

# BINNI KRISHNAKUMAR

*South Indian Vocal Musician*

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## BACKGROUND

Born in 1974 to *K.N.Ramachandran Nair* and *A P Shanthamma* at Thodupuzha in Kerala. Married to the vocal musician **Dr.K.KRISHNAKUMAR** also known as Trivandrum Krishnakumar.

## SKILLS

Binni is a :

- ❖ **Carnatic Vocal Musician**
- ❖ **Popular Playback Singer**
- ❖ **Musicologist**
- ❖ **Carnatic Music Educationalist**
- ❖ **Jury Member in Repute Music Reality Shows of The South Indian Television**
- ❖ **Multi Genre Vocal Performer**

## RECOGNITION

Binni is recognised for her in-depth musical talent by the Notable Awards:

- ✓ The title "**KALASRI**" with **The Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Academy Award 2012 for Carnatic Music.**
- ✓ **The FILM FARE AWARD for the BEST FEMALE PLAYBACK SINGER 2005 (South India)** for the song "**Ra Ra**" of the popular Rajinikanth Film "**CHANDRAMUKI**"
- ✓ The title "**KALAATHILAKAM**" conferred with a gold medal by the Kerala State Youth Festival Committee 1989, **Govt of Kerala**

*And Many More ....*

## GURU

Binni began learning Carnatic Music (Vocal) at the age of seven under Vidwan *Sri.Thiruvizha Surendran* and came under the tutelage of *Sri.Thamarakkad Govindan Namboodiri*. During her graduation and post graduation in music, Binni continued here tutelage in music from Violin Vidwan *Sri.B.Sasikumar* and *Prof.Neyyattinkara Mohanachandran* at Trivandrum. Now she is under the musical guidance of *Padmavibhushan Dr.M.Balamuralikrishna*

## Professional status

Binni was awarded **direct B-High grade by the All India Radio in 1995** and sings regularly for the AIR, Doordarsan and other private television channels. She has been featured in the South Zone Hookup programmes of the AIR.

## Academic qualifications

**M.A in music** from the University of Kerala, **M.Phil with FIRST RANK in music** from Madurai Kamarajar University.

## Awards, Titles and Prizes

- ❖ The title '**KALASRI**' with **The Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Academy Award for Classical Music 2012**
- ❖ **Best Singer 2006** – Television – Mylapore Academy, Chennai
- ❖ **Best Playback Singer 2006** –Television – Mahaa Fine Arts, Chennai
- ❖ **Best Playback Singer 2005** - Gokulam Chit Funds
- ❖ **BEST FEMALE PLAYBACK SINGER – FILMFARE AWARD 2005 (South India)**
- ❖ **The Junior Research Fellowship'** awarded by the Cultural Department, Government of India – 2000.
- ❖ **First Rank in M.Phil (Music)** – 1998 – Madurai Kamaraj University.
- ❖ **Second Rank in B A music** – 1994 – University of Kerala
- ❖ **First prize** in Classical Music in the **Kerala University Youth Festivals** –1992-94
- ❖ The **overall championship award** from the **Nair Service Society** in the Kerala state level twice in 1987 and 1988.
- ❖ The Kerala state award - "**KALA PRATHIBHA**" by the Malayalam weekly magazine - MANGALAM 1998
- ❖ The title "**KALAATHILAKAM**" conferred with a gold medal by the Kerala State Youth Festival Committee 1989, **Govt of Kerala**.
- ❖ National Talent Scholarship for Classical music - 1986, Govt of India

## Music Albums

Binni has sung more than **150 music albums of different genres of South Indian music** from the Classical, Semi Classical and Devotional to the Folk music.

### The latest Classical Solo Albums are:

- **THYAGARAJA RAGA RASA** – compositions of Thyagaraja depicting music as the theme.
- **RARE RAGAS OF TYAGARAJA** –compositions of Thyagaraja in Rare Ragas
- **RANGA BARO** – Compositions of Purandara Dasa
- **NAMA SRAVANA SUKHAM** – Compositions of various composers in the Musical form of Thukkadas in Carnatic Concerts.

### Carnatic Duo Vocal Albums with her husband Dr.K.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)

## As a Playback Singer

**BINNI KRISHNAKUMAR** was introduced to playback singing by the popular music director **Sri.VIDYASAGAR** by making her sing her debut song **Rä rä sarasaku rä rä** in the super star **Rajinikant** movie – **CHANDRAMUKHI**. Since then, she has sung in more than **60 feature films**, Title songs for **21 television serials & 150 music albums** in Tamil, Malayalam, Telugu, Kannada, Bengali etc for prominent music composers.

## Important Concerts

- ❖ Concerts at all the major music sabhas and musical organisations all over.
- ❖ The concert for the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Festival of the Kerala Legislative Assembly.
- ❖ For the Onam Festival 1997, for the first time in the History of Kerala, Binni performed a concert on a dais placed in the center of a huge water pond (Sreevaraham) while the audience listened to the concert sitting at the steps on the four shores.

## PRESS REPORTS

All major press and television media have given coverage to the achievements of Mrs.BINNI KRISHNAKUMAR as a Carnatic vocal Musician, A Play back Singer and also as the one among the married couple to **uniquely perform Male – Female Duo vocal Carnatic Music concerts**.

## FOREIGN TOURS

A **frequent traveler in and outside India** to perform South Indian classical and filmi vocal concerts at major music and cultural organizations at Australia, Malaysia, Singapore, Bahrain, Dubai, Oman, UAE etc.

**2006** – Binni did her first foreign tour to perform a filmi concert with reputed playback singers – Padmasree Chithra, Hariharan, Sankar Mahadevan etc at Singapore.

**2009-2010** – **Duo vocal** Concerts with her husband Sri.K.KRISHNAKUMAR at Bahrain, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur-Malaysia, Melbourne-Australia

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

**2012** – A film music concert tour to Canada during MAY-JUNE

**2015** – A Carnatic Classical Concert tour in the UK & USA in SEP-OCT

## AND MORE

BINNI had the unique opportunity to perform music in front of **Dr.A.P.J.Abdul Kalam**, the then Honorable President of India, during His official visit to Kerala. Listening to her, the President broke the official protocol and extended His appreciation on the music performance which was noted by the press and the television media.

Binni joins her husband, vocal musician, **Dr.K.KRISHNAKUMAR** to perform the unique duo vocal Carnatic concerts and theme oriented special music concerts.

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