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<http://www.hindu.com/thehindu/fr/2002/12/13/stories/2002121301420800.htm>

## **Honour for tradition**

This year, the Music Academy confers the titles Sangita Kala Acharya on three persons and honours three others with the TTK Award of Excellence. NANDINI RAMANI profiles them.

THE MUSIC Academy, Chennai, is known for its focus on the twin fields of Sastra (Theory) and Prayoga (Methodology) of Carnatic Music. In order to foster the continuation of the varied aspects of our rich oral traditions and preserve the guru-sishya lineage in music, the academy has been identifying torchbearers of different sampradayas in both these spheres, who are honoured with the titles, Sangita Kala Acharya and the TTK Award of Excellence in the chosen areas. With the year long celebration of the Platinum Jubilee drawing to a close, the Academy is honouring some of the renowned personalities in the fields of music, dance and allied forms.

### **TTK Awardees**



Listening to a Thevaram or the devotional hymns sung at the specific Kaala, and Sandhi or Saayarakashai worship, be it at a Siva temple or that of the other Parivara Devatas, especially in the enchanting stillness in the interior of the south is a divine experience. Such is the glorious service of the Oduvar Murtis in the South-Indian temple tradition. The mere mention

of the Tirumurai-rendering or Tamizhisai, will remind one of the veteran singer Dharmapuram P. Swaminathan, a devout soul dedicated to the saintly compositions.

Dharmapuram P. Swaminathan, was born in Thanjavur district in 1923. His early training in Thevara Isai began at the Dharmapuram Thevara Tamizhisai Palli, under Tirumurai Kalanidhi R. Velayudha Oduvar, for a period of five years. Swaminathan continued his training in Carnatic vocal further at the Annamalai University under the guidance of Chittoor Subramania Pillai and secured the Sangita Bhooshanam title from this august institution, with a First class. With Madurai Subramania Mudaliar, Swaminathan continued his lessons in music for some more years.

His musical career, which spans over nearly six decades, is full of devotional pursuits and propagation of Tevara Isai. His association with several temple renovation projects and his voluntary contribution through his music towards such noble endeavours form an endless list. He has been an A Grade artist of AIR since 1952. The number of discs to his credit is 12 discs and 700 audiocassettes.

Awards and Honours have been showered on him for his unique contribution to this sphere of devotional music. Isai Perarignar from Tamizhisai Sangam, Kalaimamani from the Tamil Nadu Government, State Artist, Tamilnadu Government, the President's Award, titles and honours from Dharmapuram, Kundrakkudi, Madurai, and Thanjai Adheenams. He has established a Charitable Trust in his name, at Kundrathur, Chennai.

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<http://www.chennaionline.com/musicseason2002/news/dharmapuram.asp>

### **NEWS - Dharmapuram P Swaminatha Oduvar**

While the Tevaram and similar Tamizh hymns have been around even before the term "Carnatic" came about, the Sabhas in the city have generally not considered any of the hymnodists for their awards and honours. It is generally left to the Tamizh Isai Sangam to do the needful. But this year, the Music Academy, has decided to honour Dharmapuram P Swaminatha Oduvar with the TTK Award.

Born on 29th May, 1923, at Nannilam as the son of Panchanada Mudaliar and Parvati Ammal, he joined the Dharmapuram Mutt at the age of 12 and dedicated himself to its service. He was placed in the Pathashala of the Mutt when he was 19 where he learnt Tevaram and other devotional hymns under such experts as R Velayudhamurthy and M Subramania Mudaliar.

Later he acquired the Sangita Bhushanam degree from the Annamalai University. From 1951, he was music tutor at Dharmapuram and later from 1954 till 1969 at the Mutt Centre in T Nagar, Chennai.

He then set up his own group called Tirumurai Vazhipattu Anbargal Tirukootam. Under this banner, using a mridangist and a harmonist as his accompaniments, he renders emotion charged hymns and songs that charms audiences.

Sri Swaminathan was honoured with the Isai Perarignar title by the Tamizh Isai Sangam in 1986. He is also a recipient of the Kalaimamani title from the Tamilnadu state government

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