



## The 10<sup>th</sup> Indira Sivasailam Endowment Medal conferred on Dr. Pantula Rama

**Chennai, 4<sup>th</sup> October 2019** | The 10<sup>th</sup> Indira Sivasailam Endowment medal was bestowed upon leading Carnatic music exponent Dr. Pantula Rama at the annual Indira Sivasailam Endowment Concert. The Indira Sivasailam Foundation was instituted by Smt. Mallika Srinivasan in memory of her mother Smt. Indira Sivasailam. Three accompanying artistes, *Vidwan* Sri. R. K. Shriramkumar (Violin), *Vidwan* Sri. J. Vaidyanathan (Mridangam) and *Vidushi* Smt. Bhagyalakshmi M. Krishna (Morsing) were awarded The Indira Sivasailam Foundation 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Special Award for their exceptional performance as accompanying artistes.

Dr. Pantula Rama along with R. K. Shriramkumar, J. Vaidyanathan and Bhagyalakshmi M. Krishna enthralled the audience with their exceptional musical performance at the Indira Sivasailam Endowment Concert held at and in collaboration with The Music Academy, Madras.

*Vidwan* Sri. R. K. Shriramkumar belongs to a family of eminent Carnatic musicians. He was trained in vocal music and violin by his grandfather Sri R. K. Venkatarama Shastry, a veteran violinist. He later learnt violin from *Vidwan* Sri V. V. Subrahmanyam and in vocal music from *Vidwan* Sri D.K. Jayaraman. He has traveled far and wide on many concert tours, participating in prestigious festivals and venues.

*Vidwan* Sri. J. Vaidyanathan hails from a Family of Great Musicians. He is the son of Legendary Musician Sangita Kalanidhi Sri. D. K. Jayaraman and Nephew of Padmavibhushan Sangita Kalanidhi Smt. D. K. Pattammal. He is the disciple of Sangita Kalanidhi Maestro Dr. T. K. Murthy. He has accompanied all the great stalwarts of Carnatic music in concerts all over the world.

*Vidushi* Smt. Bhagyalakshmi M. Krishna is one of the few women morsing artistes in India. She is the daughter of legendary Morsing artiste Sri. Bheemachar. She is a Grade-A artiste of the All India Radio. She has performed in over 1000 concerts across the world.

The Indira Sivasailam Endowment medal aims to recognize the outstanding contribution made in the field of Carnatic music thereby preserving and propagating the art form. The recipient of the award is selected on the basis of specific criteria as defined by the eminent jury at The Music Academy, Madras, and Smt. Mallika Srinivasan. This year's awardee, Dr. Pantula Rama has been selected for her unique style distinctive for brilliant artistry, clarity of diction, an ever-fresh approach, demonstrated efforts to disseminate knowledge and the ability to bring about a greater and deeper public appreciation of Carnatic Music.



Sri. N. Murali – President of The Music Academy, Madras, welcomed the gathering and spoke about the long-standing association between Smt. Indira Sivasailam Foundation and The Music Academy. He added, *“Into its landmark 10<sup>th</sup> year now, the annual Indira Sivasailam Endowment Medal and Concert has firmly entrenched itself into the collective consciousness of Carnatic Music rasikas as a major highlight of the Navratri festivities in Chennai.”*

Smt. Mallika Srinivasan felicitated Dr. Pantula Rama and said, *“The Indira Sivasailam Foundation in its milestone 10<sup>th</sup> year takes pleasure in presenting its annual Endowment Award to Dr. Pantula Rama. Knowledge, vidwat, bhava, bhakti and manodharma puts Pantula Rama right up there in the echelon of outstanding musicians of our times. This year, we also celebrate the immense contribution of the accompanying artistes Sri. R. K. Shriramkumar (Violin), Sri. J. Vaidyanathan (Mridangam) and Smt. Bhagyalakshmi M. Krishna (Morsing) with The Indira Sivasailam Foundation 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Special Award; whose exemplary calibre and dedication to their chosen art form have deeply enriched Carnatic music, and blazed the trail for aspiring performers.”*

The Indira Sivasailam Foundation in association with The Music Academy, Madras, is privileged to honour these outstanding musicians.

Expressing her thoughts on receiving the prestigious award, Dr. Pantula Rama said, *“It’s a very special and significant occasion for me as it is a tribute, filled with valuable sentiments and aesthetic sensibilities, to a Sangeeta Rasaasvaadini Smt. Indira Sivasailam and also it reinforces the essence of my contribution to the world of Carnatic Music.”*

The award ceremony was followed by a much-awaited musical concert by Dr. Pantula Rama. The concert was well received by the audience, with everyone appreciating the arrangements made by the foundation for setting the right ambience for a musical evening.



### **About The Indira Sivasailam Foundation:**

The Indira Sivasailam Foundation has been contributing towards perpetuating and promoting our rich culture and tradition, preserving and propagating various art forms. The foundation was established by Ms. Mallika Srinivasan, Chairman, TAFE – Tractors and Farm Equipment Limited, in the year 2010, in memory of her mother, the Late Smt. Indira Sivasailam. The foundation is constantly involved in activities such as care and welfare of senior citizens, women’s empowerment, Hindu philosophy and Sanskrit literature. Through the Indira Sivasailam Endowment Fund, under the auspices of The Music Academy, Madras, the foundation organizes The Indira Sivasailam Endowment Concert during the Navaratri season every year, recognizing an outstanding Carnatic musician with The Indira Sivasailam Endowment Medal and citation. Since 2010, renowned and coveted Carnatic musicians like Smt. Sudha Ragunathan, Sri. Sanjay Subrahmanyam, Smt. Aruna Sairam, Smt. Bombay Jayashri Ramnath, Sri. T. M. Krishna, the Malladi Brothers – Sri. Malladi Sreeramprasad and Sri. Malladi Ravikumar, the Violin duo Sri. Lalgudi Krishnan and Smt. Lalgudi Vijayalakshmi, the RaGa Sisters – Smt. Ranjani and Smt. Gayatri and Dr. Jayanthi Kumaresh have been conferred this honor. With the noble aim of promulgating South Indian classical music, the foundation ensures that the concert is open to all, without any fee.

### **About The Music Academy, Madras:**

The Music Academy’s roots can be traced back to the 1920s, when a group of music lovers united to propagate and promote classical music by establishing an academy in Madras city, marking the inception of the Music Academy of Madras. Over the years, the Academy thrived to become a venerable center for artistes, musicians and *rasikas* of the world to nurture the art and music. The Music Academy’s sole aim of promoting and perpetuating music and culture has played a key role in fostering Carnatic music in the country and abroad. The Academy’s burgeoning library houses latest books, apart from preservation of rare books and manuscripts. Awards and recognitions from The Music Academy are regarded as an honor to artistes at every stage of their musical journey, as to them, an Academy performance in itself is a sublime dream and a sense of high achievement.

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