

Dr.K.KRISHNAKUMAR

South Indian Classical
Vocal Musician

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Background Born on 12th December 1973 to *Prof.Y.Kalyanasundaram* and vocal musician *Smt.Sarada Kalyanasundaram* at Thiruvananthapuram.

Dr.K.Krishnakumar is a **Fulltime Musician, Music composer, Musicologist, Playback Singer, Carnatic Music Educationalist** and popular as a **Carnatic Vocal Musician for more than Twenty Five Years**. With an experience of performing **more than 2000 live music concerts world over**, Krishnakumar has been recognized with many remarkable awards and titles, the latest ones being the **AWARD of TOP GRADE** by the **All India Radio**, the title “**Kalasri**” with the **Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Academy Award 2012** and the **Doctorate in Music with PhD** from the University of Kerala 2014.

Guru

Started learning **Carnatic music (vocal)** from his own mother **Smt.Sharada Kalyanasundaram** at the age of eight and later from Professor **Neyyattinkara.M.K.Mohanachandran**, former Head of Department of Music at Government Women’s College, Thiruvananthapuram.

Prime disciple of **Padmavibhushan DR.M.BALAMURALIKRISHNA**.

Singing with GURU

Dr.Krishnakumar has the unique opportunity to give **vocal support to his own Guru Dr.M.Balamuralikrishna** for many of his recent concerts at various avenues in India and abroad, the foremost being the concert at the **RASHTRAPATHI BHAVAN** in the august presence His Excellency The Rashtrapathi, The President of India **Sri.Pranab Mukerjee** on 22nd MARCH 2014.

Academics

Awarded the **Doctorate with Ph.D in Music** (2014) by the University of Kerala. A First-class graduate in **Mathematics** (1994), a **FIRST RANK** with first class in both **BA** (1996) and **MA** (1998) in **Music** from the University of Kerala. Krishnakumar is also qualified to be a lecturer in Carnatic music according to the norms of the **University Grants Commission**.

Professional Status

Awarded the **A TOP GRADE** by the All India Radio in **Carnatic Vocal**, Krishnakumar performs concerts regularly at AIR, Doordarsan and other private television channels of Malayalam and Tamil in **Classical music, Light classical music and Light music** for the **past 24 years**. Krishnakumar was **auditioned directly** in AIR for the **last 24 years** by initially winning the **National Award of the All India Radio Competition** in 1991.

Has performed **National programmes, Sangeeth Sammelan, South-zone hook-up programmes** and many '**invited audience' special programmes** of **All India Radio, invited audience special concerts, Southern Regional Satellite Network - SRSN** vocal concerts of **DoorDarsan** AND **Theme based special concerts for Satellite television Channels – Asianet, Soorya, Kairali, SUN, Kalaignar, SVBC, etc.**

The First Concert

First public concert at the age of twelve in Sri Mangala Vinayaka Temple, Vinayak Nagar, Thiruvananthapuram.

First concert in Chennai introduced by Vidwan Dr.T.V.Gopalkrishnan on the 29th December 1989 at Narada Gana Sabha, which was cosponsored by TVG's Academy of Indian Music and Arts.

Important Concerts

Has a credit of performing **more than 2000 live music concerts.**

Concerts at:

- ✓ Sringeri in front of Sri **Sri Abhinava Vidyatheertha** Mahasannidhanam and Sri **Sri Bharathi Theertha** Sannidhanam
- ✓ Kancheepuram in front of Sri **Sri Jayendra Saraswathi Swamikal.**
- ✓ Puttapparthi in front of **Sri Sathya Sai Baba.**

Concerts at all the major sabhas all over India. To name a few:

- The Music Academy, Narada Gana Sabha, Krishna Gana Sabha, The Indian Fine Arts Society, TVG's AIMA, NaadaInbam, Sruthilaya, Sarvani Sangita Sabha, The Nungambakkam Cultural Academy, The Mylapore Fine Arts Club, Thyagabrahma Gana Sabha, etc. of Chennai.
- Soorya Dance and Music Festival, Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Academy, Nishagandhi Dance and Music Festival, Onam Celebrations – Govt of Kerala, Sri Swati Tirunal Sangita Sabha, Swati Mahotsav at Kuthiramalika, Sree Chithra Cultural Society and Sri Chembai Memorial Trust of Trivandrum.
- Bangalore Gayana Samaja, Malleswaram Sangeetha Sabha of Bangalore.
- NCPA, Sree Shanmukhananda Fine Arts and Sangeetha Sabha, Dombivli Fine Arts, Bharathiya Fine Arts, B R R Sabha, etc of Bombay.
- SpicMacay, The Music Education Trust, Swaralaya, etc. at New Delhi.

