

With her career in music extending over two decades, **Dr. Vijayalakshmy Subramaniam** is today among the most sought after vocalists of the Carnatic Musician tradition, uniquely known for her captivating voice, *bhava* rich music and extensive repertoire. Her creative expressions are a fine blend of *raga bhava* and *sahitya bhava*, imparting tremendous refinement and sophistication to her presentations. With a mesmerizing voice and distinct vocal style, Vijayalakshmy is known for her authentic rendering of compositions with flawless diction, perfect control of rhythmic aspects, and, handling complex & rare *ragams* with élan.



Starting her music tutelage at the young age of five, she gave her first concert at the age of twelve and has an impressive list of achievements to her credit. In her journey as a cultural ambassador of this rich art form, Vijayalakshmy has performed extensively in India and abroad in the most prestigious festivals of music.

In addition to performances, Vijayalakshmy Subramaniam is keenly interested and involved in music research, lecture demonstrations, documentation of rare compositions and has many productions to her credit under the banner '*VS Classics*'. In June 2007, she produced '***Apoorva Kriti Manjari***' – a collection of twenty rare compositions of the Carnatic Music Trinity with audio recording and notations. To facilitate easy learning, the book has notations in English and Tamil by noted musicologist S. Balachander and the audio has been rendered by Vijayalakshmy. With a natural flair for writing, Vijayalakshmy has authored numerous papers and articles on music, many of which have been published in journals and other print media.

A doctorate in music, Vijayalakshmy was awarded the prestigious **Fulbright Visiting Lecturer Fellowship** in 2010. As part of the programme, she taught the subject 'An Introduction to Indian Music' at the Duke University, North Carolina, USA, as a visiting Fulbright fellow (Aug – Nov 2010).

Vijayalakshmy's decade long stint at the All India Radio, Chennai (AIR) as **programme executive** gave immense opportunity to bring her creativity to the fore as a producer of many popular programmes. The 'Divya Nama Sankeertanam' series produced by Vijayalakshmy Subramaniam

under the musical supervision of Dr. M. Balamuralikrishna was a significant contribution in the Classical Music Section. Following AIR, she worked as the Executive Director (South India) at SaReGaMa India Limited, before joining WorldSpace Satellite Radio as an Independent Producer, where she was the single creative force behind launching their classical music channel — 'Gandharva'.

**Vijayalakshmy** is a dedicated teacher and has groomed many students in vocal music. While concentrating on vocal techniques, she also guides them on various theoretical aspects of music. She is also a resource person on the popular e-learning website [www.carnaticstudent.org](http://www.carnaticstudent.org)

## MUSIC TUTELAGE

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Vijayalakshmy Subramaniam started her training in Carnatic Music at New Delhi at the age of five under **Shri K. Padmanabhan**, a disciple of **Harikesanallur Shri Muthiah Bhagavathar** from the Swati Tirunal Academy, Trivandrum. Under the guidance of guru Sangeeta Bhushanam **Shri K Krishnaswamy** of Annamalai University, she learnt detailed aspects of *manodharma sangita* or improvisation. Vijayalakshmy further honed her skills under the guidance of eminent Vidwans **Shri S.Rajam**, **Prof. T.R.Subramaniam** and **Shri V.R.Krishnan**. Vijayalakshmy enhanced her proficiency for classicism and developed into a musician with a vivid sense of proportion, evident in her concerts.

## ACADEMICS

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- ◆ Ph.D in Music, Annamalai University, Tamil Nadu, **March 2011**  
Thesis topic: “*Tamil Composers of the Twentieth Century*”. The dissertation involved assimilation and documentation of Tamil composers and the critical analysis of the musical and lyrical values
- ◆ Sangeet Alankar, **1987**, Gandharva Mahavidyalaya, New Delhi (A masters level program)
- ◆ Sangeet Shiromani, **1982**, Music Faculty, Delhi University (Diploma in Carnatic Music)
- ◆ Masters in Economics, **1983 - 1985**, Punjab University ,Chandigarh, India

- ◆ Bachelor of Arts (Economics Hons.) - **1980 - 1983**, Miranda House, Delhi University, New Delhi, India.

## SCHOLARSHIPS / FELLOWSHIPS

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- ◆ Fulbright Visiting Lecturer Fellowship, **2010**
- ◆ Sahitya Kala Parishad, New Delhi Scholarship, **1983 – 1985**
- ◆ Government of India Junior Talent Scholarship, **1977 - 1983**

## CONFERENCES & PAPERS

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1. **International Music Conference and Festival**, January 2011  
Indranagar Sangeetha Sabha, Bangalore, India  
Lecture Demonstration on Ekaika Ragams
2. **Music Department, University of Kerala**, Feb 2008  
Thiruvananthapuram, India  
Presented a concert and lecture demonstration for the post graduate and research students
3. **Lecture Series, Annamalai University**, July 2007  
Chidambaram, India  
Under the Refresher Course of the University Grants Commission, Government of India, gave a series of lectures for the teaching Staff of various Music Colleges
4. **National Graduate Conference for Ethnomusicology**, July 2006  
“New Directions in Music Studies” University of Cambridge, United Kingdom  
Paper presented on- “What is the point of studying Music and Culture in today’s world?”
5. **The Symposium of the International Musicological Society (SIMS)**, July 2004  
Melbourne, Australia  
Paper presented on – ‘Music Communication: *Raga* and *Tala* – a bridge across’ (Communication of moods in Carnatic Music). This was based on the Carnatic system of ragas.
6. **Workshop for students, on the nuances of Carnatic Music**, July 2004  
Victoria University, Wellington, New Zealand
7. **Concert and Workshop on Carnatic Music**, June 2003  
World Vocal Music Festival, Tampere, Finland
8. **Mudhra Foundation**, October 2000  
Chennai, India  
Paper presented on ‘Music and the Electronic media’

