

Award 1956  
Music: Carn. Instr.  
Mridangam b 19/2.

Palghat Mani Iyer  
d. 30. May 1981

Sir,

I have the honour to present to you Sri Palghat Mani Iyer, a foremost exponent of instrumental music of the Karnatic School.

He hails from a family of musicians. He is the son of Sri Seshan Bhagavathar. He has had training under Sri Chathapuram Subha Iyer of Palghat and Tanjavoor Vaidyanatha Iyer, both of whom are celebrated Vidwans of Mridangam.

Fortythree-year old Mani Iyer has been playing Mridangam for over thirty years and has shown his genius both as an accompanist as well as a solo performer of rare quality.

He has developed a unique style in accompaniment, closely following and embellishing the patterns of 'Sahitya' and 'Svaras' of singers and instrumentalists. The most intricate 'pallavis' and 'kritis' are handled by him with consummate ease. His 'tani avarthams' rendered with skill and clarity are very eagerly looked forward to by the music audience in the South. He is also known as an eminent teacher.

He has been honoured as Asthan Vidwan of Travancore.

For his pre-eminence in Karnatic Music and for his life-long devotion and service to its cause I pray, Sir, that you may be pleased to grant him recognition as musician of the year, in the field of instrumental music of the Karnatic School, and to award to him a shawl, a gold shrinkhal, and a sanad in token of that recognition.

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