



The Music Academy, Madras

No. 168, T.T.K. Road, Royapettah, Chennai - 600 014. Phone: 2811 2231, 2811 5162

email: music@musicacademymadras.com Website: www.musicacademymadras.in

N. Murali
President

President's Office: C/o THE HINDU,
859, 860 Anna Salai, Chennai 600 002.
Phone : 2857 6300
email: nmurali@thehindu.co.in

23rd March 2025.

PRESS RELEASE

The Music Academy announces Sangita Kalanidhi, Nritya Kalanidhi and other awards for 2025.

The Executive Committee of the Music Academy Madras at its meeting on March 23, 2025 decided to confer its Annual Awards on the following artistes:

MUSIC

Sangita Kalanidhi

R. K. Shriramkumar – One of the best-known violinists in the art, R.K. Shriramkumar comes from a family hailing from Rudrapatnam in Karnataka that has given us many renowned musicians. He trained under his grandfather and eminent violinist R.K. Venkatarama Sastry. He also underwent training under Sangita Kalanidhi D.K. Jayaraman. Known for having accompanied artistes ranging from veterans such as Sangita Kalanidhi-s Semmangudi R. Srinivasa Iyer, T. Brinda, M.S.Subbulakshmi and D.K. Pattammal to present day musicians, Shriramkumar is also known for his wide repertoire, his in-depth lecture demonstrations, his tuning of compositions and composing of songs. He is much sought-after guru as well. In the past few decades, he has been acknowledged as an authority on the Sangita Sampradaya Pradarsini of Subbarama Dikshitar, which remains one of the best-known compilations of Muthuswami Dikshitar compositions. It is but fitting that he has been chosen for this prestigious award in the year marking the 250th birth anniversary of the master-composer.

Sangita Kala Acharya - 2 awards.

Shyamala Venkateswaran – One of the senior artistes in the field, Shyamala Venkateswaran began learning music at the age of five. Her singing talent was



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recognised early by the Music Academy and the city-based Sabha-s. She worked as a staff artiste at the All India Radio and was also graded A-Top in that organisation. She has performed at various venues in India and abroad and is a much-respected guru.

Thanjavur R. Govindarajan – Among the senior-most Taval artistes of today, Thanjavur Govindarajan has been performing on this instrument for over sixty years. He began his tutelage at the age of eight and within four years exhibited great mastery over the instrument. By the 1970s he became a front-ranker in Nagaswaram-Taval ensembles. He is a widely sought after guru and has trained several disciples.

TTK Award - 2 awards.

Madambi Subramania Namboothiri – Considered one of the authorities in Kathakali Music, Madambi Subramania Namboothiri received training in Kathakali and Carnatic Music. He was part of the Kerala Kalamandalam faculty for over 30 years and has also performed widely in India and abroad. He is known for his strict adherence to the Kathakali idiom in his music rendering and has trained disciples in the art.

J.T. Jeyaraaj Krishnan and Jaysri Jeyaraaj Krishnan – Jeyaraaj and Jayasri had their training on the veena from the Guruguha Gana Vidyalaya, Kolkata where they trained under Brahmasri Anantharama Iyer and his sister A. Champakavalli. They trace their lineage to Muthuswami Dikshitar via this tutelage and have performed widely as a vainika duo. They are A Top artistes at the AIR and are noted for their adherence to the pathanthara of their school.



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Musicologist Award

Prof. C.A. Sridhara – Associate Professor, University College of Fine Arts for Women and noted Musicologist.

DANCE

Nritya Kalanidhi

Urmila Satyanarayana – Trained under Guru-s K.N. Dandayudhapani Pillai, K.J. Sarasa and Kalanidhi Narayanan, Urmila had her debut at the age of ten. Over the years she established herself as a front-ranking Bharata Natyam artiste. Apart from being a renowned choreographer, she is also a much sought-after Guru and has trained numerous disciples in the field through the Dance School she founded "Natya Sankalpaa".

The Sangita Kalanidhi awardee will preside over the academic sessions of the 99th Annual Conference and Concerts of The Music Academy to be held between December 15, 2025 and January 1, 2026 and will receive the award, together with those selected for the Sangita Kala Acharya, the TTK and the Musicologist awards at the Sadas on January 1, 2026.

The Nritya Kalanidhi awardee will receive the award at the Inauguration of The Music Academy's 19th Annual Dance Festival on January 3, 2026.

N. MURALI
PRESIDENT.