



G. HARISHANKAR

Akademi Award: Carnatic Instrumental Music (Kanjira)

Born in 1958 in Chennai, Shri G. Harishankar received his early training in percussion from his father T. T. Govinda Rao and Ramanathapuram C.S. Murugabhoopathy. Later, he studied under Palghat Mani Iyer.

During his career in Carnatic music, cut short abruptly in his forties, Shri. G. Harishankar performed widely and popularized the Kanjira as a concert instrument. He accompanied both vocalists and instrumentalists, and played with a number of percussion ensembles in India and abroad. He was able to develop a style based on the Pudukkottai parampara, characterized by intricate playing techniques and virtuoso musicianship. He had been on the staff of All India Radio, Chennai, for a number of years.

Shri Harishankar was honoured by many institutions. The Tamil Nadu Eyal Isai Nataka Manram bestowed on him the Kalaimamani title in 1997.

Shri G. Harishankar was selected for the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for his contribution to Carnatic instrumental music. Regrettably, he passed away in February 2002.