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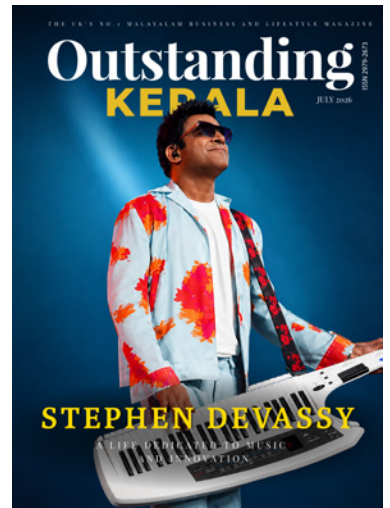
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STEPHEN DEVASSY

A LIFE DEDICATED TO MUSIC
AND INNOVATION

CREATIVE TEAM



JULY 2026 Edition

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STEPHEN DEVASSY

A Life Dedicated to
Music
and Innovation

Few instrumental musicians in India have built a career as dynamic and influential as Stephen Devassy. Known for his electrifying stage presence, exceptional keyboard skills, and ability to blend musical traditions from across the world, Devassy has spent more than two decades redefining what it means to be a modern instrumental performer.

Whether performing before thousands at international concerts, composing for films, mentoring young talent on television, or experimenting with global musical collaborations, he has consistently demonstrated an unwavering commitment to innovation. Yet behind the spotlight is a musician who remains deeply rooted in faith, family, and lifelong learning.





Early Life and Musical Foundations

Born on February 23, 1981, in Kerala, Stephen Devassy displayed an unusual affinity for music from an early age. Growing up in a musically inclined family, he quickly developed a fascination with melody, rhythm, and performance.

His formal musical journey began at the age of eleven when he started systematic training in piano. His dedication and discipline soon became evident when he completed the prestigious Trinity College London Grade 8 Piano Examination with an exceptional score.

While classical training provided a strong foundation, Devassy was never interested in limiting himself to a single style. He immersed himself in Western classical music, blues, jazz, rock, Carnatic traditions, devotional music, and contemporary fusion. This broad musical curiosity would eventually become one of the defining characteristics of his career.

Stepping Into the Professional World

Stephen Devassy entered the professional music industry at a remarkably young age. One of his early breakthroughs came when he worked on the album *Ishtamannu*, handling orchestration responsibilities while still a teenager.

Soon afterwards, opportunities expanded rapidly. Touring internationally with renowned playback singer Hariharan exposed him to global audiences and professional concert environments. His collaborations with violin maestro L. Subramaniam and several other respected musicians further strengthened his reputation as one of India's most promising young instrumentalists.

These experiences shaped not only his technical abilities but also his understanding of how music could transcend language, culture, and geography.

A Musician Without Borders

What distinguishes Stephen Devassy from many of his contemporaries is his refusal to remain confined within traditional musical boundaries.

His performances seamlessly combine Indian classical influences with jazz improvisation, contemporary arrangements, world music elements, and modern technology. Throughout his career, he has continuously explored new sounds and new possibilities.

Having performed nearly 2,000 concerts across approximately 60 countries, Devassy has taken Indian instrumental music to audiences around the world. His collaborations include legendary artists such as Zakir Hussain, Mandolin U. Srinivas, Louis Banks, Karaikudi Mani, Umayalpuram Sivaraman, and Ranjit Barot.

For Devassy, music has always been a universal language. Regardless of nationality or culture, he believes music has the power to connect people through shared emotions and experiences.

The Evolution from Piano to Keytar

Although Stephen Devassy's musical journey began with the piano, today's audiences often associate him with the keytar, the shoulder-mounted electronic keyboard that has become one of his signature instruments.

According to Devassy, the transition happened naturally. Over time, he noticed how audiences responded enthusiastically to the energy and movement the instrument brought to live performances. Rather than remaining stationary behind a keyboard stand, the keytar allowed him to interact more freely with audiences and create a more immersive concert experience.



The instrument eventually became an extension of his stage personality and contributed significantly to his reputation as one of India's most exciting live performers.



