

# Shaping the Sound of Tomorrow: The IRAA 2024 Awards Jury

*As the Indian Recording Arts Academy Awards (IRAA) enters its 18th edition, the excitement is palpable. With the support of awards' partners GENELEC, the IRAA Awards continue to honour excellence in music production and engineering. This year's robust jury panel comprises industry experts with remarkable contributions to the world of music and bringing a wealth of experience and expertise to the table. Let's take a closer look at these distinguished individuals and their remarkable contributions to the world of music.*

**Dr. Pramod Chandorkar** leads the jury as the **Award Director**. An eminent recording and mix engineer, Dr. Chandorkar has been a significant force in the industry since 1995. As the founder and director of **Soundideaz Studios & Academy**, he has shaped the careers of many sound engineers and musicians. His portfolio includes working with legendary phenomenon like **Lata Mangeshkar** and **Sonu Nigam**. With accolades such as the Zee Cine Award for Best Song Recording and several other awards including IRAA, Dr. Chandorkar's influence spans across music recording, live sound, film sound design, and audio education.

**Ashish Saksena**, brings over 30 years of experience as a recording and mix engineer. As the director of **Purple Haze Studios**, Saksena has collaborated with prominent music directors such as **Shankar-Ehsaan-Loy** and **Vishal-Shekhar**. His extensive work in live concert engineering further underscores his versatility and depth in the field.

**Donal Whelan**, a renowned mastering engineer based in the UK, is celebrated for his three decades of work in the industry. With a degree from Surrey University and experience at prestigious studios like Chop Em Out and the Townhouse, Whelan founded **Hafod Mastering** in Wales. His career includes mastering Indian film and non-film music, showcasing his global impact on music production.

**Indrajit Sharma**, popularly known as 'Tubby,' is a prominent music composer, arranger, and producer. With a career spanning over 30 years, Tubby has made significant contributions to films like *My Name is Khan* and *Bhaag Milkha Bhaag*. His work as a jazz fusion musician and his representation of India in international festivals with his band 'Pitara' highlight his multifaceted talent.

**Jim Satya** is a distinguished music arranger and producer, known for his work on award-winning feature films. His background in music arranging has enriched numerous projects, including the acclaimed film *Barfi*. Satya's expertise adds a critical dimension to the IRAA jury, bridging the gap between music production and arrangement.

**Mujeeb Dadarkar**, co-founder of **Odble Consultants**, is a seasoned sound engineer with that began his career in 1983. His experience spans documentaries, advertising, and feature films, and he has worked extensively as a live sound engineer for artists like **Ustad Zakir Hussain**. Dadarkar's extensive technical knowledge and experience make him a valuable asset to the jury.

**Raag Sethi**, a multi-award-winning producer, engineer, guitarist, and bassist, has significantly impacted the indie music scene in India. As the founder of **Compass Box Studio**, Sethi has been instrumental in promoting indie talent through innovative projects. His work with over 100 indie artists and his role as a voting member in the Recording Academy/Grammys underline his influential presence in the industry.

**S Sivakumar**, the chief sound engineer at **A.M. Studios**, Chennai, has a

18<sup>th</sup> edition



INDIAN  
RECORDING  
ARTS ACADEMY  
AWARDS

Supported By

**GENELEC**

remarkable career working with A.R. Rahman and other prominent filmmakers. His involvement in notable international projects and his recognition as Best Sound Engineer by the Tamil Nadu State Government reflect his outstanding contributions to sound engineering.

**Shantanu Hudlikar** began his career at **The Music Room**, Bombay, and later made his mark as an independent engineer. His work on advertising jingles, indie artists, and feature films, along with his tenure at Empire Studios, Mumbai, highlights his versatility and expertise in sound engineering.

**Sreejesh Nair**, a Pro Audio Application Specialist and Dolby Atmos Certified Mix Engineer, commands 21 years of experience in sound mixing. His work on over 200 movies and his involvement in the first Dolby Atmos mix room installation in the world exemplify his groundbreaking contributions to audio engineering. Nair's accolades, including the 60th National Film Award for Best Re-recorder, speak volumes of his exceptional talent.

**Subhash Sahoo**, with 31 years as a sound designer and sync sound engineer, has worked on over 160 films. His collaborations with renowned directors and his numerous accolades, including two National Awards, highlight his significant impact on sound design. Sahoo's commitment to regional cinema and his role as a guest faculty member at various film schools reflect his dedication to the industry.

