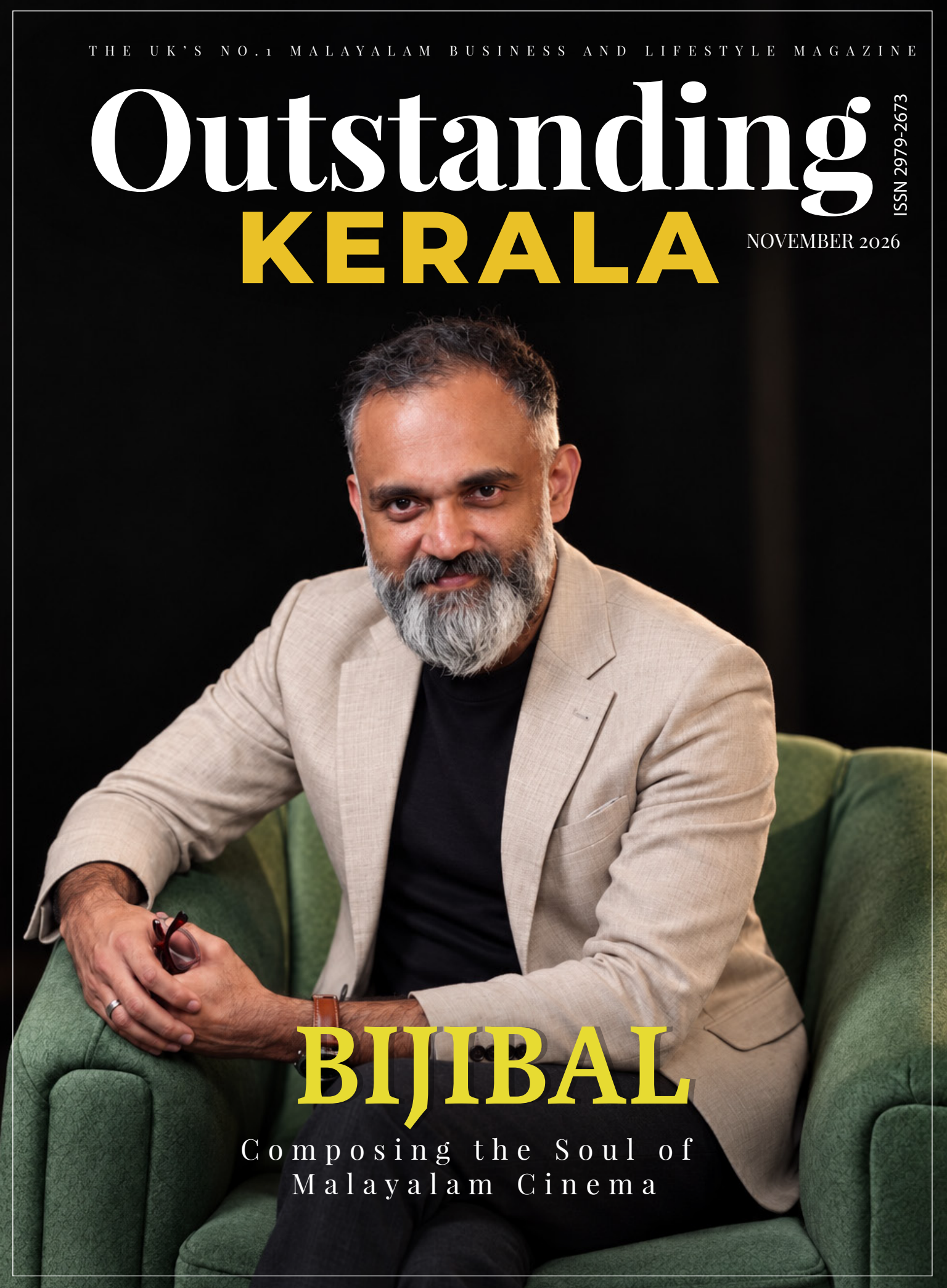
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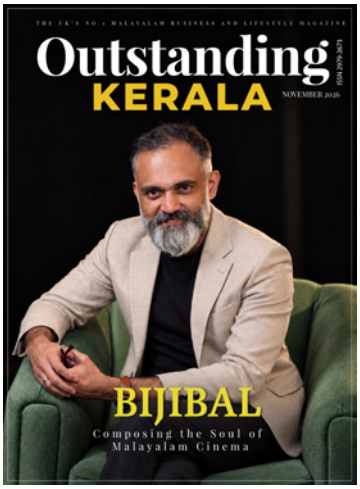
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BIJIBAL

