

The banner features the 'play to potential' logo on the left. To its right are contact details: a WhatsApp icon with the number '+91 85914 52129\*', a Twitter icon with the handle '@PlayToPotential', and a globe icon with the website 'playtopotential.com'. Further right, under the heading 'Also available on:', are icons for Spotify, Apple Podcasts, and Google Podcasts. On the far right, a portrait of a man in a suit and glasses is shown, with a red callout box below it identifying him as 'Podcast Host Deepak Jayaraman'. At the bottom left of the banner, a small note reads: '\*Just send us a Whatsapp with your name, number and email and we will add you to our distribution list.'

## Context to the nugget

Jayashri talks about her chance meeting with Shri Lalgudi Jayaraman and how that changed everything for her. She discusses the faith that he had in her when he asked her to learn music under his guidance and how that instilled a sense of responsibility for her to stay committed to the path.

## Transcription

\*\*\*\*\*

**Deepak Jayaraman (DJ):** Rewind the clock I am curious about the point in time where you probably made the commitment to take music as a full time profession talk a little bit about that inflection point.

**Bombay Jayashri (BJ):** The pathway were created very early in my life when I was a child both my parents taught Carnatic Classical Music in our home, in Bombay, my father taught my mother taught and so waking up to the music in the morning and going to bed with music, listening to their classes is what I remember, so there was music always but that it would become eventually my career came much later so it always meant going for school participating in school competitions, inter college contests and then starting to sing jingles in Bombay, singing for documentaries landing my voice for multiple languages and then small concerts and then a trip or two in Chennai to be the part of the December festival these were all that little paths that came along my way, they just happened to be there, when I moved to Chennai to be under the guidance of my guru Shree Lalgudi Jayaraman, at that point I think the couple of ones after moving to Chennai when I realized that this is what I am going to do for the rest of my life.

**DJ:** How did you think about learning under Shree? Lalgudi Jayaraman? Talk to us about the choice of the coach.

**BJ:** I was training with my parents always and with SMT. T.R. Balamani a very very loved teacher and guru in Bombay for several years. There was something in Chennai, it was a competition again and I was happened to receive a prize given to be my Lalgudi sir and he heard me sing and I had an opportunity for the first time to hear his concert in Bombay around that time and when I heard that music and I remember I was sitting on the floor, it was Gandhi Maidan University with my friend and almost I was be able to touch the end of the stage where the artist were seated and it was something inside me that told me, If I can just pack a small bag of what I need and just go away with where this music takes you I didn't even know what it meant and how it could be possible and fortunately with me, when he heard me sing he told my mother if you send her to Chennai I will teach her and my mother wasn't sure, because it was a very tall order, I means somebody as great as he, somebody as accomplished as he, a busy person, why would he want to take a young student like me who was just work learning to sing better but everything like I told you the pathway just

formed in my life it just had to make a deep wish and a deep desire and I came to Chennai and I started training from him in 1989.

DJ: And you are saying those two were two independent things, you attaining that concert in Chembur and him hearing you sing and telling your mother that's where I guess in a way both happened on the parallel of the same platform. Around the two month mark after which you said, again what shifted if I may ask for you to say this is life?

BJ: So I came with a lot of self-doubt about myself, my music whether this is even a pathway for me though all I knew and all I learnt and was trained was music so my guru created that urge within me to be committed to be motivated to practice and he told me that I have faith that you will take this up full time and I think he saw it in my eyes, me? ... And he said yes only you can do it so every word of that I remember now, only you can do it! Is what so coming from someone who was a disciplinarian, who was an achiever himself and there was nothing he hadn't achieved and he was the ultimate musician's musician and for him to say that for me meant a lot it was a huge responsibility, after that it was me it was a hope that he placed in me and also I had to do it for him.

DJ: For people who are at that cross roads often in a lot of families, music is treated as a hobby or vocation on aside but what advice do you give to people at that cross roads of making it as a commitment or making it as a career what are the mistakes that you see when they taking that plunge?

BJ: I think if the music bug by its you and then by its in your heart and if there is any youngster who comes and tells me, I want to do music all time I just tell them one thing, plunge into it but understand you have to work persistently long hours for the rest of your life and you have to keep your motivation and drive up and you should have the good fortune of someone guiding you otherwise you will be lost in this deep ocean so if someone wants to take music they must take music, because it's a very beautiful world.

DJ: And actually if I may persist with that, off the three or four things that you said, three are within your control discipline, long hours and so on somebody taking you up is something outside your control so for somebody who is sort of that lone voice out there who still yet to find, let's say home in terms of a mentor what's the advice in those situations?