**Vijay Benegal**, co-founder of **Odble Consultants**, brings nearly three decades of experience in sound engineering. His work on diverse projects, including films like *Dil Chahta Hai* and *Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara*, and his role as a live sound engineer with international artists showcase his extensive

# IRAA Award 2024 Categories

## Films (Theatrical/OTT):

### Feature Films:

- ♪ Song Recording/Mixing/Mastering - Hindi
- ♪ Song Recording/Mixing/Mastering - Regional
- ♪ Song Music Producer - Hindi
- ♪ Song Music Producer - Regional
- ♪ Sound Designer (Film or Web Release) – Hindi
- ♪ Sound Designer (Film or Web Release) – Regional
- ♪ Sound Designer for Foreign Films
- ♪ Mixing (Film or Web Release) – Hindi
- ♪ Mixing (Film or Web Release) – Regional
- ♪ Mixing (Film or Web Release) – Foreign
- ♪ Dialogue Editor/ADR Engineer (Film or Web Release) – Hindi
- ♪ Dialogue Editor/ADR Engineer (Film or Web Release) – Regional
- ♪ Sound Editor Effects & Ambience (Film or Web Release) – Hindi
- ♪ Sound Editor Effects & Ambience (Film or Web Release) – Regional
- ♪ Foley Engineer/Artist (Film or Web Release) – Hindi
- ♪ Foley Engineer/Artist (Film or Web Release) – Regional
- ♪ Sync Sound Recording (Film or Web Release) – Hindi
- ♪ Sync Sound Recording (Film or Web Release) – Regional

### Documentary:

- ♪ Sound Designer for Documentaries
- ♪ Sync Sound Recording Documentaries
- ♪ Documentary Mixing
- ♪ Dialogue Editor/ADR Engineer for Documentaries
- ♪ Sound Editor Effects & Ambience for Documentaries
- ♪ Foley Engineer/Artist for Documentaries

### Short Films:

- ♪ Sound Designer for Short Films
- ♪ Dialogue Editor/ADR Engineer for Short Films
- ♪ Sound Editor Effects & Ambience for Short Films
- ♪ Short Films Mixing
- ♪ Foley Engineer/Artist for Short Films
- ♪ Sync Sound Recording for Short Films

## OTT:

### Web Series:

- ♪ Song Recording & Mixing Web Series – Hindi
- ♪ Song Recording & Mixing Web Series – Regional
- ♪ Music Producer Web Series – Hindi
- ♪ Music Producer Web Series – Regional
- ♪ Sound Designer for Web Series – Hindi
- ♪ Sound Designer for Web Series – Regional
- ♪ Dialogue Editor/ADR Engineer for Web Series – Hindi
- ♪ Dialogue Editor/ADR Engineer for Web Series – Regional
- ♪ Sound Editor Effects & Ambience for Web Series – Hindi
- ♪ Sound Editor Effects & Ambience for Web Series – Regional
- ♪ Mixing Web Series – Hindi
- ♪ Mixing Web Series – Regional
- ♪ Foley Engineer/Artist Web Series – Hindi
- ♪ Foley Engineer/Artist Web Series – Regional
- ♪ Sync Sound Recording Web Series

## Instrumental Music (Non-Classical):

- ♪ Recording/Mixing/Mastering
- ♪ Music Production

## Indian Classical Music:

- ♪ Vocal Recording/Mixing/Mastering
- ♪ Instrumental Recording/Mixing/Mastering

## Devotional/Spiritual Music:

- ♪ Recording/Mixing/Mastering
- ♪ Music Production

## Traditional Folk Music:

- ♪ Recording/Mixing/Mastering
- ♪ Music Production

## Independent Music:

### Recording/Mixing/Mastering:

- ♪ Rock/blues/Metal
- ♪ Electronic
- ♪ Pop
- ♪ Progressive/Alternative
- ♪ Acoustic
- ♪ Rap and Hip-Hop
- ♪ World/Fusion Music
- ♪ Immersive Music Mixing

### Music Producer:

- ♪ Rock/Blues/Metal
- ♪ Electronic
- ♪ Pop
- ♪ Progressive/Alternative
- ♪ Acoustic
- ♪ Rap and Hip-Hop
- ♪ World/Fusion Music
- ♪ Immersive Music Mixing

## Broadcast:

### Advertisement:

- ♪ Sound mixing for Advertisement

## Studio Of The Year:

- ♪ Recording and Post Production

## Jury Awards (Not Open for Nominations):

- ♪ Lifetime Achievement Award
- ♪ Mahaguru Award
- ♪ Song Of The Year

expertise and influence.

**Yogesh Pradhan**, a renowned violinist and music arranger, has worked on numerous albums and films. His collaborations with leading music directors and his contributions to films like *Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam* and *Devdas* highlight his versatility and impact in the music industry.

Since 2006, the Indian Recording Arts Academy Awards (IRAA) have estab-

lished themselves as a distinctive force in India's music scene. Breaking away from the traditional focus on mainstream categories, the IRAA Awards honor the unsung heroes of music production - the skilled engineers, mixers, and recording artists who bring soundtracks to life. By shining a light on technical excellence, these awards pay tribute to the behind-the-scenes talent that elevates music to new heights.

As the awards approach, the call for nominations serves as a vital opportunity for sound engineers, producers, and arrangers to showcase their work and be recognized for their contributions. The deadline for nominations is September 1st, and we encourage all eligible nominators to participate. This is not just a chance to gain recognition but also to contribute to the ongoing evolution of music production standards in India. The IRAA Awards stands as a testament to the dedication and artistry of those who shape the soundscapes of our favorite music. With the support of a jury composed of the industry's leading experts, this year's awards are set to honor the pioneers and innovators who continue to push the boundaries of sound. As we celebrate the best in music production and engineering, we look forward to acknowledging the exceptional talent that makes our auditory experiences truly extraordinary.