

KALASHREE KALAMANDALAM UNNIKRISHNAN



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Kalashree Kalamandalam
Unnikrishnan



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INTRODUCTION

Kalashree Kalamandalam Unnikrishnan is a leading exponent of **Chenda and Edakka**, percussion instruments from the southern state of Kerala, that takes several years of practice to master. He has graced kathakali stages with the bold beats and sonorous rolls of the percussion instrument for almost five decades now. Unnikrishnan is also a reputed exponent of **Thayambaka**, a solo chenda concert. He has also gained name as an Edakka (smallish, tender sounding musical drum) player for Panchavadyam, a symphonic classical ensemble of Kerala. He is a graded artiste of All India Radio and Doordarshan.

INITIATION AND TUTELAGE

Born in the culturally rich village of Panjal, in Thrissur district of central Kerala in 1944, Unnikrishnan showed interest in Chenda as a child. The late Thamattur Sankaran Nair initiated him into the art of playing the instrument after which Unnikrishnan joined Kerala kalamandalam, The premier performing art Institute of his home state. During his five year training (1957-62) there, Unnikrishnan received tutelage under the legendary **Gurus like Shri. Kalamandalam Achunni Poduval and Shri. Krishnan Kutty Poduval**. His working experience in two kathakali schools - Unnayi Warriar Smaraka KalaNilayam, Irinjalakuda and Muthappan Kathakali yogam, Parassinikkadavu helped him further hone his skills. He was privileged to work as a Chenda player with **Sahredaya Sangam**, which was led by his own Guru Kalamandalam Krishnan Kutty Poduval.

EXPERIENCE

It was in 1968 that he joined the **International Centre for Kathakali** where he got a wide artistic exposure, thanks especially to **Padmashri Keezhapadam Kumaran Nair**, the innovative Kathakali exponent. He retired as the principal of the International Centre for Kathakali and currently is a visiting faculty with them.

ASSOCIATION WITH PROMINENT ARTISTS

Unnikrishnan's stay in the national capital region of Delhi has helped him widen his calibre as an instrumentalist. He has travelled extensively in India and abroad with the International Centre for Kathakali as well as with prominent **Mohiniyattam dancers like Smt. Bharati Shivaji, Smt. Deepti Omcherry Bhalla and Smt. Tara Rajkumar**. He has also performed as a percussionist with well-known **Bharatanatyam and Kuchipudi dancers like Smt. Indrani Rehman, Smt. Sonal Mansingh, Smt. Leela Samson and Shri. Raja- Radha Reddy**. He has participated extensively in several national and international cultural festivals, the list is shared separately.





AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

2018 - International Centre For Kathakali Award

2014- Melacharya Puraskaram

2014 - Kalamandalam Award

2012 - Kalashree Award From Kerala Sangeeta Nataka Academy

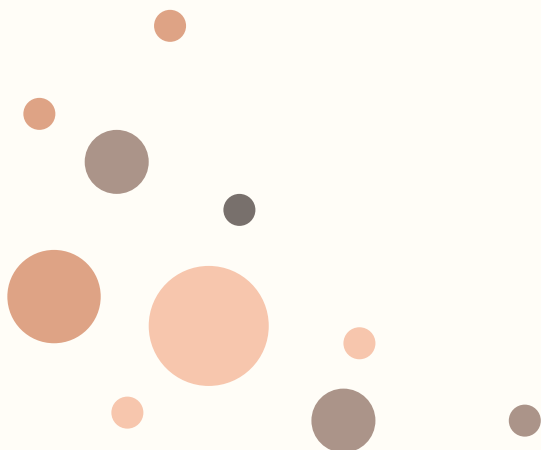
2004 - Gold Medal From Chandigarh Ayyappa Samajam

2004 - Gold Chain And Locket From International Cetnre For Kathakali (On The Occassion Of 60th Birth Anniversary)

2003 - Vadya Sree Puruskaram From Kaladarpanam Kerala

2001 - Gold Medal From Haridwar Ayyappa Temple

1962 - Certificate From Kerala Kalamandalam



+ PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL FESTIVALS

- 1979-1988**
- Athens Festival - Greece
 - Berlin Festival - Germany
 - Yugoslavia & USSR
 - Festival Of India - London
 - Indian Ocean Festival - Australia & New Zealand
 - Asian Festival Of Traditional Dance And Music - Japan
 - Festival Of India - USSR
- 1989-1998**
- West & East Africa
 - NRI Festival = New York
 - Manizalis Theatre Festival - Columbia
 - Serventino Festival - Mexico
 - European Festivals (Malta, Paris, Luxemburg, Berlin, Ireland, Sweden, Norway, Rome And Greece)
 - Melbourne Festival (Australia)
 - Early Music Festival - Netherlands
 - International Ramayana Festival - Cambodia
 - India Festival Paris
 - India Festival Croatia
 - Saitama Prefectural - Japan
 - SESC Autumn Festival - Brazil
 - Delphi Festival - Greece
- 1999-2008**
- Festival Of India - Kazakhstan
 - Ragamala Dance Troupe - USA
 - Melbourne Festival (Australia)
 - Lahore International Dance Festival - Pakistan
 - Incredible India Festival - China
 - India Festival - Nepal
- 2009-2018**
- Festival Of India - Netherlands And Spain
 - Ragamala Dance Troupe - USA





IN THE MEDIA



Falicitation by renowned malayalam cinema actor Shri. Innocent In Chandigarh.

Falicitation by renowned thayambaka exponent, Shri. Mattannur Shankarankutty Marar in Delhi.



Receiving award from the International Centre for Kathakali, Delhi.





IN THE MEDIA



മേളാചാര്യ പുരസ്കാരം കലാമണ്ഡലം പാഞ്ഞാർ ഉണ്ണികൃഷ്ണൻ
കലാമണ്ഡലം ബൈസ് ചാൻസലർ പി.എൻ. സുരേഷ് സമ്മാനിക്കുന്നു

കഥകളിമേളാചാര്യ ട്രസ്റ്റിന്റെ
പുരസ്കാരം സമ്മാനിച്ചു

Award From Kathakali Melacharya Trust.

Award From Kerala Kalamandalam



Falicitation By Kala Sagar, 2013



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