



KARAIKUDI R. KRISHNAMURTHY

Akademi Award: Music for Dance (Mridangam)

Born on 18 October 1938 into a family of illustrious musicians in Karaikudi village of Sivaganga district in Tamil Nadu, Shri Karaikudi R. Krishnamurthy received his training in the Mridangam under Ramanathapuram C. S. Murugaboopathy. He has performed from an early age, accompanying eminent Carnatic musicians such as Maharajapuram Visvanatha Iyer, G.N. Balasubramaniam, and T.R. Mahalingam on the Mridangam.

Besides winning recognition as a drummer, Shri Karaikudi R. Krishnamurthy has received acclaim as a composer of dance music. He has created music for a number of choreographic works, which has been well received within the country and abroad. To promote new work in the field, he has conducted workshops in dance music at leading institutions, and produced CDs of compositions such as *Saphtha Bhairavi*, *Kuraipu*, and *Moharas*.

A dedicated teacher, Shri Krishnamurthy has trained students in the Mridangam both in India and abroad. Having served on the faculty of Kalakshetra, Chennai, since 1959, he taught Mridangam at the Singapore Indian Fine Arts Society between 1981 and 1988, and at the British Association of Tamil Schools in U.K. from 1990 to 1998. He continues to contribute to Indian dance music at home and abroad as a teacher, composer and performer.

Shri Karaikudi R. Krishnamurthy has been honoured with the Vishwa Kala Bharathi title (2003) by Bharat Kalachar, Chennai.

Shri Karaikudi R. Krishnamurthy receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for his contribution to dance music as a Mridangam artist.