Live Performance: The Ultimate Test

Despite extensive studio experience, Devassy considers live performance a unique challenge. In the recording studio, musicians have the opportunity to revisit and refine their work. On stage, however, every note matters. There are no second takes and no opportunities for correction.

For him, this unpredictability is precisely what makes live performance special. The risk, spontaneity, and direct connection with audiences create a magic that cannot be replicated in a recording environment.

This passion for live music has remained central to his identity throughout his career.



Faith, Reflection, and Preparation

Before stepping onto any stage, Stephen Devassy follows a simple but meaningful routine. He spends time in prayer and quiet meditation before every performance.

This practice helps him remain centered and focused regardless of the venue or audience size. Throughout his career, Devassy has often spoken about viewing his musical gifts as a blessing and credits many of his opportunities to divine grace.

His humility and spiritual grounding continue to shape both his personal life and professional outlook.

Embracing Technology and Artificial Intelligence

As the music industry undergoes rapid technological transformation, Devassy remains optimistic about the future.

He believes artificial intelligence will inevitably influence music creation and production. While acknowledging that new technologies may bring challenges, he prefers to focus on their possibilities rather than their risks.

For him, every technological shift presents an opportunity for musicians to learn, adapt, and discover new forms of creative expression.

This willingness to embrace change has been a recurring theme throughout his career.

A Champion of New Musical Voices

Stephen Devassy is equally enthusiastic about the next generation of musicians.

He believes younger artists deserve recognition for developing their own unique musical identities rather than being measured solely against previous generations. He often points out that established musicians can learn just as much from emerging artists as young musicians learn from veterans.



His views on contemporary genres reflect this openness. While some critics dismiss rap and certain modern styles, Devassy sees them differently. He appreciates the distinctive energy they bring and believes every generation contributes something valuable to the evolution of music. This perspective has made him a respected mentor among aspiring performers.

Global Collaborations and the Project “Prakasha”

One of Devassy's recent international collaborations is the song Prakasha, created alongside American singer Alex Boyé.

The project blends Sanskrit lyrics with Yoruba, a language spoken in parts of West Africa, creating a unique musical dialogue between cultures. According to Devassy, the goal was to present Indian music to global audiences in a fresh and meaningful way.

