

Bringing Emotion on Stage: Prateek Kuhad's Silhouettes Tour



Das opted for an in-the-box workflow on the Avid S6L console, using third-party plug-ins like Oxford Dynamic EQ, McDSP, and Soothe Live to achieve optimal sound on the Silhouettes Tour, citing Ansata's impeccable support as integral to the process

Prateek Kuhad, widely recognised for his emotive songwriting and distinct sonic identity, elevated his artistry to a new level on *"The Silhouettes Tour"*. The tour became an exercise in faithfully translating the emotional depth of his studio recordings for expansive live audiences. Central to achieving this was FOH engineer **Supratik Das**, who brought a fresh perspective, sharp musical intuition, and the versatile **Avid S6L** system to the stage. Supporting this technical vision was **Ansata**, who pulled out all the stops to ensure that **Kuhad's artistry and Das' sonic vision** were realised with precision.

The Indian leg of the tour visited the cities of Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Delhi, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Indore, Jaipur, Kathmandu, Kolkata, Lucknow, Mumbai and Pune. The **Avid S6L** system served as the mixing console of choice for **Das** for the entirety of the tour. The console setup featured an elegant combination of 32D and 24D surfaces, seamlessly paired with the powerful **E6L 144/192** engine, a configuration designed to deliver precision, flexibility, and sonic finesse at every stop of the tour.

The Challenge: Scale, Compatibility and a Fresh Approach

With each show drawing a whopping average of **6,000 to 7,000 attendees**, the scale of the production was enormous. Spanning nearly **80 events** and requiring **56 snapshots**, the technical foundation needed to be both adaptable and rock solid.

One of the biggest challenges lay in ensuring that the show file remained compatible across a range of surface sizes, engine configurations (given the varying I/O counts), and stage rack availability.

Das was not travelling with a familiar setup, making a clean-sounding preamp that could be customised on demand essential. The Avid S6L checked all the right boxes.

Having worked with the band for nearly six years, previously using a different platform, Das sought to shake up his mixing process. He cited the S6L's mix-in-the-box features as a major factor in the console's selection.

"The fact that I could add third-party plugins from manufacturers like **Oxford**, **McDSP** and **Soothe Live** were definitely a bonus I was looking for. I also needed a lot of customisability in the workflow because the show is a complex one where I am also

mixing monitors from Front of House for a 7-piece band," Das emphasised.

Maintaining Consistency

It was essential that the emotional nuance of Kuhad's music, so familiar to fans streaming it through their phones, was preserved in the live setting. Capturing and delivering that same feeling on stage was the central challenge, and Das was determined to meet it. To ensure a consistent experience across cities, the same console setup had to be available at every venue, a logistical feat on a multi-city tour. That's where Ansata stepped up, providing crucial support to make it all possible.

Collaborating with Ansata

Ansata played a key role in supporting the tour, assisting with

critical data on the availability of consoles and engines. Application Specialists at Ansata are particularly crucial in addressing technical queries during the setup and preparation phases. Das described working with Ansata as a consistently reliable and wholesome experience. Having collaborated with them for many years, he also expressed enthusiasm about continuing the partnership in future projects. Snapshots took on a bulk of workload for the show. The prep was primarily done offline, with the help of virtual sound-checks across three months.

"As we neared the end of the tour, there was a show where we voluntarily cancelled soundcheck because we just thought we didn't need them. My key takeaways would be that the S6L is one of the most capable and reliable platforms to use on a large-scale event because everything is so well built and contained within that no external computers or hardware units are needed for a major part of it."

"The events feature has to be one of my favourites in the S6L ecosystem. Being able to program colour switches, function switches and X/Y switches to perform various tasks and having a function pad on the iPad with all the function key events on it, made it feel easy from gig to gig. Another feature that I absolutely love that no other console currently has, is snapshot recalled layouts. This is a game changer especially for someone like me who doesn't like changing a lot of pages but also needs to access a large number of inputs," Das emphatically noted.

The feature that stood out the most for Das was the ability to record up to 128 channels at 96kHz using a single cat6 cable via AVB. This also swayed Das' decision in favour of the S6L further, considering the other consoles on the market offered 64 channels out of the box, and engineers had to employ external devices to expand recording capability.

Memorable Reactions and First Impressions

The crew was genuinely surprised and impressed by the outcome achieved at the very first gig in Nepal. It marked the debut of a new band lineup, a redesigned set, a fresh stage layout, and new members in the crew, with excitement running high. Hearing the clarity and depth from the PA system came as a huge relief to Das and a pleasant surprise to the entire team, as it delivered a sonic experience they hadn't encountered before. One of the defining moments came in Kathmandu, where the first performance with the new band and stage design unfolded. "There was a collective moment of surprise and relief," says Das. "It was something we hadn't heard before."

With Supratik Das leading the mix and Ansata ensuring technical continuity, the tour managed to translate the emotion of Prateek Kuhad's soulful ballads to an audience of thousands. The Avid S6L proved itself a reliable partner throughout, offering the flexibility and precision the production demanded. In the end, what stood out wasn't just the scale of the tour, but how closely it resembled the feeling that first drew in Kuhad's fans.