



M.S. SHEELA

Akademi Award: Carnatic Vocal Music

Born on 16 March 1952 at Bangalore (now Bengaluru), Karnataka, Shrimati M.S. Sheela received her initial training in Carnatic vocal music from her mother Shrimati M.N. Rathna, and later under the tutelage of Shri R.K. Srikantan of Sri Thyagaraja Parampara.

A top-grade artist of All India Radio and Doordarshan in both Carnatic classical music and Sugam Sangeet, she has performed in many prestigious music festivals in India and abroad.

She has also learnt Bharatanatyam. She has many students. Shrimati Sheela has been associated with many prestigious cultural institutions in various capacities such as Founder & Executive Director of Hamsadhwani Creations, Karnataka Gana Kala Parishad, and All India Radio Audition Board. She has been documented by many prestigious institutions such as Department of Information, Karnataka, and All India Radio, Bangalore. She has many recordings to her credit.

Shrimati M.S. Sheela has received many titles and awards including the Karnataka Rajyotsava Award conferred by the Government of Karnataka (1993); the Best Female Playback Singer Award given by the Karnataka State Film Chambers, Government of Karnataka (1997-98); the Outstanding Senior Female Vocalist Award by Madras Music Academy (1997); the Rajya Ratna bestowed by the Karnataka State Sangeetha Nrithya Academy (2008); the Kalabhushana given by the Thyagaraja Sangeetha Sabha (2011); the Chowdiah National Award by the Chowdiah Academy of Music, Bangalore (2013); and the Sangeetha Kala Rathna conferred by the Bangalore Gayana Samaja (2015).

Shrimati M.S. Sheela receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for 2017 for her contribution to Carnatic vocal music.