genius person, but at the end he manages to get good grades”, said one of his close friends, Thomas Joseph of 4<sup>th</sup> year ECE. “He makes lot of mistakes but will always learn from his mistakes.”