



‘Mridanga Ratna’ ‘Nadopasaka’
Vankayala Venkata Ramana Murthy,
Retd. Staff Artist Mridangam (TOP Grade), Grade-I
A.I.R. Visakhapatnam.
0891-2550446, 9440123414.

Sri Ramana Murthy is a Retd. Mridangam (TOP Grade), Staff artist of All India Radio Visakhapatnam.

Family Background

- ❖ Belongs to family of musicians from 4 generations
- ❖ Great grandfather Sri Vankayala Balarama Bhokta is the Pioneer of the most famous ‘Toorpu Bhaagavatam’
- ❖ Father ‘Kala Ratna-Hamsa Awardee’ ‘Mridanga Kala Tapaswi’ Sri Vankayala Narasimham is a veteran Mridanga vidwan and outstanding teacher, having many disciples and Four ‘TOP GRADED’ mridanga vidwans as his students.
- ❖ Mother Smt. Seetaratnam.
- ❖ Wife Smt. Meena Kumari is a B-High graded Veena artist.

Achievements of Sri V.V.RAMANA MURTHY, Mridanga vidwan (TOP GRADE)

- ❖ Gave first Performance at the age of 8 years
- ❖ Won **Gold medal-First prize**, in AIR annual **National music competitions** in 1981 and became graded artist of AIR.
- ❖ Awarded **TOP GRADE, at an young age**, in Mridangam, in 2007
- ❖ Participated in many National programmes ,Sangeet Sammelan concerts, South zone hook-up concerts, O.B.concerts of both AIR and Doordarshan
- ❖ He is an extensive performer for more than three and half decades with all the top Indian classical musicians of both Carnatic and Hindustani styles as well as Jazz groups.
- ❖ Accompanying most of the famous and leading artists of yester, present and younger generations like:

SarvaSri

R. K. Venkatarama Sastry and Sethuraman,
R. K. Srikanthan,
Dr. S. Ramanathan,
Dr. Mangalampalli Balamurali Krishna,
Dr. Nedunuri Krishna Murthy,
Dr. NookalaChina Satyanarayana,
D. K. Pattammal,
Arundhati Sarcar,
Kum Srirangam Gopalaratnam,
Dr. Emani Sankara Sastry,
Dr. Mysore Doraiswami Iyengar,
Dr. Chitti Babu,
Dr. N. Ramani,
etc... for last 4 decades.

Shashank,
M. S. Gopalakrishnan
Dr. L. Subramaniam
T. N. Seshagopalan,
T. M. Krishna,
Smt. Bombay Jayashri
P. Unnikrishnan,
Abhishek Raghuram,
Sandeep Narayan,
Mandolin Srnivas,
Chitra Veena Ravikiran,