Awards & Titles

- 🏆 The **Award of the TOP GRADE in Carnatic Classical Vocal** by the **All India Radio** - 2016
- 🏆 The **Award of Doctorate in music with Ph.D Degree** by the University of Kerala on the topic – “*An analysis of the Musical and Poetical aspects in the compositions of Mahakavi Oothukkadu Venkata Subbayan*” - 2014.
- 🏆 “**KALASRI**” title with the **Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Academy Award 2012** for Carnatic Music Vocal.
- 🏆 “**Aasthaana Vidwaan**” – Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam – 2008.
- 🏆 “**Thulasivana Puraskaram 2003**” with a cash of Rupees Ten Thousand - awarded to a performing artist for lifetime achievements by Thulasivana Sangeetha Parishath, Trivandrum
- 🏆 ‘**Tamizh Isai Thendral**’ – Title awarded by the 118 year old Saiva Prakasa Sabha, Trivandrum during the Skanda Shashti Festival 2003.
- 🏆 ‘**Padmasree Rajam Ramaswamy Award**’ – **Best rendering of Sanskrit** – The Music Academy, Madras – 2002
- 🏆 ‘**The Junior Research Fellowship**’ awarded by the Cultural Department, Govt of India – 2000.
- 🏆 ‘**Musiri Subramani Iyer Endowment Award**’ for the best nireval and swaram singing - Krishna Gana Sabha, Chennai, December ‘97
- 🏆 ‘**The Best Vocalist Award**’ - Indian Fine Arts Society, Chennai – 1997
- 🏆 **AWARD** in the **All India Radio competition** in all India level for Light Classical Music – 1991
- 🏆 More than **One Hundred** awards and First prizes for Classical music, Semi-classical and Light music in the inter school, inter collegiate, university, State and interstate levels.
- 🏆 **National Talent Search Scholarship** for Carnaticmusic from the Center for Cultural Resources and Training, Govt of India – 1986
- 🏆 Cash Award from **Dr.M.Balamuralikrishna** in the competition held on Balamurali compositions – 1986

Foreign Tours

During **September - October 1998**, Krishnakumar visited various cities of the United States of America and Canada for more than twenty concerts

During **April – May 2005** – visited and performed music concerts in more than **14 countries** on the world tour organized by **SOORYA** - including Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Bahrain, Kuwait, Muscat, Doha in the Gulf, Koln in Germany, Vienna in Austria, Rome in Italy, Vatican, London in UK, Zurich in Switzerland, Koulalampur in Malaysia and Singapore.

2009-2010 – Duo vocal Concerts with **Mrs.Binni Krishnakumar** at Bahrain, Singapore, Kualalumpur-Malaysia, Melbourne-Australia and **solo** concerts at Canberra-Australia.

2011 – SOORYA Theme concert – DWAYAM - tour to Dubai, Abudhabi & Muscat in the gulf during MAY and Kualalumpur & Serampan in Malaysia during JUNE

2012 – A musical tour to Canada to perform Film and Classical Music concerts.

2015 – A Carnatic Classical Duo Vocal concert tour to UK and USA in SEP & OCT.

Albums to name a few (as singer)

Sakthi Ganapathim – A carnatic concert accompanied by S.Varadarajan and Srimushnam Raja Rao. (RAVI AUDIO)

Thiruvabharanam – Ayyappan devotional songs music directed by Berny Ignatious (RANJINI CASSETTES)

Ente Daivam – Christian devotional songs in Carnatic raagas. (CHRISTIAN LITERATURE SOCIETY)

Rock to Ragas – Traditional Kritis in western orchestration (MAGNASOUND)

Prashanti – Sai bhajans sung along with Smt.K.S.Chithra directed by Pandit Ramesh Narayan. (MANORAMA MUSIC)

