

## **Biodata**

Anoor R. Ananthakrishna Sharma was born in Bangalore, a city with rich cultural heritage, to a family of great musicians. He is an eminent percussionist with a vast knowledge of Laya, Thala, Raaga & Bhava. His great grandfather Vidwan late Sri Anoor Subbaraya Shastri and his grandfather Vidwan late Sri Anoor Shamanna were fine veena artists. Also Anoor Shamanna's brother Vidwan late Sri Anoor Suryanarayana was a great vocalist. His father Ganakalabhushana Vidwan late Sri Anoor S. Ramakrishna was a well-known violinist and an eminent teacher too in the Dept. of Music of Bangalore University. Anoor R. Ananthakrishna Sharma was initiated to learn Mridangam by Vidwan late Sri R. A. Rajagopal, who was a highly accomplished Mridangam & Ghatam artist and a senior staff of All India Radio, Bangalore. Beginning his long concert career from a young age of fifteen and a number of significant encounters with other great musicians, Ananthakrishna Sharma has created his own style.

As an accompanying artiste, he has performed with many renowned artistes such as Dr. R.K.Srikantan, Dr. M. Balamurali Krishna, M. L. Vasantha Kumari, Vedavalli, T. V. Gopalakrishnan, Dr. N. Ramani, K.S. Gopalakrishnan, B.N. Suresh, Violin Trio of H.V.Krishnamurthy, Anoor Ramakrishna & A. Veerabhadraiah, Lalgudi G. Jayaraman, M. S. Gopalakrishnan, Sudha Raghunathan, T. V. Shankaranarayana, Bombay Sisters, Madurai T. N. Sheshagopalan, Trichur V. Ramachandran, Dr. S.Ramanathan, Sanjay Subramanyam, Unnikrishnan, T.M. Krishna, Maharajapuram Santanam, T. R. Subrahmanyam, Vijaysiva, Neyveli Santanagopalan, Rajkumar Bharathi, M.S. Sheela, R.K. Padmanabha, D.V. Nagarajan, Nagavalli Nagaraj, Usha Char (USA), Sukanya Prabhakar, Nagamani Srinath, S. Shankar, Bombay Jayashree, Charumathi Ramachandran, S. Sowmya, O. S. Thyagarajan, A. K. C. Natarajan, R.A. Ramamani, Prof. T.N. Krishnan, R.R. Keshavamurthy, Ganesh & Kumaresh, Mysore Nagaraj & Dr. Mysore Manjunath, T.R. Srinath, Dr. Doraiswamy Iyengar, Chitraveena Ravikiran, Mandolin U. Srinivas, Kadri Gopalanath and many more.

Anoor Ananthakrishna Sharma besides being a prolific Mridangam artist also can play other percussion instruments such as Dolu (Thavil), Tabla, Pakhawaj with the same felicity and ease. He is also a good Vocalist and a Composer. His talent has been tapped for other non-classical forms of music like light music, film music, folk and devotional, even for ballet and audio cassettes and CD's.

He has been appointed as an executive board member of Adyar Kalakshetra, Chennai, by the Govt. of India. He also serves as an executive board member of Center for Performing Arts Grants Scheme, The Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India. He is also the President of Samskara Bharathi, Bengaluru.

He is considered as one of the most sought after GURUs in the field of music (vocal or percussion). He has been imparting training to many students, who are in various stages of their career with some of them budding to matured and popular artists. Seasoned artists of repute from Hindustani Classical Music also come to him to get guidance and advanced coaching. Students from all over the world be it USA, UK and Europe come to him and seek guidance. His technique of teaching includes not only displaying complicated rhythmic patterns but also simplifying it by giving complete details of the intricacies of those patterns. He encourages his students to come out with their ideas and evolve into good musicians.

## **Awards and Recognitions**

He has been conferred many merits and awards in recognition of his outstanding contribution in the field of Karnatic Classical Music such as:

***“Best Mridangam Artist”*** in 1981 by Gayana Samaja

***“Best Mridangam Artist”*** in 1996 from Madras Music Academy

***“Laya Kala Prathibhamani”*** Title and Vidwan H. Puttachar Memorial award by Percussive Arts Centre in 2000

***“Nada Jyothi”*** in 2003 by Sri Nada Jyothi Sangeetha Sabha

***“Nada Laya Samrat”*** in 2003 by Sri Ramakrishna Bhajana Sabha

***“Nada Chintamani”*** in 2005 by Chintamani Sangeetha Sabha

***“Ganakala Shri”*** in 2005 by Karnataka Ganakala Parishat

Felicitated by Asthana Sangithya in 2007

***“Purandaradasa Prashasti”*** in 2009 by Rajarajeshwari Kalaniketan Trust

Felicitated by Hamsadhwani Creations in 2009

***“Asthana Vidwan”*** of Sri Kanchi Mutt in 2010

***“Hamsarathna”*** by Hamsa Jyothi in 2011

***“Chinthalapalli Parampara Trust National Award”*** by Chinthalapalli Parampara Trust in 2015

***“Layakala Guru Shreshta”*** by students and well-wishers in 2015, during the guruvandana function on his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday

***“Sadhaka Prashasti”*** in 2016 from Karnataka Sangeetha Nrithya Academy, GoK

***“Asthana Vidwan”*** of Dakshinamnaya Sri Sringeri Sharada Peetham, Sringeri, in 2017

***“Asthana Vidwan”*** of Avadhoota Datta Peetham at Sri Ganapathy Sachchidananda Ashrama, Mysore, in 2017

...and many more

## Tours

As an accompanying artiste, Ananthakrishna Sharma has toured all over the globe and has gained an international repute of his own. His overseas performances include

1989 – European countries such as Germany, Netherlands, Italy and Switzerland

1996 – USA, accompanying Vidushi M.S.Sheela

1998 – UK, Composing & Performing for Dance Ballet's under Chitralekha Company

1999 – USA, accompanying Dr. Suma Sudhindra and with the Jugalbandi of Vidushi Shyamala G. Bhavé and Vidushi Nagamani Srinath

2000 – United Kingdom and Belgium for the East-West fusion with Strings of Gufia (London) and Led a percussion Group to Hanover for a performance

2002 – Germany, accompanying Vidwan Ganesh & Vidwan Kumaresh for Asia Pacific Festival

2003 – Amsterdam, for Solo Performance

2004 – Australia, accompanying Vidushi M. S. Sheela

2004 – USA, accompanying Vidushi M.S. Sheela and Vidushi R.A. Ramamani

2004 – USA for AKKA conference

2005 – Amsterdam for a performance for Karnatic Lab, Amsterdam

2005 – Amsterdam for a performance with a fusion troupe and to give concerts for Karnatic Lab, Amsterdam.

2006 – USA for AKKA conference

2007 – Amsterdam for performance with Iranian, Turkish, Afghan and Spanish Musicians called EthnoRhythmics

2007 – USA Directing a Jugalbandi team with Vidwan Pranesh and Vidwan Praveen Gotkhindi called "Ganga Kaveri" and gave concerts all over USA

2008 – USA, accompanying Vidushi M.S. Sheela

2009,10,11,12,13,14 – USA for concerts, teaching and lecture demonstrations

2015 – Hong Kong with Dr. Suma Sudhindra, Pt. Pravin Godkhindi and team

2016 – USA, as a part of the team "Drums of India" organized by Pt. Ravi Shankar Foundation and OPUS 3 Artists