9. **The Music Academy**, December 1996  
Chennai, India  
Paper presented on –‘G.N. Balasubramaniam as a composer’
10. **Master Class, Asia Pacific Music Festival**, July 1992  
Wellington, New Zealand

## PERFORMANCES

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- ◆ **‘Kshetra Sangeetham’** (2010 - ongoing) – a thematic concert series comprising compositions on temple towns. The Kshetras covered in the series till date include Kanchipuram, Chidambaram, Srirangam, Madurai, Tiruvarur, Sringeri, Chennai, Tiruvaiyaru & Tirupati
- ◆ The **KI Tropentheater**, Amsterdam, 2005 – Concert Series in Belgium and Holland
- ◆ Concert series in Europe in collaboration with German dancer Angelica Sriram, on **Rasa in music and dance**
- ◆ **Asia Pacific Music Festival**, New Zealand, 1992
- ◆ Concerts in United States of America, United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, France, United Arab Emirates, Sri Lanka, Germany and Switzerland
- ◆ With her extensive repertoire, she has presented exclusive concerts of composers including Thyagaraja, Muthuswami Dikshitar, Syama Sastri, Swati Tirunal, Purandara Dasa, Annamacharya, Bhadrachala Ramadas, Koteeswara Iyer, Oothukadu Venkata Subbier, Arunagirinathar, and Jayadeva

## REACHING OUT TO SOCIETY THROUGH MUSIC

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A true believer of the words - Music transcends Culture, Language, Religion, Geography and Social Background, it has been Vijayalakshmy's wish to take the wonderful art form of music as a socially enabling and empowering medium to reach out to more people. She has been performing regularly in homes for the elderly, as well as in schools and centres of special education.

## WORK EXPERIENCE

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- ◆ Worked as a producer on ALL INDIA RADIO (1988 – 2000) —India’s National radio Network for over a decade. Created a number of Classical music based programs working with artists of great repute.
  - Produced a monumental thematic series of documenting 110 songs—involving more than a hundred artists
  - Presented many live chat shows
  - Celebrity interviews
- ◆ Worked as the Executive Director (South India) SaReGaMa India Limited for over two years (2000 – 2002) . Responsibilities included planning Radio schedules and programs. It also involved auditioning and training Radio Jockeys.
- ◆ Worked as an independent producer for WorldSpace (2002 – 2004) Satellite Radio. Produced more than 200 hours of programs that launched their classical music channel—Gandharva.

## AUDIO RELEASED

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- ◆ Gaana Tejasvini, Gaana Vahini and Gaana Varshini - **The Master Recording Company**
- ◆ Sri Dwaraka Tirupati Suprabhatham with Dr. M. Balamuralikrishna, Sri Dwaraka Tirupati Devasthanam
- ◆ Sita Kalyana Vaibhavam - **Gitaa Cassettes**
- ◆ Ekaika Ragam Series - **Times Music**
- ◆ Naada Sukham - **HMV Music**
- ◆ Shaktam- Shakti, Myriad hues of Todi, Sringeri, Annamayya - **Charsur Digital Workstation**
- ◆ Muruga Muruga, Madrasil Margazhi (Live concerts), Sarvanandham - **Rajalakshmi Fine Arts**
- ◆ Bhava Raga Tala, Gopaala Baalam, Dikshitar Masterpieces - **VS Classics**
- ◆ Trimurti - **Kosmic Music**

## AWARDS & ACCOLADES

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- ◆ **M.S Subbulakshmi Award** instituted by Narada Gana Sabha, Chennai, Dec 2010
- ◆ **‘Best Pallavi rendition’** prize, The Music Academy, Chennai, Jan 2007
- ◆ **‘Sahityapriya’** award from Kalavardhani, June, 2006

- ◆ **'Sarada Krishna Iyer award for outstanding performance'** from The Music Academy, Chennai, Jan 2005
- ◆ **'Tulasivana Puraskaram'** from the Tulasivanam Parishat, Kerala, December 2004.
- ◆ **'Sangeetha Shikamani'** award from the Andhra Social and Cultural Association, Chennai, 2000
- ◆ **'Gaana Seva Rathnam'** award from the Purandara Dasar Aradhana Mahotsava Sabha, Chennai, 1997
- ◆ **'Best Vocalist'** award for the sub senior category from The Music Academy, Annual Music Festival, in 1996 and 1999
- ◆ **'Outstanding Young Person'** award from the Jaycees, Kilpauk Chamber, Chennai, 1996

## CONTACT DETAILS

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