



Musician

T.M. Krishna is one of the leading vocalists in the field of Carnatic music (South Indian classical music) and has been performing for over 20 years. Belonging to a family of music connoisseurs, he was exposed to the classical arts at a very young age and has had a very rich and intense musical training starting at the age of 6 and gave his first concert at the age of 12. He has travelled widely all over the world and performed at various national and international festivals and venues such as, The Pablo Casals festival in Prades, France, Sydney Opera House and Theatre De La Ville, Paris.

Today, T.M. Krishna is viewed in the music world as a bastion of pure and quality music. He has been able to enthrall large audiences all over the world without compromising on his core values. He is innovative yet retains his musical identity, and more importantly, the honesty of Carnatic music.

Krishna has released over 30 albums, including live concerts and thematic albums from leading labels like HMV, Music Today, Inreco, Charsur, and Rajalakshmi Audio.

Training

Over 18 years of training under the tutelage of Vidwan Sri Seetharama Sharma

Special training on *Ragam Thanam Pallavi* (a special component of *Carnatic* music) under Sri Chengalpet Ranganathan

Over 7 years of advanced training under one of the greatest carnatic musicians of all time, a legend, Sangita Kalanidhi Dr. Semmangudi Srinivasa Iyer

Awards

Some of his awards include:

- Yogam Nagaswamy Award - The Music Academy, Chennai - 2007
- Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puruskar Award - Sangeet Natak Akademi - 2006
- Yogam Nagaswamy Award - The Music Academy, Chennai - 2005
- Sangeetha Shiromani - Shanmukhananda Sabha, Mumbai - 2004
- Title *Nada Bhushanam* - Shanmukhananda Sangeetha Sabha, Delhi - 2003
- Title *Isai Peroli* - Karthik Fine Arts - 2002
- Kalki Krishnamurthy Award - 2001
- Youth Award for Excellence - Maharajapuram Vishwanatha Iyer Trust - 2001
- Best senior performing artist - The Music Academy, Chennai - 2001
- Title *Sangeetha Kala Bharathi* - 2000
- G. Ramakrishna Iyer award - The Music Academy, Chennai - 1999
- Srirangam Gopalrathnam award - The Music Academy, Chennai - 1998
- K.V. Mahadevan award for excellence - 1997
- Title *Yuva Kala Bharathi* - Bharath Kalachar - 1997
- Ariyakudi Ramanuja Iyengar award - The Music Academy, Chennai - 1996
- Musician of the year - Narada Gana Sabha - 1995
- Best junior vocalist - Krishna Gana Sabha - 1995
- Best main performer - Youth Association for Classical Music - 1989
- Spirit of Youth award - The Music Academy, Chennai - 1988

He is also an empanelled artiste of the ICCR and an 'A' Grade artiste of All India Radio (AIR)

Teacher

Krishna has music students from India, North America, Europe and Southeast Asia. He is known for his strict adherence to traditional values of the music system and has very high expectations of his students. A firm believer in traditional learning techniques, Krishna gives much importance to a firm grounding in fundamentals and expects dedicated practice of his students. Today, many of his students are performing artists.

Researcher

Founder Trustee of *Jnanarava Trust*, an organization devoted to the research, documentation and archival of the ancient traditions in Carnatic music. In 2006, the trust launched its Audio Archival Project of the Sangita Sampradaya Pradarshini. This text, published in 1904 in Telugu, is of seminal importance in understanding the changes and developments in Carnatic music over the past 200 years. This was the first text that gave an authoritative and comprehensive notating system to Carnatic music. For the first time ever, these notations are being archived exactly as they have been written, in audio form. The first three Audio Books containing compositions of Muthusvami Dikshitar have been released. A review of the above project has also been written by Mr Harold Powers (leading musicologist) in *Ethnomusicology*, a leading journal in this field. (www.jnanarava.org)

Author

In 2007, co-authored the first coffee table book on Carnatic music, *Voices Within*. (Details given under Matrka section below)

In 2001, along with musicians Bombay Jayashri and Sanjay Subrahmanyam, Krishna authored a book on Professor Sambamoorthy, an Indian musicologist of great international repute, to commemorate his birth centenary. This is a publication of the Music Academy, Chennai.

