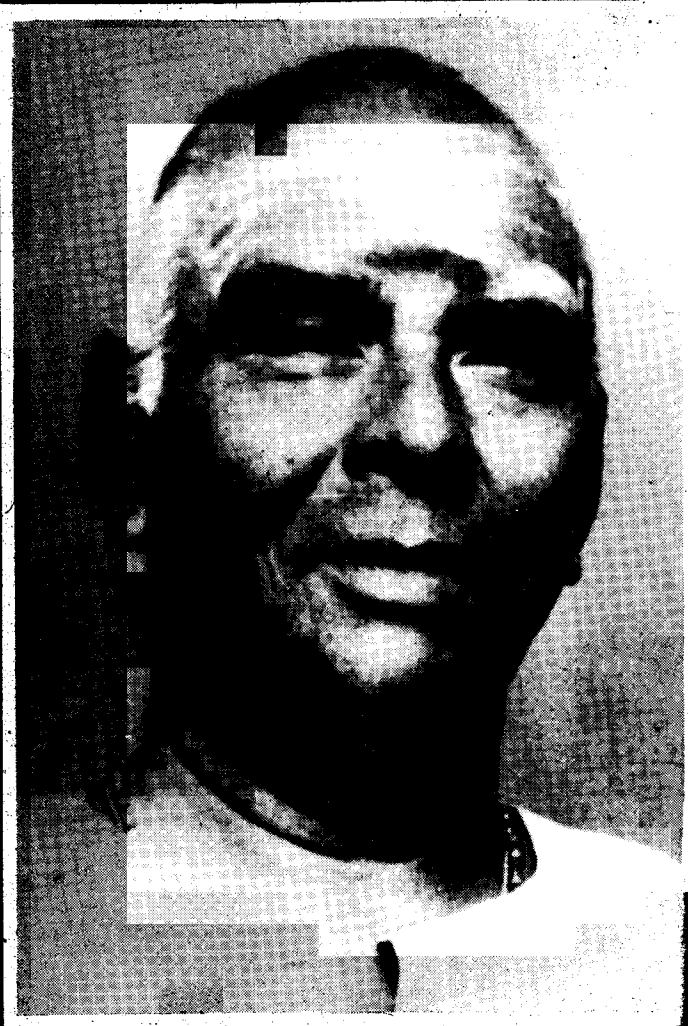


V. Shanmugasundaram Pillai



I present to you, Sir, Shri Valangaiman A. Shanmugasundaram Pillai.

Shri Shanmugasundaram Pillai was born in 1920 at Segalnadapuram in Tamil Nadu. He received his initial training in Thavil from his father Shri V. Arumugam Pillai and his uncle Shri V. Seetharama Pillai. He was later a disciple of the late N. Raghava Pillai.

Shri Shanmugasundaram Pillai has been performing from the age of fifteen, initially with his eminent Guru, Raghava Pillai, and thereafter as an accompanist to a number of renowned Nadaswaram players. He has had the rare distinction of playing the Thavil as a soloist. His performances are marked by vigorous technique and imaginative improvisation. The foremost Thavil player today, Shri Shanmugasundaram Pillai has given numerous memorable concerts and has many records to his credit. He has been honoured with the title of Kalaimamani by the Tamil Nadu Eyal Isai Nataka Manram and Tamil Nadu Asthana Vidwan by the Government of Tamil Nadu.

For his eminence in the field of Music and his contribution to its enrichment, Shri Valangaiman A. Shanmugasundaram Pillai receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for Carnatic Instrumental Music for 1985.