Rare Ragas – A carnatic concert of rare ragas with **Delhi Sundarrajan, Srimushnam Rajarao** and **V.Suresh**. (MAGNASOUND)

Adhyatma Ramayanam – Rendition of Ezhuthachan's Adhyatma Ramayanam. (MANORAMA MUSIC)

Shivam Shivamayam – Shiva Bhajans depicting Kerala Shiva Temples sung with Smt.K.S.Chithra. (MANORAMA MUSIC)

Krishnamayam – A Malayalam devotional on Lord Krishna sung along with Padmasree K.S.Chithra (MANORAMA MUSIC)

Thyagaraja Deva Bhaha Kritis - Sanskrit Kritis of Thyagaraja in classical concert style (AUDIOTRACS)

Brihadeeswara - A classical concert with the Kritis on Lord Shiva by various composers (AUDIOTRACS)

Duo Vocal Albums

Carnatic Duo Vocal Albums sung with his wife Binni Krishnakumar:

- **DIVINE RAGAS** –comprising of popular compositions of various composers. (TIMES MUSIC)
- **SOULFUL CLASSICS** - An audio and video musical album with a collection of soulful compositions. (SAREGAMA)

More about the artist

Dr.K.Krishnakumar has sung in many **Fusion music concerts** with popular instrumental artists of the genre of Western music and **Jugalbandi** with Hindustani classical musicians. He has been blessed with the rare opportunity of **singing along with guruji Dr.M.Balamuarlikrishna** for many live music concerts.

Duo Vocal Concerts

Dr.K.Krishnakumar and his wife, **Mrs.Binni Krishnakumar** - a famous playback and classical singer, together perform duo vocal concerts and theme oriented special concerts.

Music Composer

A member as 'FULL COMPOSER' in the Indian Performing Rights Society.

Composed music for the Light and sound show - "SAMAVAAKYAM" and the Title and Theme music for the world premier mega stage show "DWAYAM" – both directed by Sri.Soorya Krishnamoorthy.

Albums to name a few (composer)

Krishnakumar has composed music for more than 40 music albums in various genres of Indian music - sung by popular playback singer Padmasree K.S.Chithra and some sung by himself.

To name a few:

Ramayanam - Ezhuthachans's Ramayanam Kilippattu sung by Smt.K.S.Chithra (BMG Crescendo –Audiotracs)

Adhyatma Ramayanam – Ezhuthachan's Adhyatma Ramayanam kilippattu sung by himself (BMG Crescendo)

Krishnapriya - Traditional kritis on Lord Krishna set to orchestration and sung by Smt. K.S.Chithra (BMG Crescendo)

Avani & Avani vol2 –Thiruvathira songs sung by Smt. K.S.Chithra (BMG Crescendo)

Narayaneeyam – Sung by Smt.K.S.Chithra (Manorama Music)

Devipriya – Traditional kritis on Devi sung by Smt.K.S.Chithra (Manorama)

Ragamalika – Traditional Ragamalika kritis (Manorama Music)

Playback Singer

Krishnakumar has sung in the Malayalam films:

'Swaham' directed by Shaji.N.Karun, 'Kaalachakram' directed by Sonu Sisupal, 'Kalabham' music directed by late Ravindran, 'Nivedyam', 'Anthipponvettom','Gomati Nayakam' (Tamil) by Sri.M.Jayachandran., 'Puthiya mukham', 'Grand Master' music directed by DeepakDev. He has also sung in many professional dramas in Malayalam and title songs for various television serials - 'Melappadam', 'Swantham Malootty', etc...for the Doordarsan, Asianet and Soorya television channels.

Shadkaala Pallavi

The famous Malayalam film music director of the yester years – late G.Devarajan selected Krishnakumar to present his unique format of Ragam Thanam Pallavi, which is sung in six tempos – six different gaits of the Thaala – SHADKAALA PALLAVI. Krishnakumar performed this unique classical music form of extempore singing many times in the public, in the august presence of the composer himself. Krishnakumar was specially felicitated by the MACTA – Malayalam Cine Technicians Association – for the successful and impressive presentation of Shadkaala pallavi.

He is also popular as TRIVANDRUM K.KRISHNAKUMAR
