



SUKANYA RAMGOPAL

Akademi Award: Carnatic Instrumental Music (Ghatam)

Born on 13 June 1957 at Mayiladuthurai in Tamil Nadu, Shrimati Sukanya Ramgopal received her initial training in Mridangam from T.R. Harihara Sharma and later polished her art in Ghatam under Shri Vikku Vinayakram. She is equally talented in Konnakol (vocal percussion).

An outstanding performer of Ghatam, Shrimati Sukanya Ramgopal is a top-grade artist of All India Radio and Doordarshan, and an empanelled artist of I.C.C.R. She has performed in many prestigious music festivals in India and abroad. Excelling both as a soloist and an accompanist, she has developed a distinctive style of playing the Ghatam. She has conceptualized a unique idea called 'Ghata Tharang' – playing of 6/7 ghatams of different Shrutis, and 'Sthree Thaal Tharang' – an all women's instrumental ensemble.

The founder of Sri Vikku Vinayakram School of Ghatam, Sukanya Ramgopal is also an eminent teacher and has been visiting faculty at several institutions. She has featured in a book *Singer and the Song* written by C.S. Lakshmi and published in 2000. She has been documented in a short film made by Bangalore Doordarshan in 2014. She has conducted many workshops on Ghatam in India as well as abroad.

Shrimati Sukanya Ramgopal has received many titles and awards. These include the Nadajyothi Puraskar from Nada Jyothi Sri Thyagaraja Swamy Bhajana Sabha, Bangalore (1999); the Layakala Prathibhamani bestowed by Percussive Arts Centre, Bangalore (2001); the Ghata Kalaratna given by Ragamalika, Abu Dhabi (2014); and the Swara Bhushani conferred by the Bangalore Gayana Samaj in 2014.

Shrimati Sukanya Ramgopal receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for 2014 for her contribution to Carnatic instrumental music.