

CHURCH STREET SCHOOL FOR MUSIC AND ART — EST. 1990 —

NYC Community Arts Nonprofit Honors Longtime Supporters and Musicians, The Agneshwar Family

On Monday, March 9th at the iconic Roxy Hotel, Church Street School for Music & Art (CSSMA) will honor The Agneshwar Family: Anand, Arpana, Anjali, and Rohan during their annual gala THE EVENT, celebrating the family's extraordinary commitment to music, community, and arts education.

The Agneshwar family's relationship with Church Street School began six years ago, when their daughter, singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Anjali (stage name Aria Anjali), performed her original music at a CSSMA Open Mic Night. The family was immediately embraced by the school's community, including then-Executive Director and CSSMA co-founder Dr. Lisa Ecklund-Flores, who personally invited Anjali to perform at the school's annual block party, The Happening. Since that first performance, the entire family has become deeply embedded in the life of Church Street School.

Dad Anand joined the Board of Directors, mom Arpana became a familiar and enthusiastic presence at school events and performances, and son Rohan began taking drum lessons, participating in CSSMA's teen program 72, and supporting the school's social media efforts.

A musical family in every sense, the Agneshwars share a lifelong passion for music that spans generations. **"Our family lives and breathes music,"** said Anand. **"Both of our kids focus their academics and extracurricular activities on the intersection between music and society."** Anand, a lifelong guitarist, grew up playing in bands and idolizing artists like The Moody Blues. Arpana, also a guitarist and vocalist, began singing in church choirs and revivals. Today, music remains central to their daily lives, with a home studio built for budding producer Rohan, and regular trips between New York City and Nashville so that Anjali can perform and share her powerful, evocative songs with new audiences. She has played at legendary venues like the Bluebird Café and Fox & Locke.

For Anand and Arpana, witnessing their children's creative voices grow has been, in their words, amazing, and deepened their commitment to supporting other young musicians and strengthening community through the arts. Especially during these challenging and divisive times. **"We believe strongly in the healing and connective power of music."** Anand explained. **"Music can change society and culture. Both Rohan and Anjali have written about music as a force for social and political change, both in times of peace and times of war. Music connects people on a unique plane and can communicate and stir action where ordinary speeches cannot."**

This year's EVENT gala will recognize the Agneshwar family's vital role in supporting and uplifting Church Street School over the last six years. For the family, the honor is also a meaningful way to celebrate the profound impact CSSMA has had on their own musical journey and to support the school's mission of ensuring equal access to high-quality arts education for all. **"The incredible work that Church Street does spreading music in the community and supporting young artists is truly special and rare [...] it is a fabulous honor."**

