



CENTER FOR WORLD MUSIC

AND RELATED ARTS



Trichy Sankaran

Trichy Sankaran taught and performed Carnatic percussion music for the Center for World Music in 1980. A distinguished Indian percussionist, composer, scholar, and educator, he was born in Thiruchirapalli, Tamil Nadu, South India, had his earliest musical training under his cousin, P. A. Venkataraman, and later became the star disciple of the legendary *mridangam* master, Pazhani Subramania Pillai. He made his debut at the age of 13 in a concert given by the Alathoor Brothers at Nanrudayan Temple in Tiruchirapalli.

Sankaran was awarded the Madras Music Academy's prestigious Sangeetha Kalanidhi title in 2011. As a *mridangam* virtuoso (*vidwan*), he has been called a "doyen among the percussionists of India" in *Shruti Magazine*. Since the early 1970s, he has performed and recorded in a number of cross-cultural projects, and in 2017 was awarded the "Tiruchirapalli Carnatic Musicians Lifetime Achievement Award."

Sankaran has performed with many significant South Indian musicians, including Ariyakudi Ramanuja Iyengar and T. R. Mahalingam. He won the All India Radio gold medal in 1955 and the President of India award in 1958. He has performed far and wide at major festivals in India, Southeast Asia, Europe, the Middle East, Australia, and North America. With over half a century of concert experience in South Indian music, he has accompanied over five generations of musicians.

Sankaran is the founder of the Tyagaraja Aradhana in Toronto, where he is a professor of music at York University. He performs regularly for most of the leading concert organizations in Chennai every December music season where he continues to accompany a wide array of top-ranked musicians. In addition, he has also conducted workshops and seminars at many American universities: Wesleyan University, the Berklee College of Music, the University of Michigan, the California Institute of the Arts, the University of Illinois, McMaster University, Cornell University, and Dalhousie University.