



ONGOLE N. RANGAIAH

Akademi Award: Carnatic Instrumental Music (Nadaswaram)

Shri Ongole Nidamanuri Rangaiiah was born in 1937 at Kotbakota village in Prakasam district of Andhra Pradesh. He received his initial training in the Nadaswaram under M. Venkatarathnam. Subsequently, his teachers were N.K. Raja Dorai Kannan and A.K.C. Natarajan. He also trained in vocal music under Alattur Srinivasa Aiyer.

A professional Nadaswaram artist, Shri Rangaiiah has performed in temples all over southern India — Srirangam, Thanjavur, Madurai, Chidambaram, and Tiruwayaru to name but a few temple towns. He has also performed in sabbas at Chennai, Bangalore, Mysore, Calcutta, Mumbai and Delhi among other cities. He has been performing on All India Radio since the mid-1950s and in late years on Doordarshan. Shri Rangaiiah has taught the Nadaswaram to students in many parts of Andhra Pradesh and has worked as head of the Department of Nadaswaram at S.V. Music College at Tirupati between 1981 and 1995. His students would number a few hundred today, among them Tirumangalam Meenakshi Sundaran, V. N. Satyanarayana, and A.N. Kuppu Swami. He has been honoured for his work by many organizations in southern India.

Shri Ongole N. Rangaiiah receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for his contribution to Carnatic instrumental music.