



### **B. SASI KUMAR**

Akademi Award: Carnatic Instrumental Music (Violin)

Shri B. Sasi Kumar was born in 1949 in Thiruvalla village in Kerala into a family of professional musicians. He received his initial training in violin and vocal music from his father M.K. Bhaskara Panicker, a well-known Nagaswaram artist and one of the Thiruvalla Brothers. He was further groomed in the violin by Chalakudy Narayanaswamy.

Shri Sasi Kumar has distinguished himself in the field of Carnatic music with his mastery over the violin. He began his career teaching violin at the SST College of Music in 1967 and subsequently joined All India Radio, Trivandrum, as a staff artist in 1971. He has accompanied many eminent Carnatic musicians on his instrument including Chembai Vaidyanatha Bhagvathar, Semmangudi Srinivasa Iyer, M. Balamurali Krishna, and D. K. Pattammal. He has also accompanied Pandit Jasraj and M. Balamurli Krishna in a jugalbandi. A competent composer of music, he has both composed and played ragam-tanam-pallavi compositions in Sanskrit, Tamil and Malayalam. Shri Sasi Kumar has also scripted for many devotional songs and scored music for them, as for instrumental ensembles of All India Radio.

He has received honours including the President's Award in the All India Radio music competition in 1969. He was conferred the Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Academy Fellowship in 2002.

Shri B. Sasi Kumar receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for his contribution to Carnatic instrumental music.