



RANGANAYAKI RAJAGOPALAN
Akademi Award: Carnatic Instrumental Music (Veena)

Born in 1932 in Poongulam, Tamil Nadu, Shrimati Ranganayaki Rajagopalan is among the seniormost disciples of the late Karaikudi Veenai Sambasiva Iyer. She received training in Veena from her master for more than twenty-five years, living in the gurukulam since her childhood.

Beginning with a radio broadcast in 1940 when she was only eight, she played with her guru in all his concerts. From the age of eleven she started giving independent recitals. She has given hundreds of Veena recitals in India and abroad. In 1970, she was selected as best Veena player by the Music Academy, Madras.

Shrimati Ranganayaki Rajagopalan is acclaimed for her adherence to the traditional style of her guru. Between 1978 and 1988 she taught Veena at the Music Academy, Madras. She conducted classes for advanced students at Amherst University in the United States in 1993.

Shrimati Rajagopalan has been honoured with the title Kalaimamani by the Tamil Nadu Eyal Isai Nataka Manram (1979) and the title Veena Visbarada by Shrimati Rukmini Devi Arundale (1984).

Shrimati Ranganayaki Rajagopalan receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for her contribution to Carnatic instrumental music.



Akademi Awards 1998