Composing the Soul of Malayalam Cinema

CREATIVE TEAM



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SUMMARY

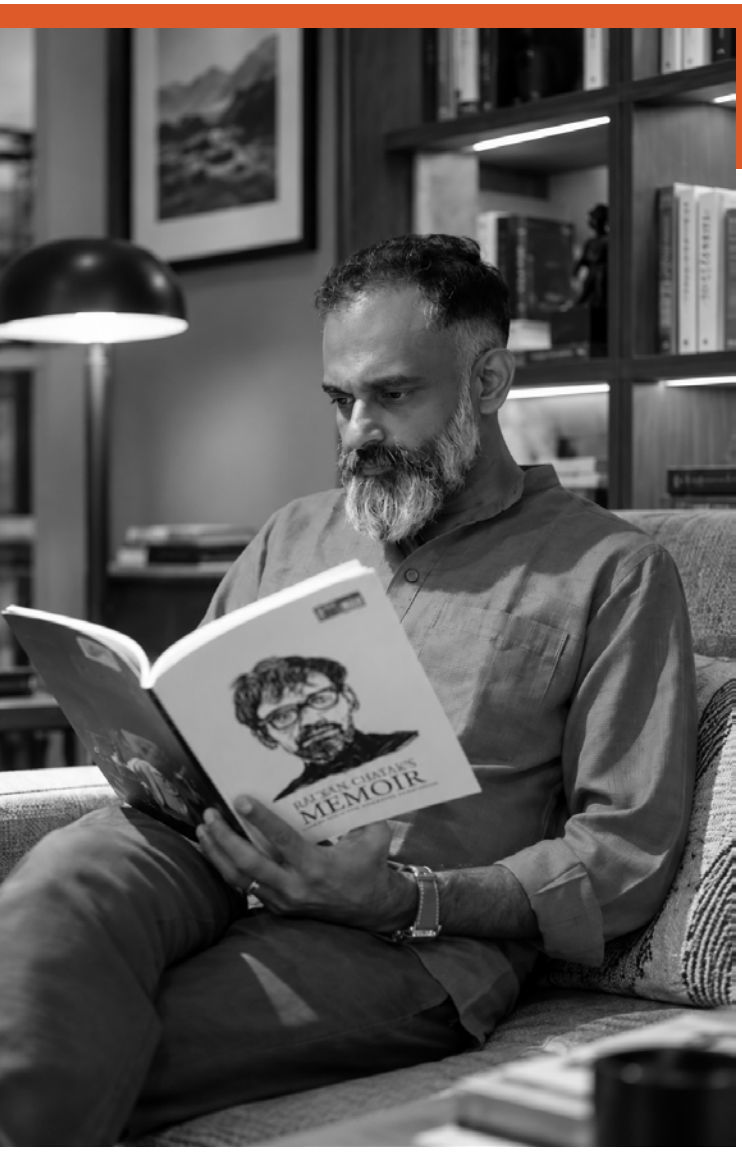
Bijibal is one of the prominent music composers in contemporary Malayalam cinema, known for creating melodies that complement stories with emotional depth and a distinctive musical identity. Over a career spanning more than two decades, he has composed music for numerous films and has also lent his voice to several Malayalam songs. His National Film Award-winning work, along with his contributions to film, television and independent music, has established him as an important figure in Kerala's music landscape.

For nearly two decades, Bijibal Maniyil has created music that feels close to everyday life. From popular songs to carefully crafted background scores, he has developed a distinctive musical language that connects with listeners across generations.

Born on May 21, 1974, Bijibal grew up in an environment where music was an integral part of family life. He received formal training in Carnatic violin. His journey eventually took him from advertising jingles to Malayalam cinema, where he made his film debut with Lal Jose's Arabikkatha in 2007.

