



ELAPPULLI MAHADEVAIYER SUBRAMANIAM

Akademi Award: Carnatic Instrumental Music (Ghatam)

Born on 23 December 1948 in Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu, Shri Elappulli Mahadevaiyer Subramaniam received his training in playing the Ghatam from his father E.P. Mahadeva Iyer.

In the course of a successful concert career, Shri Subramaniam has distinguished himself in the field of Carnatic music with his mastery over the Ghatam. A top-grade artist of All India Radio and Doordarshan, he has performed widely in India and abroad. Excelling both as soloist and accompanist, he has developed a distinctive style in playing the Ghatam. He has accompanied many eminent Carnatic musicians on the percussion instrument, both singers and instrumentalists. These artists include Vaidyanadha Bhagvathar, K.B. Sundarambal, D.K. Pattammal, M.L. Vasanthakumari, Kunnakudi Vaidyanathan, T.R. Mahalingam, T.N. Krishnan, Mysore Chowdiah, Lalgudi Jayaraman, M.S. Gopalakrishnan, Mysore Doraiswamy Iyengar, and Umayalpuram Sivaraman. He has also played with his compeers in Hindustani music – the Tabla-players Allah Rakha, Kishan Maharaj, and Zakir Hussain. Shri Subramaniam is well known also as a teacher of Ghatam, and has trained a number of students in the art. His articles on the Ghatam have been published in several journals.

Various institutions in Tamil Nadu have honoured Shri E.M. Subramaniam for his work in music. He has been conferred the Kalaimamani title (2000) by the Tamil Nadu Eyal Isai Nataka Manram, and the Kalai Vithagar title (2011) by the Music College, Chennai.

Shri E.M. Subramaniam receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for his contribution to Carnatic instrumental music.