



VIDUSHI A. KANYAKUMARI



Smt. A Kanyakumari is one of the foremost exponents of Carnatic violin, widely revered for her remarkable versatility as a soloist, accompanist, composer, and guru. She grew up in a musically rich environment that nurtured her early interest in the violin from a young age. After moving to Chennai in 1969, she underwent rigorous training under eminent gurus such as Sri Ivaturi Vijeswara Rao, Sri M. Chandrasekaran, and the legendary Dr. M. L. Vasantakumari. In the early years of her career as an accompanist, she has accompanied legends including, Dr. M. L. Vasantakumari, D. K. Pattammal, Dr. M. Balamuralikrishna and many prominent artists. With a career spanning over five decades, she has evolved a distinctive musical voice marked by a seamless blend of classicism and innovation.

Her playing is celebrated for its Gayaki approach—bringing a vocal-like expressiveness to the violin—along with her exploration as a composer par excellence. Since her early years as a violinist, she has gone on to perform extensively across India and internationally. Beyond the concert stage, her contributions as a teacher have been profound. She has mentored numerous disciples, extending her profound knowledge to over three generations of violinists. A Kanyakumari has been awarded Padma Shri (2015), Sangeetha Kalanidhi from the Madras Music Academy (2016) and the Kalaimamani award from the Government of Tamil Nadu.



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VIDWAN KAMALAKIRAN VINJAMURI

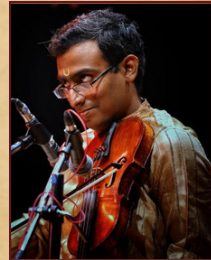


Vidwan Kamalakaran Vinjamuri is a Carnatic violinist based in Washington, D.C. He began his musical training under his grandfather, Sri Parthasarathy Iyengar, and later continued learning from Smt. Malladi Vijayalakshmi and his father, Sri Subhash Vinjamuri. Since 2006, he has been under the tutelage of Sangeethakalanidhi Smt. A. Kanyakumari. A seasoned performer, Kamalakaran has presented concerts across the United States, India, and Europe. He has performed at prestigious venues including the Kennedy Center, The Music Academy in Chennai, and the Richmond Folk Festival, along with numerous sabhas in India since 2009. He has accompanied several renowned artists in the Carnatic music world, including M. Balamuralikrishna, T. N. Seshagopalan, and Sudha Raganathan.

In recognition of his exceptional talent, he has received awards from esteemed institutions such as Sri Mylapore Fine Arts, Sri Parthasarathy Swami Sabha, Sri Krishna Gana Sabha, and the Cleveland Thyagaraja Aradhana. In addition to his musical pursuits, Kamalakaran studied Information Technology with a focus on cybersecurity at George Mason University.

VIDWAN L. RAMAKRISHNAN

Vidwan L. Ramakrishnan is a highly respected Carnatic violinist, widely recognized for his excellence as an accompanist. Born into a musical family, he was introduced to music at a young age, beginning with harmonium and bhajans in Kuwait before continuing his training at the Shanmukhananda Vidyalaya in Mumbai. He took up the violin in 1993 and went on to complete his formal training, earning the Shanmukha Mani title in 2001. He began his violin training under Smt. Visalam Vageeshwar, and later came under the guidance of his most influential guru, Sangeethakalanidhi Smt. A. Kanyakumari. Under her mentorship, he developed a deep understanding of musical expression, focusing not only on technical precision but also on the subtleties of accompaniment and tonal quality.



Ramakrishnan gave his first Chennai concert at the age of 17 and has since established himself as a highly sought-after accompanist. He has performed alongside leading Carnatic musicians such as Sri T. V. Sankaranarayanan, Smt. Sudha Raganathan, Smt. Bombay Jayashri, and Sri T. M. Krishna. In recognition of his accomplishments, he has received several honors, including the Best Accompanying Violinist award from The Music Academy, the Lalgudi Jayaraman Award, and the title of Sri Kanchipuram Asthana Vidwan in 2010.



VIDWAN PATRI SATISH KUMAR



Vidwan Patri Satish Kumar is a Carnatic mridangist based in India. He was born into a third-generation musical family in Vizianagaram, Andhra Pradesh, and was introduced to the mridangam at the age of 3 by his mother, Smt. Padmavathi. He received training under renowned gurus including Sri R. Sree Ramachandramurthy, Sri V.A. Swamy, and Sri V. Narasimham. With over 47 years of concert experience, Patri is a widely acclaimed international performer who has appeared at major venues such as the Rashtrapati Bhavan, Kennedy Center, Royal Albert Hall, Sydney Opera House, and the Music Academy Chennai. Patri also holds the title of an A-grade artist of All India Radio and Doordarshan, Chennai. As a percussionist, he is known for his exceptional balance between treble and bass tones, as well as his distinctive and influential playing style.

He has made significant contributions to the field of percussion, including the development of new rhythmic concepts, the blending of Carnatic and Hindustani percussion styles, and the founding of the Patri Drum Festival. He has received numerous awards and honors for his contributions to music, including the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 2020, the Global Peace Award in 2018, and an honorary doctorate from the University of California, Berkeley in 2019 to name a few.

VIDWAN S. SUNIL KUMAR

Vidwan S. Sunil Kumar is a Carnatic kanjira artist, teacher, and stage performer. His initial training in classical percussion came under the guidance of his father, Sri Triplicane K. Sekar. He later pursued advanced training in kanjira from Sri V. Selvaganesh and konnakol from Sri T. H. Vikku Vinayakram.

Sunil has accompanied several leading artists, including Smt. Sudha Ragunathan, Smt. Bombay Jayashri, Sri Sanjay Subrahmanyam, and Smt. A. Kanyakumari, among others. He has performed at major venues and festivals such as the Music Academy Chennai, Sri Krishna Gana Sabha, and Brahma Gana Sabha, as well as at events organized by the Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Peetham and SVBC programs. Notably, he has also presented a kanjira solo performance for Ustad Alla Rakha.



Sunil has received numerous awards and honors for his contributions to music, including the Thethakudi Harihara Sharma Percussion Award from Sri Krishna Gana Sabha in 2011, the Dr. M.S. Subbulakshmi Fellowship from Mumbai Shanmukhananda in 2015, and the title of Asthana Vidwan from the Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Peetham in 2013.



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