A Musical Childhood

Bijibal's relationship with music began long before he entered the film industry. Growing up in a family with strong musical interests, he was exposed to art from an early age. Carnatic violin became his formal area of study, providing a solid foundation for his later work.



At St. Albert's College, he became actively involved in cultural activities and began experimenting with his own compositions, even performing original songs during university arts competitions. Yet cinema was not an immediate ambition; his professional path initially developed through advertising jingles.

From Jingles to Arabikkatha

Advertising served as an important bridge between Bijibal and Malayalam cinema. Through jingle production, he met prominent filmmakers, including Ranjith and Lal Jose.

His collaboration with Lal Jose led to his major breakthrough. Arabikkatha (2007) marked his official arrival as a film composer. The soundtrack gained immediate acclaim, particularly the iconic track "Thirike Njaan Varumenna...", written by Anil Panachooran and sung by K. J. Yesudas.

His debut quickly opened further doors. He subsequently scored acclaimed films including Paleri Manikyam, Kerala Cafe, Daddy Cool, Loudspeaker, and Salt N' Pepper, firmly establishing himself in the industry.

A Style Rooted in Simplicity

Bijibal's music is widely recognized for its simplicity and emotional directness. Rather than relying solely on elaborate arrangements or star vocalists, he frequently allows melody, lyrics, and mood to drive the narrative.

His collaborations with lyricists such as Rafeeq Ahammed, Santhosh Varma, Anil Panachooran, and B. K. Harinarayanan have produced numerous classic tracks. His compositions seamlessly blend folk influences, contemporary arrangements, and classical elements while retaining complete accessibility.

> *I never experience creative blocks in music.*



The Composer Behind the Silence

While his songs introduced him to a broad audience, background scoring became another defining pillar of his career.

His score for Kaliyachan was a major milestone, earning him the National Film Award for Best Music Direction (Background Score). He has also won multiple Kerala State Film Awards for Best Background Music for films such as Kaliyachan, Ozhimuri, Balyakalasakhi, Njaan, Pathemari, Nee-Na, and Aami.

These honors highlight his ability to use music as a core narrative tool, establishing rich atmosphere and seamless emotional transitions.

Songs That Became Part of Malayalam Cinema

Bijibal has composed for a wide array of landmark Malayalam films, including Munnariyippu, 101 Chodyangal, Vellimoonga, Balyakalasakhi, Pathemari, Maheshinte Prathikaaram, Thondimuthalum Driksakshiyum, Rakshadhikari Baiju Oppu, Aby, Android Kunjappan Version 5.25, Carbon, Vellam, and Thankam.

Maheshinte Prathikaaram proved to be another career landmark, earning him the Filmfare Award South and the South Indian International Movie Award (SIIMA) for Best Music Director.



More Than a Film Composer

Bijibal's artistic pursuits extend beyond mainstream cinema into non-film music, short films, independent projects, and television programming.

He has been closely associated with Bodhi Silent Scape, an initiative dedicated to independent music and supporting emerging talent. Through such platforms, he continues to explore music as a pure creative space outside commercial constraints.

One of his most unique contributions can be heard daily on the Kochi Metro. Bijibal composed the signature audio cues used for opening and closing train doors, bringing a touch of regional musical identity to an everyday public transport experience.

The Singer Within the Composer

Although best known as a composer, Bijibal is also an accomplished playback singer. His vocal work in films like Paleri Manikyam and various independent projects highlights another dimension of his artistic identity.

Music, Family, and Legacy

Bijibal married dancer and singer Santhi in 2002. Santhi was trained in Bharatanatyam and was actively pursuing research in Mohiniyattam before her untimely passing in 2017 at the age of 36.

Their children, Devadutt and Daya, carry forward this artistic line. Daya gained wider public recognition through her singing, including her popular contribution to the Onam track "Onam Vannallo."