In 1998, along with musicians Vijay Siva and Dr Sunder, Krishna authored the first ever Carnatic music appreciation album titled "Learning to Appreciate Carnatic Music." This album, till date, is one of its kinds and has achieved record sales.

T.M. Krishna writes widely in various journals and newspapers and has always questioned common notions, impressions and continues to challenge many contemporary attitudes with regards to culture and art.

Lectures

He has delivered lectures on various topics ranging from music appreciation to creativity in numerous prestigious universities such as Harvard University, IIT Madras, and IIM Bangalore. He has also conducted workshops and delivered lectures to business houses like Oracle financial (formerly i-flex solutions) and organisations like CII and TIE (The Indus Entrepreneurs). He has also been on various panel discussions conducted by organisations like The Hindu. Apart from the above he has always been involved in conducting workshops and programmes specially targeted at the younger generation in order increase the awareness of classical music among them.

For the cause of Carnatic Music **MATRKA**

- Cofounder of Mātrkā
- This organisation was founded to create a new platform for Carnatic music. The objective of this organisation was to present Carnatic music in various spheres ranging from publication to performances, giving emphasis to its intrinsic grandeurs. (www.matrka.org)
- The first step in this direction, they have co-authored the first ever coffee-table book in Carnatic music, *Voices Within*. It is a salute to seven gifted, inspiring Carnatic musicians who revolutionised the system altogether, shaped its growth, and left their mark on the musical firmament. The first copy of this publication was received by the then President of India Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in January 2007.
- *Voices Within* gave birth to a Business Creativity Workshop presented jointly by T.M. Krishna along with Bombay Jayashri, and R. Sridhar, Innovation Coach. It was a bold experiment and a fresh new way of looking at one field and examining how it can influence another. Over 150 senior business professionals attended the first workshop across various industries. Today they have conducted this workshop for many leading corporate organisations in India like the Tatas, and ICICI Bank. It is today regarded as a premium workshop for senior management in business circles.
- 'Svanubhava' is a festival exclusively for the students of performing arts, conceived by Matrka. The aim of the festival was to bridge the gap between students and leading performers. This festival is exclusively for the students and has received overwhelming response with over 1000 students attending the festival over the last two years. Today this festival has featured the greatest of artists in India and will be travelling to other cities. (www.svanubhava.com)

SUMANASA FOUNDATION

- Founder Trustee of *Sumanasa Foundation*
- An organization to promote Carnatic music and musicians in and around rural areas by sponsoring upcoming musicians. This organization also actively works to identify talented, underprivileged youngsters and provides them an opportunity to further develop their skills by providing them with the necessary assistance.

SAMPRADAYA

- President of Sampradaya
- An organization dedicated to archiving and documenting classical traditions of India. He has initiated the digitization of all the archives that Sampradaya holds. He is also taking steps for its dissemination so that more people get access to these rare treasures. Many workshops and events are being conducted by Sampradaya to preserve Carnatic Music traditions. (www.sampradaya.org)

KALAACHARA MARUMALARCHI

- Founder Trustee of *Kalaachaara Marumalarchi*
- This is another initiative to revive the performance of classical and folk arts in the temples. This trust has conducted numerous festivals in temples and the reception for this initiative has been excellent.

MARGAZHI RAAGAM

- This was one of the first ever concert movie shot in the world. This movie featured T.M.Krishna and Bombay Jayashri in concert. A path breaking concept where a complete concert was filmed as a movie and released in main stream theatres all over the world. This has brought in a completely new audience to classical music. This film was released in numerous countries around the world like USA, Doha, Australia and New Zealand. (www.margazhiraagam.com)

YOUTH ASSOCIATION FOR CLASSICAL MUSIC

- Served as president of the *Youth Association for Classical Music (YACM)* from 1996-1999 during which time he organized many lecture-demonstrations in over 100 schools (100,000 children between ages of 12 and 17) in Chennai, India, amongst other innovative and far-reaching projects. To celebrate the new millennium, Krishna organized the biggest musical extravaganza that Carnatic music had ever seen at the time, featuring musicians of seven generations (over 100 musicians and 600 children) (www.yacm.in)