

PRAPACHAM RAVINDRAN

A Profile

Acknowledged as one of the top most percussionists, Mridhangam virtuoso Ravindran's performing, touring and recording credits reads like a who's who of top contemporary Indian artists. Ravindran has toured the globe, performing at prestigious venues all around the world and propagates the art thru innovative teaching. Ravindran inherited the legacy of rhythm from a tender age and started performing from a young age, accompanying leading artistes, in and around his hometown of Thanjavur.

Inheriting that heritage of Thanjavur style of Mridhangam art, Ravindran is **one of the most sought after percussionists** in Indian Classical Carnatic Music, having performed **almost all senior and present day top artistes**. Ravindran has **featured in many prestigious festivals** both as an accompanist and a solo artiste and has given **Teaching assignments, Lecture-demonstrations and Workshops** at various institutions in India & abroad. Ravindran is an "A" **graded artiste from A I R, Chennai** - regularly performs for Doordarshan (TV) and All India Radio in National Programmes, Sangeet Sammelans and Concerts.

Ravindran who epitomizes the Clarity and Understanding accompaniment with a Robust individual style has been awarded numerous titles and has been much **acclaimed by press** and much **admired by public**. He has shared the stage with the legends like Sarvasri Voleti Venkateswarulu, Dr.M.Balamuralikrishna, Nedanuri Krishnamoorthy, Emani Sankara Sastri, Annavarappu Ramaswamy, Dr.L.Subramaniam, Dr.N.Ramani, M.S.Gopalakrishnan, Prapancham Seetharam, M.Chandrasekaran, Mandolin Srinivas, Trichur Ramachandran, T.V.Sankaranarayanan, A.K.C.Natarajan and many others.

Ravindran has always been **innovative in thinking** and has **collaborated with international artists**. **Ravindran leads his own percussion-based ensemble 'Mind Over Fingers'** which has released a CD. The ensemble's efforts have been highly praised by both by elite & mass audience. 'Sabarisa', 'Prashanthi', 'Vinamrutam', 'Sai Darashan Music' are some of his musical ventures which features his **Original compositions** and **Musical direction**.

Ravindran has **enthralled audiences all over** the world in countries like INDIA, UK, USA, CANADA, SINGAPORE, MALAYSIA, DUBAI, MUSCAT, DOHA, ABHUDHABI, KUWAIT, SHARJAH, GERMANY, AUSTRIA, SWITZERLAND and ITALY.

Ravindran also **records and performs prolifically in varied settings** as varied as Classical music, Jazz and Fusion music. Apart from **motivating Mridhangam skill**, Ravindran is also adept in playing the Guitar (has also performed concerts) and also specializes in **Verbal Percussion (Konnakol)**.

Ravindran is also one of the most prolific thinkers in enhancing the instrumentation of his loving instrument - the Mridhangam. Fibre Glass Mridhangam, Bamboo Mridhangam, Detachable Mridhangam, New Mridhangam Stand, Mridhangam Paste, Nylon Rope 'Vaaru' and also an innovative Tambura called 'Swaraj' are all the products of his original imaginative thinking.

A resourceful teacher, Ravindran, has crafted a student friendly method of sharing the art and has been successful in conducting more than 25 debut performances (arangetrams). Most of the students are performing and have won laurels world over.

As a **proud founder of Maitri Vidya Kendram, an institution propagating Indian Classical Arts, Ravindran** is also proud of his family for its musical inheritance, which flows thru his siblings Prapancham Surendran and Prapancham Sailendran who are carrying forward the illustrious torch of their father's legacy.

LIST OF SCHOLARSHIPS, FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS RECEIVED

- **TITLE OF "MRIDHANGA VADYA MANI"**
from Thyaga Brahma Gana Sabha, Pattukottai – 1984.
- **TITLE OF "MRIDHANGA VADYA TILAKA"**
from Kannada Sangha, New York, USA – 1996.
- **AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE**
from MAHARAJAPURAM SRI VISWANATHA IYER TRUST –1997.
- **AWARDED "ASTHANA VIDWAN"**
from SRI KANCHI KAMOKOTI PEETAM, KANCIPURAM –2008.
- **AWARDED "ASTHANA VIDWAN"**
from Rajamundri Rama Bhakta Sabha –1988.
- **AWARDED BEST SENIOR MRIDHANGAM SADAS PRIZE**
from THE MADRAS MUSIC ACADEMY –1994.