



PARASSALA B. PONNAMMAL

Akademi Award; Carnatic Music (Vocal)

Born in 1924 in Thiruvananthapuram, Shrimati Parassala Bhagavathy Ammal Ponnammal received her training in Carnatic vocal music from Shri Semmangudi Srinivasa Iyer. Together with vocal music, she acquired proficiency in playing the Veena, which she learnt from Shri K.S. Narayanaswamy Iyer.

An accomplished Carnatic vocalist, Shrimati Bhagavathy Ammal has performed widely disseminating the rich heritage of Carnatic music. From 1952 to 1970, she worked as Professor of music at the Sree Swathi Tirunal College of Music in Thiruvananthapuram. Subsequently, she was Principal of the R.L.V. College of Music in Trivandrum, where she propagated her master's tradition among a new generation of musicians. She has participated in workshops on Carnatic music organized by the Department of Music, University of Kerala, focused on rare compositions of Kerala composers. She has produced many recordings of Swathi Tirunal's compositions rendered by herself.

For her services to music, Shrimati Ponnammal has received several awards including the Best Musician Award conferred by the Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Academy, Trichur, in 1997. The Swati Sangeetha Puraskaram was bestowed on her by the Government of Kerala in 2010.

Shrimati Parassala Bhagavathy Ammal Ponnammal receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for her contribution to Carnatic vocal music.