- ❖ Accompanied veteran Hindustani musicians like Pt.Jasraj, Pt.Hariprasad Chourasia, Amzad Ali khan, Ustad Sultan Kha etc...
- ❖ Participated in many Jugalbandi, Western, Orchestral, Symphonies and Fusion concerts
- ❖ Conducted percussion ensembles and fusion concerts with western musicians.
- ❖ **'Layaalayam' is a unique percussion album to his credit, created with high Percussion technicalities blended with aesthetic sense, is again his specialty based on compositions of different Vaggeyakaras is conceived and successfully conducted by Ramana Murthy, in both TV and Public performances, won huge appreciation from press as well as public.**
- ❖ Toured abroad widely with stalwart musicians like
 - 'Padmavibhushan'
 - Dr.SriMangalampalli Balamuralikrishna,
 - 'Padmabhushan' Dr.Sri L.Subramaniam,
 - Sri Shashank,
 - Dr. Bombay Jayashree
 - and Jugalbandi concerts with
 - Ustad Shahid Parvez (Sitar Maestro),
 - Pandit Purbayan Chatterji (Sitar) etc...
- ❖ **Participated in concert in Geneva ,in UN,**with 'Flute Maestro' Sri Shashank,in 1997
- ❖ **Participated in concert, in UNO, Washington,** with 'Padmabhushan' 'Violin Chakravarthi' Dr. L. Subramaniam, in 2011 in the presence of the Secretary General Mr.Ban-ki-Moon and ambassadors of nearly 80 countries as guests.
- ❖ Performed in Symphonies and fusion music composed and Conducted by Violin Chakravarthi 'Padmabhushan' Dr. Sri L.Subramaniam, with world famous symphony groups.
- ❖ Participated in concert,in the **first ever South Indian classical concert organized By Opera Theatre Concert Hall, Sydney,** Australia With Dr.Bombay Jayashree in 2013
- ❖ Composed orchestral music 'Neelagiri Express' and 'Bay of Bengal' and performed with famous Austrian and German Musicians like Helmut Gruber, Georg Dieganhardt, Dr. Rudi Renger in Austria, Germany, France. This project was sponsored by Cultural Ministry of Austria. The same programme was performed in India, supported by Embassy of Austria and ICCR.
- ❖ Acted as Adjudicator for **'PAADAALANI VUNDI'**, conducted by Sri S.P.Bala Subrahmanyam in ETV.
- ❖ Performed **'Tala Vadya Kuchcheri'** with Veteran Tabla Vidwan Pandit Tanmoy Bose, in Raja Rani Festival organized by Government of Orissa in January, 2014.
- ❖ Performing in prestigious 72 episodes **'Raga Ravali'** of SVBC-TTD Channel, based on 72 Melakarta raga system.
- ❖ Serving as **subject expert member(Music)-Board of Studies** of Andhra University for last 4 years.
- ❖ Conducted Lec-dem for M.A.(Music) students of Andhra University
- ❖ Conducted Lec-dems and Work-shops on Tala System, for Music students in many music institutions in Kerala, recently.
- ❖ Performed in **Chennaiyl Thiruvayyuru** of Laxman Sruthi in Chennai, in Dec,2013
- ❖ Performed in Web cast of Annual Music festival of **'Mudhra'** in Chennai, in Dec,2013

- ❖ Performed in Web cast - Music festival of '**Charsur**' with Sri O.S.Thyagarajan in Chennai, in Dec, 2013
- ❖ Performed in Web cast - Annual Music festival of Karthic Fine Arts with 'Flute Maestro' Sri Shashank in Dec, 2013
- ❖ Performed '**Moodu Taraala Mridangam**' (Mridangam Artists of Three Generations), with My father, my brother's son and my son, in **World Telugu Conference**, 2012, held in Tirupathi.
- ❖ Performed in many Opera theatres in the world.
- ❖ Awarded '**Best Senior Mridanga Vidwan**' by The Madras Music Academy, for Dec season, 2011.
- ❖ Awarded '**Best Mridangam accompanying Artist**' by Sri Krishna Gana Sabha, Chennai.
- ❖ Awarded '**Best Young Professional**' by The Rotary International.
- ❖ Awarded '**Durvasula Bhagavanlu**' gold medal.
- ❖ Awarded 'Kalavani' Annual Puraskaram
- ❖ Trained many students and **one of the students** (Sri K. Prasanna Kumar) **won First prize**, in AIR Annual **National** Music Competitions.
- ❖ Has been honoured with '**Asthana vidwan**' by Kanchi Kamakoti Peetham
- ❖ He is recipient of many awards and titles like 'Mridanga Ratna' and 'Nadopasaka' 'Mridanga Marthanda' etc
- ❖ Performed in films like Sakhi etc.. and in many Doordarshan and TV documentaries

Publications:

- ❖ 'Easthetics in art of Mridangam-A percussion expression' is in final stage and ready for publication.
- ❖ Collaborated with Telugu association of Vancouver, Canada on a Project ' evolution and role of percussion instruments in Indian 'Folklure'.
- ❖ Easy method to teach Shatakams for present Generation by applying different Rhythmic patterns.

CDs & Albums

Karnatic Music with
 Dr. Sri M. Balamurali Krishna,
 Dr. Sri L. Subramaniam,
 Smt Arundhati Sarcar,
 Sri O. S. Thyagarajan,
 Sri Shashank,
 Malladi Brothers,
 Dr. Pantula Rama,
 Sri Abhishek Raghuram,

Sri Sandeep Narayan
 Smt M. Jogulamba,
 Dr. T. Padmini.
 Fusion Music
 Bay of Bengal,
 Neelgiri Express,
 Expressiveness,
 Expressive India

Known for his melodic and instantly appealing presentation, Ramana Murthy adopted the techniques of Pakhawaz and evolved a new approach of accompaniment and dedicated to keep the Karnatic music in its high, pure and traditional standards.

Music is the highest art and, to those who understand, is the highest worship.

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