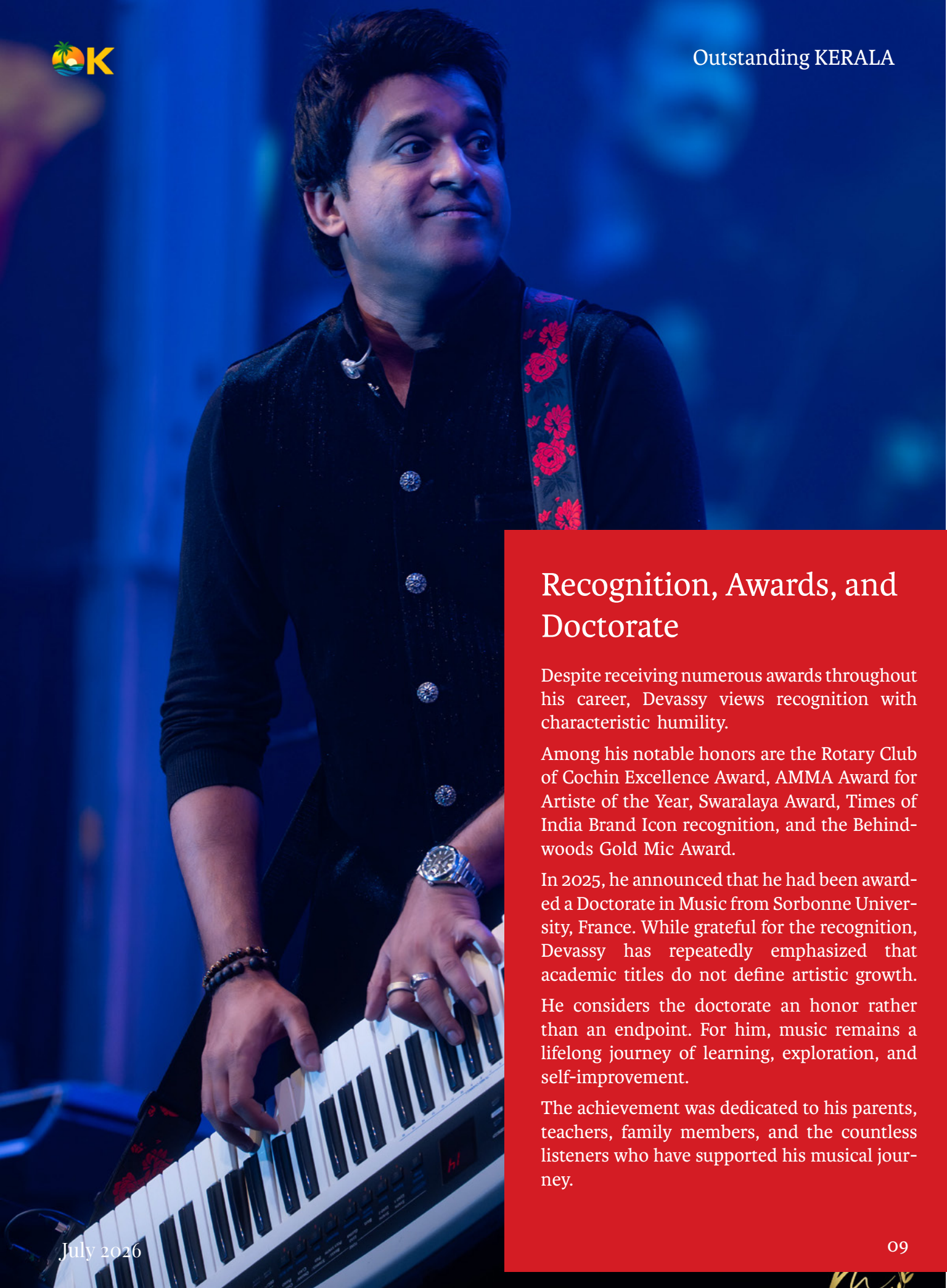
Prakasha forms part of a larger initiative titled Ekatha, which seeks to promote unity through music. Additional songs from the project are expected to further explore cross-cultural collaboration and shared human experiences.

Film Music, Television, and Education

Alongside his concert career, Stephen Devassy has contributed to film music as a composer, arranger, and programmer. His debut as a music director came with Hariharan Pillai Happy Aanu, and he has continued to work across various cinematic projects over the years.

Television audiences know him as a judge and mentor on popular music reality shows such as Star Singer, Top Singer, and Superstar Junior. His encouraging approach and technical expertise have earned him widespread admiration among contestants and viewers alike.

Devassy is also the founder of Musik Lounge in Chennai, an institution dedicated to music education and audio technology. Through this initiative, he continues to guide aspiring musicians and sound professionals.



Recognition, Awards, and Doctorate

Despite receiving numerous awards throughout his career, Devassy views recognition with characteristic humility.

Among his notable honors are the Rotary Club of Cochin Excellence Award, AMMA Award for Artiste of the Year, Swaralaya Award, Times of India Brand Icon recognition, and the Behindwoods Gold Mic Award.

In 2025, he announced that he had been awarded a Doctorate in Music from Sorbonne University, France. While grateful for the recognition, Devassy has repeatedly emphasized that academic titles do not define artistic growth.

He considers the doctorate an honor rather than an endpoint. For him, music remains a lifelong journey of learning, exploration, and self-improvement.

The achievement was dedicated to his parents, teachers, family members, and the countless listeners who have supported his musical journey.

Family and Life Beyond the Stage

Despite a demanding international schedule, Stephen Devassy places great importance on family.

He makes a conscious effort to spend quality time with his wife, Jesna Joy, and their son whenever possible. He has often spoken about noticing a natural musical inclination in his son and hopes to nurture that interest, particularly in piano performance.

