

Award 1955
Music: Carnatic Instr.
Nagaswaram

T.M. Raj Ratnam Pillai

d. 12 Dec 1956

Sir,

I have the honour to present to you Shri Raj Ratnam Pillai, a foremost exponent of instrumental music of the Karnatic School.

He is the foremost player on the Nagaswaram and belongs to a family devoted to playing this instrument. He is the nephew and adopted son of the late Tirumarugal Natesam Pillai.

His merits as a musician were recognised very early and he has now developed a new technique, which is responsible for giving his performances a peculiar charm and thrill. He is endowed with a creative faculty and is able to perform Alapana of any raga for a considerable time. His technique of blowing is unique, the sound sweet and melodious and the style pure. His performances command great appreciation and respect. He has been awarded the titles of "Nadaswara Chakravarti", "Sangeet Ratnakar", and "Isai Mannar" by His Holiness Shri Sankaracharya.

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.

B. 1906 or 27.8.1998
d. 12 Dec 1956