BJ: Its possible they don't find that person but they can find that inspiration around them in several of the musicians who have given us this wealth of music before by listening to them by, I have realized when I work some of the answers just don on me, my guru is not around now and I still have several questions and queries about the music but then you seem to hear them if you look deep within, it's possible.

## Reflections from Deepak Jayaraman

DJ: What struck me the most here was the point Jayashri makes about Shri Lalgudi Jayaraman looking at her and saying "only you can do it"? Sometimes during inflection points, we don't have a sense of what we have the potential for. Relying on people around us who have achieved excellence to be a compass is often a helpful approach. Sometimes it is not a rational process but more of an instinctive one as was possibly the case here.

I guess, often there are constraints to making choices based on self-awareness built through internal reflection. Sometimes, we might have to rely on an outside-in view during key passages of play for us to move forward.

Thank you for listening. For more please visit [www.playtopotential.com](http://www.playtopotential.com) if you want to listen to conversation offline, say during an airplane ride or during a gym session or another time, you could access it at iTunes, Google's Podcast Player, Stitcher, Saavn or any of the other podcast apps that are out there.

## End of nugget transcription

\*\*\*\*\*

### RELATED PLAYLISTS YOU MIGHT LIKE

**Coaching:** The business world is slowly waking up to the fact that just like in elite sports; there is a tremendous value to be unlocked by having an effective coach for a leader. It is not just about fixing issues but also about enabling the journey from Good to Great. Leaders across disciplines share their insights around how one should pick a coach and get the most out of such a relationship. You can access the playlist [here](#).

**Spotting potential:** As we move towards a world where intrinsic capabilities count for more and more, how we spot diamonds in the rough is a capability that will begin to matter more and more. This is as relevant for hiring as for investing. Leaders across disciplines share their insights on how they look for raw potential that can then be honed. You can access the playlist [here](#).

**Navigational principles:** Leaders discuss their personal frameworks around how they made choices around pivotal moments in their lives. They articulate the set of criteria we should consider having when we are at a fork on the road and have to pick between disparate options. Arguably one of the most critical skills of the future as we navigate a world of abundance. You can access the playlist [here](#).

### SIGN UP TO OUR COMMUNICATION

**Podcast Newsletter:** Join 1000s of leaders who benefit from the Podcast newsletter. Not more than 1-2 emails a month including keeping you posted on the new content that comes up at the podcast. High on signal, low on noise. Sign up for the podcast newsletter [here](#).

**Nuggets on Whatsapp:** We also have a [Podcast Whatsapp distribution group \(+91 85914 52129\)](#) where we share 2-3 nuggets a week from the Podcast archives to provoke reflection. If that is of interest, please click [here](#) and send a message stating "INTERESTED". Do also add this number to your Phone Contacts so that we can broadcast our messages to you when we share a nugget.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Bombay Jayashri - Nuggets**

- 33.00 Bombay Jayashri - The Full Conversation
- 33.01 Bombay Jayashri - Committing to a career in Music
- 33.02 Bombay Jayashri - Characteristics of great coaches
- 33.03 Bombay Jayashri - Deliberate practice
- 33.04 Bombay Jayashri - Team work in a concert
- 33.05 Bombay Jayashri - Making Directional Choices
- 33.06 Bombay Jayashri - Music and Technology
- 33.07 Bombay Jayashri - Sir Ang Lee and Excellence
- 33.08 Bombay Jayashri - Balancing work and life
- 33.09 Bombay Jayashri - In Summary

### **About Deepak Jayaraman**

Deepak seeks to unlock human potential of senior executive's / leadership teams by working with them as an Executive Coach / Sounding Board / Transition Advisor. You can know more about his work [here](#).

### **Disclaimer and clarification of intent behind the transcripts**

This written transcript of the conversation is being made available to make it easier for some people to digest the content in the podcast. Several listeners felt that the written format would be helpful. This may not make sense as an independent document. Very often spoken word does not necessarily read well. Several of the guests have published books and the language in their books might be quite different from the way they speak. We request the readers to appreciate that this transcript is being offered as a service to derive greater value from the podcast content. We request you not to apply journalistic standards to this document.

This document is a transcription obtained through a third party/voice recognition software. There is no claim to accuracy on the content provided in this document, and occasional divergence from the audio file are to be expected. As a transcription, this is not a legal document in itself, and should not be considered binding to advice intelligence, but merely a convenience for reference.

The tags that are used to organize the nuggets in the podcast are evolving and work in progress. You might find that there could be a discrepancy between the nuggets as referenced here and in the actual podcast given this is a static document.

All rights reserved. No part of this document may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, or stored in any retrieval system of any nature without prior written permission.