



**Akademi
Awards 1988**



CARNATIC INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC Shri TH Vinayakram



Born 1942 in Tiruchi, Tamil Nadu, Shri TH Vinayakram learnt Ghatam initially from his father Kalaimamani TH Harihara Sarma and later at Sri Jaya Ganesh Tala Vadya Vidyalaya, Madras, a school of percussion he now heads.

Shri Vinayakram made his first public appearance at 13 and was a professional artiste from his twenties. He has performed extensively since then, in India and abroad, accompanying some of the leading Carnatic vocalists and instrumentalists. Popular with audiences, he has performed with *éclat* as a member of *tala vadya kacheris* in the Festivals of India in

England (1982), France (1985) and Japan (1988); he accompanied Shrimati MS Subbulakshmi in the Festival of India in the Soviet Union (1987-88).

Briefly, in 1974, a lecturer in Ghatam at the Centre for World Music, Berkeley, Shri Vinayakram took over as Principal of Sri Jaya Ganesh Tala Vadya Vidyalaya in 1978. An innovative musician, he has written on percussion in Tamil and English and featured solo and *ensemble* on gramophone records and cassettes. Besides honours from many *sabhas*, he received the title of Kalaimamani from Tamil Nadu Eyal Isai Nataka Manram in 1982.

Shri TH Vinayakram receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for his contribution to Carnatic instrumental music.