

Mridangam Arangetram of Akshay Jayaraman

**Student of Sri. Santosh Chandru,
Disciple of Guru Sri. T.S. Nandakumar**



**Accompanying Sangita Kalanidhi
Padma Shri, Vidushi A. Kanyakumari**

July 25th, 2026

East Forsyth High School, Gainesville, GA

Vidushi A. Kanyakumari



Sangita Kalanidhi Padma Shri, Vidushi A. Kanyakumari is India's leading violinist in the carnatic style of music. She has been in the field for over four decades, successfully playing the various roles of soloist, accompanist, teacher, innovator and organizer, dedicating her life to music. She considers herself fortunate to be a disciple of three legendary gurus: Sri. Ivaturi Vijeswara Rao Garu, Guru Sri. M. Chandrasekaran and Guru Smt. M.L. Vasanthakumari. Her extensive experience along with sharp acumen and fine sense of creativity has earned herself a distinct place in the world of music. Music artist Sri. P.V. Subramaniam known as 'Subbudu' compared her music to the ever-glittering diamond stud in the nose ring of goddess Kanyakumari. She has released numerous albums and leads many violin ensembles including her innovative 'Vadyalahari' concert and pioneering 'Thristhai sangamam' concept, bringing a new sonic texture to carnatic music. She has composed numerous thillanas, keerthanas and instrumental pieces. As a homage to Lord Venkateswara, she has created seven ragas, 'Saptagiri' bearing the names of the seven hills of Thirumala and tuned seven Annamacharya Kirtanas to these seven ragas, presenting Saptagiri as 'Raga Nada Neerajanam'. Many prestigious awards and titles have been bestowed upon her. Some of her notable accolades include Thirumala Thirupathi Aasthaana Vidushi, Kalaimamani from Government of Tamilnadu, Sangita Kalanidhi from Madras Music Academy, Padma Shri, and Sangeetha Natak Academy Award from Government of India.

Guru Sri. T.S. Nandakumar



Guru Sri. T.S.Nandakumar is a distinguished master percussionist and artist who is trained in mridangam under the esteemed Guru Sri. Kaithavana Madhavadas. Over the years, he has accompanied legendary musicians such as Semmangudi Srinivasa Iyer, M.D. Ramanathan, S. Ramanathan, R.K. Srikantan, V. Dakshinamoorthy, Bhimsen Joshi, M. Balamuralikrishna, N. Rajam, T.N. Krishnan, N. Ramani, K.J. Yesudas, T.K. Govindarao, Nedunuri Krishnamurthy, M. Chandrasekaran, A. Kanyakumari, T.V. Gopalakrishnan, L. Subramaniam, and the list goes on. Renowned for his dedication and passion for teaching, Guru Nandakumar has mentored hundreds of students across the globe. He has also made significant contributions to the world of music through his compositions and recordings, including his acclaimed percussion albums *Jewels of Rhythm* (Volumes 1, 2, and 3), which exemplify his innovative approach to Laya Vinyasam. He has penned insightful books on mridangam, such as *Roots of Mridangam* and *Intricacies of Mridangam*. In 1998, he established the TSN's Percussive Arts Centre (TSNPAC), a testament to his exceptional teaching abilities and commitment to preserving and propagating the art of percussion. Guru Nandakumar has been the recipient of numerous prestigious awards, including the Bharat Ratna M.S. Subbulakshmi Sangeetha Pracharya Award from Shanmukhananda Fine Arts, the Best Teacher Award from the Cleveland Thyagaraja group, the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Shanti Foundation, the Visionary Award from the Academy of Indian Music, and the Sangeet Natak Academy Award from the Government of India. Additionally, he was honored with the Excellence Award by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey for his invaluable contributions to Indian classical music. He was also conferred an honorary degree by Brookdale College, NJ and received commendations from the Honorable Governor of New Jersey, Mr. Phil Murphy.

Guru Sri. Santosh Chandru



One of the foremost disciples of Guru Sri. T.S. Nandakumar, Santosh has been playing the mridangam since the age of 11. He has been accompanying various leading artists in the fields of both dance and music. He is a graded All India Radio artist, and is equally proficient with ghatam and thavil. Santosh has been a part of numerous Thaala Vaadya Katcheris (percussion ensembles) along with his Guru, including performances at the prestigious Cleveland Thyagaraja Aradhana festival. He is a regular accompaniment for Padma Vibhushan Dr. K.J. Yesudas during his classical concerts in the United States. He has accompanied various other prominent artists such as A. Kanyakumari, Vittal Ramamurthy, Guitar Prasanna, T.N.S. Krishna, Mahanadhi Shobana, Sankaran Namboothiri, Flute G.S. Rajan to name a few. Santosh has been training students in the Atlanta metro area for several years and many of his students have started to perform full fledged professional concerts.

Sri. V. Giridhari



V. Giridhari is a disciple of violin exponent and guru Sangeetha Kalanidhi Vidushi A. Kanyakumari, and has had the privilege to accompany her at various venues across India and the U.S. He has regularly performed during the December music season in Chennai, at prestigious venues such as the Music Academy. Besides, he regularly performs in the U.S. and has also played at various international music festivals. He is a research scientist at Meta and graduated with a BTech/MTech from IIT Madras, and a PhD from Northeastern University.

Jishnu Subramanian



Jishnu Subramanian was introduced to mridangam, kanjira, and ghatam by Sri. T.S. Nandakumar at the early age of four and a half. With his Guru's blessings, he has been playing for many music concerts across the country including notable artists Vidwan Sri. T.S. Krishnamurthy, Dr. Sirkali G. Siva Chidambaram, Vidwan Sri. V.V. Ravi, Vidwan Sri. Vittal Ramamurthy, and was very blessed to accompany legendary Vidhushi A. Kanyakumari at his arangetram. Jishnu is a rising senior Informatics and Economics student at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, where he is a part of the Indian Classical Arts Society performing across the Northeast Region.

Akshay Jayaraman



Akshay Jayaraman has been learning the mridangam from Sri. Santosh Chandru since the age of four. His musical journey has taken him on a diverse path, accompanying Bharatnatyam and vocal arangetrams, vocal and instrumental concerts. Notably, he has had the privilege of accompanying his guru in playing ghatam during Thaala Vaadhyam (percussion ensemble) performances, Bharatanatyam arangetrams, and vocal concerts.

Akshay is a rising junior at Lambert High School. Beyond his musical endeavors, Akshay is a passionate science enthusiast. He hosts a captivating website and a science podcast called Spectacular Science. Through his writing, podcasts, and interviews with scientists and industry experts, Akshay delves into various scientific concepts and discoveries, sharing his knowledge with a wider audience. Akshay's commitment to music extends beyond the stage. He is an active member of Lambert High School's Marching Band, where he played the mridangam and currently bass drum. His band has achieved remarkable success, winning awards at both state and regional competitions.

Akshay is fortunate to have his guru Sri. Santosh Chandru accompany him on the ghatam during this concert.

Parampara



Acknowledgements

Master of Ceremonies
Smt. Pradeepa Shriram

Audio
Talent AV Productions

Event Photo
Sandhya Photography

Brochure Photo
Mr. Naresh Ramarathnam

Video
ShanviClicks

Food
SriRangam Veg Restaurant

Venue
East Forsyth High School

Our Friends and Family