



Rasika Ranjani Sabha®

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30/1 SUNDARESWARAR STREET, MYLAPORE, CHENNAI - 600004

CITATION

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD – 2023

to

Dr. Umayalpuram K Sivaraman

Dr. Umayalpuram K Sivaraman, earned himself a unique place as one of the greatest legends. In a career spanning 78 years till date, he has covered the entire gamut of percussive music, accompanying the greatest legends in Carnatic Music and Hindustani Music, including Fusion Music, Jazz bands. He has given lecture demonstration, and has research on the science of design & construction of mridangam. He has documented his unique 'bani' through his book "The Voyage of mridangam and its high voltage art".

Dr. Sivaraman belongs to the direct sishya Parampara of Saint Thyagaraja. His percussive talents were identified by his father, Dr.P.Kasi Viswanath Iyer, at the age of 3. He was formally initiated into gurukulavasam at the age of 5 from 4 illustrious gurus, Arupathi Natesa Iyer, Tanjavur Vaidyanatha Iyer, Palghat Mani Iyer and Kumbakonam (Sakottai) Rangu Iyengar. His maiden concert was at the age of 10 in Kumbakonam. He has established an unique bani (style) of his own "the Umayalpuram Sivaraman Bani" and trained hundreds of students in India & abroad and has bequeathed his knowledge of this great art form, techniques, nuances to these disciples to continue this tradition globally. He has pioneered the comprehensive documentation of this through his magnum opus; a 22 ½ hour, 7 pack DVD "Mrudanga Chintamani". As a sequel to this, another 2 pack DVD "Moras and Korvais" that runs for 10 hours and contains 200+ compositions has been released. A significant highlight is the demonstration of his own compositions for dance (Adavus) and the pinnacle of glory for any percussionist, playing with the Rhythm box.

His research and publications include: Design and construction of a fibre glass mridangam, study of tonal quality and overtones of the mridangam through investigations on the materials for black patch, various types of skins and hides in collaboration with India's premier institute, Central Leather Research Institute and Indian Institute of Technology, Chennai on Stroke transcription of Carnatic Music percussion instruments. He introduced a concert worthy mridangam made in glass. He has also co-authored the book "Musical Excellence of Mridangam" with Padma Bhushan Dr. T. Ramasami & Dr.M.D.Naresh, launched by His Excellency the Vice President of India in 2019.

His awards include the Padma Vibhushan by the President of India, the first time conferred on an mridangam artiste. Some of the other noteworthy awards are Padma Bhushan, Sangita Kalanidhi, Fellow Sangeet Natak Akademi, National Citizen Award, Kalaimamani, Isai Perarignar, Mrudangam Legend, etc. He has received D.Litt (Doctorate) from University of Kerala, Tamil Nadu Dr.J.Jayalalithaa Music & Fine Arts University and Gandhi Rural Institute, Tamil Nadu {conferred by Honourable Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi}.

He has also accompanied numerous musical legends like Ariyakudi Ramanuja Iyengar, Maharajapuram Viswanatha Iyer, Chembai Vaidyanatha Bhagavathar, Musiri Subramania Iyer, Dr. Semmangudi Srinivasa Iyer, Madurai Mani Iyer, T.R.Mahalingam, M.D.Ramanathan, Dr.M.Balamuralikrishna, T.N. Krishnan, Maharajapuram Santhanam, Lalgudi Jayaraman, Seerkazhi Govindarajan, etc in Carnatic Music and Pt. Ravi Shankar, Pt Kishan Maharaj, Ustad Alla Rakha, Ustad Zahir Hussain, Pt, Anindo Chatterjee, etc in Hindustani Music and Fabrizio Cassol, Michael, Hatzigeorgiou, Stephan Galland of Aka Moon Jazz band (Belgium) in Jazz and Fusion Music.

The Award Committee of Rasika Ranjani Sabha takes great pleasure in conferring the
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD – 2023
for EXCELLENCE IN MRUDANGAM to Dr. UMALPURAM K SIVARAMAN
on this 18th day of August 2023.