Away from concert halls and television studios, Devassy is known for his grounded personality, humility, and strong sense of gratitude.

A Legacy Still Being Written

Stephen Devassy's story is one of continuous evolution. He has successfully bridged classical traditions and modern technology, local roots and global influences, technical mastery and emotional expression.

In an era where musical trends change rapidly, he remains committed to authenticity, creativity, and live performance. His willingness to embrace new ideas while respecting tradition has helped him remain relevant across generations.

More importantly, he continues to inspire audiences and young musicians alike by demonstrating that excellence is not a destination but a lifelong pursuit.

For Stephen Devassy, music is far more than entertainment. It is a language of connection, a tool for inspiration, and a journey that never truly ends.



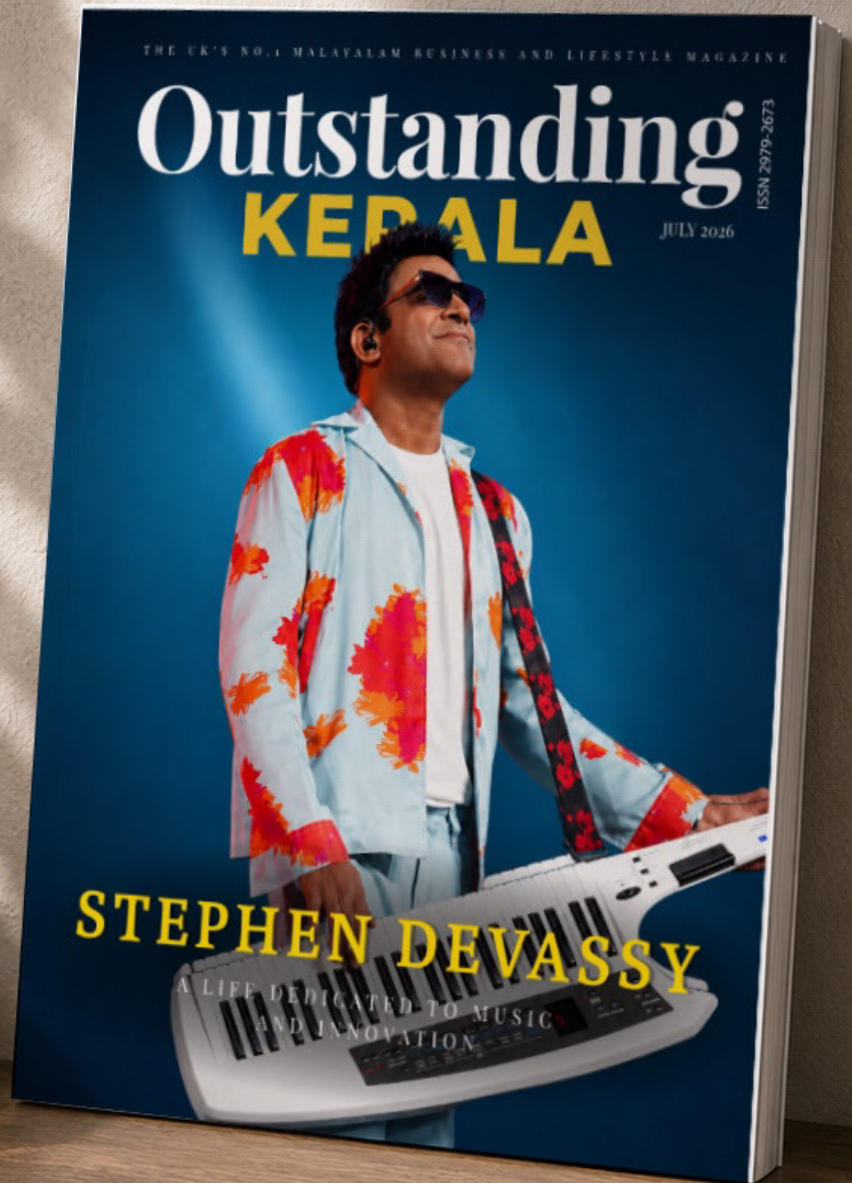
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