

# Vidwan Sri AMRIT.N

*Khanjira Artist - Percussionist*



Amrit is an unchallenged monarch of the art of Khanjira playing (Indian Frame Drum, also called as 'Kanjira'). Blending his sharp technical expertise, spectral experience of performing across the globe and a deep respect for tradition, he presents the exquisite art form to awestruck audience world over. Lightning speed, thunderous power & crystal clarity renders his listeners with an exotic journey of percussive sound, traversing a spectrum of sonic experiences. Over many years he has constantly endeavored in innovating techniques and has developed a style to captivately perform with artists of diverse backgrounds such as Traditional Carnatic Classical Music, Jazz, Rock, Fusion, Folk & World Music.

He is the son of Virtuoso Violinist Vidwan Sri BASAVANAGUDI G.NATARAJ. He started learning Mridangam at the age of 5 under Vidwan Sri M.VASUDEVA RAO. Later on continuing under Vidwan Sri A.V.ANAND. He has also learnt violin under his father Vidwan Sri BASAVANAGUDI G.NATARAJ.

He had the fortune of learning Khanjira under "Khanjira Maestro" "The One and Only" Legendary Vidwan Sri G.HARISHANKAR {Chennai}. He is upholding his Guru's tradition and legacy.

He started performing at the age of 8. From then on he is performing with all Top artists of the country in major sabhas & Music festivals both in India and abroad. He has been giving performances in AIR, Doordarshan, E TV, Udaya TV, Zee TV, Jaya TV, Vijay TV, Raj TV and many other private channels. He has featured in many National Level Festivals, Percussion Ensembles, Jugal Bandhi s, Lecture Demonstrations, Fusion Concerts, Audio CDs, Cassettes, Films & TV Serials. He has also composed and conducted for many musical and fusion projects. He has been teaching a lot of students around the world, about various aspects of music. He is associated to many cultural organizations.

A recipient of the CCRT Scholarship for Khanjira from the Ministry of Human Resource & Development for 2 years. Also recipient of Karnataka State Scholarship for consecutive 3 years. He has secured I Prize in the AIR National level Competition for Khanjira, in the year 1997 & Secured II Prize in the AIR National level Competition for Mridangam, in the year 1996.

An "A" grade artist of the All India Radio, Amrit has been awarded with awards and titles like "ARYABHATA YOUTH AWARD" "KHANJIRA PRAVEENA" "ANANYA YUVA PURASKARA" "CMANA PRIZE - 2004" "SALLARI GANA LAYA VITTHGAR" "YUVA KALA BHAARATI" "LAYA PRATHIBHAMANI" given in recognition to his prowess in the field of Khanjira.

He has represented the Government of India as a cultural Ambassador from the INDIAN COUNCIL FOR CULTURAL RELATIONS {I.C.C.R.} for a concert tour in the FIJI ISLANDS. He has performed and conducted a lecture demonstration workshop on 'Modern KHANJIRA art' with a Khanjira solo performance in Columbus {Ohio, USA} for the PASIC INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION 2007 in November 2007. He has performed at CHICAGO World Music Festival 08, MADISON World Music Festival 08, Global Union Fest MILWAUKEE, Symphony Space (NEW YORK), Painted Bride Arts Center (PHILADELPHIA), ARIZONA State University and many more. He has toured ABU DHABI & UNITED KINGDOM with Guru Sri Kariakudi R. Mani & Sri T.M Krishna, in March 2009. Performed in HELSINKI (FINLAND) with the Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra as a member of 'Sruthi Laya' Percussion Ensemble led by Guru Sri Kariakudi R. Mani in Jan 2010.

He has conducted many Workshops & Lecture Demonstrations for many prestigious institutions, which includes Berkley School of Music (BOSTON) & ARIZONA State University and more.

He has accompanied eminent artists like Dr. R .K. Srikantan, Prof. T. N. Krishnan, Dr. M. Balamuralikrishna, Dr. N. Ramani, Dr. L.Subramaniam, Dr. T.K.Murthy, Mavelikkara Sri Velukutty Nair, Sri Palghat R. Raghu, Sri Umayalpuram K.Sivaraman, Sri Vellore Ramabhadran, Prof. T.V. Goplakrishnan, Prof. Trichy Shankaran, Guru Sri Karaikudi R.Mani, Prof. Yella Venkateshwara Rao, Ustad Zakir Hussain (Tabla), Sri T.V.Shankaranarayanan, Madurai Sri T.N.Seshagopalan, Dr.Kadri Gopalnath, Kum. A.Kanyakumari, Sri Thiruvarur Bhakthsavatsalam, Sri Haridwaramangalam A.K.Palanivel, Sri Thanjavur Govindarajan, Sri Mattanoor Sankarakutty Marar (Chanda), Sri Sivamani, Ustad Taufiq Qureshi, Sri Chitravina N.Ravikiran, Sri Ganesh & Sri Kumaresh, Sri R.Prasanna (Guitar), Mr.George Brooks (Saxophone) Mr.Victor Wooten (Bass Guitar) and many other world class musicians.

Vidwan Sri Amrit.N stands as a bastion of Carnatic percussion upholding the tradition of Khanjira and contributing a lot towards putting Khanjira into the main stream of International Musical scenario, which otherwise is a less privileged art form.

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