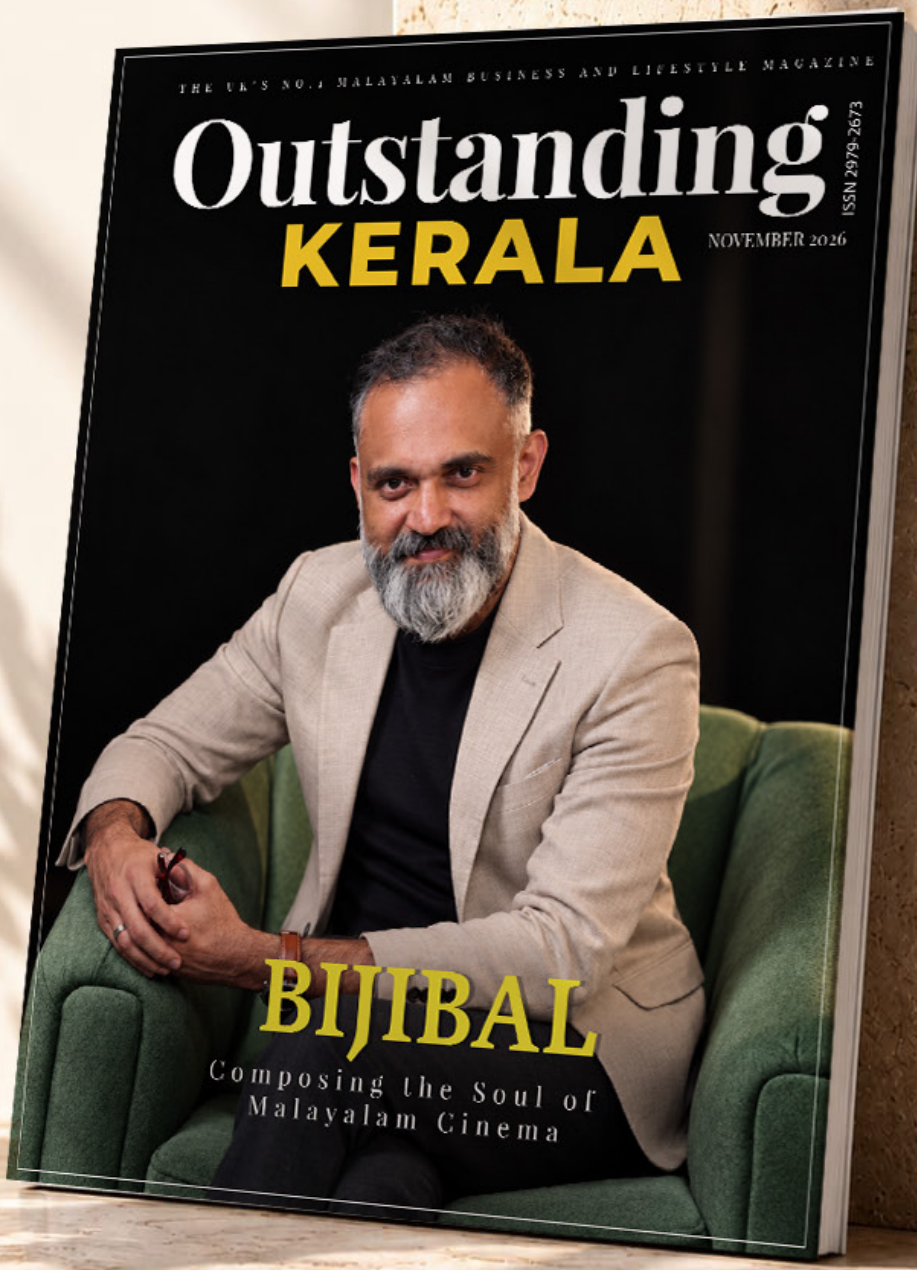
A Lasting Musical Identity

Bijibal's career stands out not just for its volume of work and accolades, but for the unwavering consistency of his musical voice. Entering Malayalam cinema during a era of stylistic transition, he adapted to modern sounds without sacrificing melodic depth.

At the heart of Bijibal's work lies a simple philosophy: music does not always need to announce itself loudly to be remembered. A subtle melody, a quiet rhythm, or a delicate score can become permanently woven into a film and the memories of its audience. That understated elegance remains his defining signature.

Outstanding Malayali of Kerala

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