

I present to you, Sir, Chintalapally Shri Venkata Rao.

A senior vocalist of Mysore, Shri Venkata Rao was born at Chintalapally, Mysore State, in 1871.

Shri Venkata Rao's ancestors were renowned musicians and composers who were honoured with the gift of the village, Chintalapally by Nawab Ranadulla Khan. He has thus inherited a living tradition of Karnatak vocal music.

He was trained in the beginning by his two uncles, Bhaskar Rao and Venkatanarasappa. He received further training from veterans like Karur Ramaswamappa, Pakka Hanumantachar, Naikarapatti Seshayya and Hanagal Chidambariah, a disciple of Mysore Sadashiva Rao.

A deeply learned musician, Shri Venkata Rao is known for his elegant rendering of *ragam*, *tanam* and *pallavi*.

He has been honoured by various music societies and is a Court Musician of Mysore. He was elected Fellow of Andhra Pradesh Sangeeta Nataka Akademi in 1960 and received the Mysore State Sangeeta Nataka Akademi Award in 1962.

For his eminence as a musician, Shri Venkata Rao has been chosen to receive the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for Karnatak Vocal Music.

Venkata Rao

