

D. 14.11.1990

S. BALACHANDER

I present to you, Sir, Shri S. Balachander.

Shri Balachander, born in 1927 at Madras, is acclaimed as one of the most outstanding Karnatak *vainikas* of recent times. Though not belonging to a family of professional musicians, he is a descendent of well known connoisseurs and *vaggeyakaras*.

Without formal training under any *guru* and entirely self taught, his creative genius has given him a unique place in the world of music. At the age of six he made his appearance on the concert platform as a *kanjira* player, as a boy of sixteen he made his debut as a *veena* player and today he is among the leading virtuosi on this instrument. While he is an adept at playing the *dilruba*, the *sur-bahar*, the *sitar* and the *tabla-tarang* he has dedicated himself completely to the *veena* and has developed a unique style of playing based on vocal technique.

He is the composer of many Karnatak music long playing records, the best known of which is his 72 *melakarta ragas*.

Shri Balachander has toured extensively abroad, both as a Government of India Delegate to Europe and as a guest artiste of Asia Society, New York.

He received the title *Kala Sikhamani* by the Tamil Nadu Sangeet Nataka Akademi and *Veena Varaprasadi* by a Committee of eminent musicians and musicologists of Madras.

For his eminence in the field of Music and his contribution to its enrichment, Shri S. Balachander receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for Karnatak Instrumental Music for 1977.