



# Abhishek Raghuram



**ABHISHEK RAGHURAM** • Learnt the mridangam from his grandfather, the legendary Sri Palghat Raghu; the kanjira from Sri Harishankar & music from Vidwan Sri PS Narayanaswamy • Received the Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar from Sangeet Natak Akademi in 2013 • At 7 years, won the 'Gold Medal for Mridangam' in the Mazhalai Medhai Contest (An all-India contest organized by the Tamil magazine Ananda Vikatan) • First performance at 9 years under the auspices of the Percussive Arts Centre in Bangalore • Performed extensively in India & gave his first international concert tour in America in 1999 with his grandfather, Sri Palghat Raghu • Released several albums, including Makarandam & Ecstasy in Annamaya. Composed many Thillanas. Has also completed B.S. in Mathematics

**CARNATIC MUSIC** • A system of music commonly associated with the southern part of the Indian subcontinent • One of two main sub-genres of Indian classical music that evolved from ancient Hindu traditions, the other sub-genre being Hindustani music • The sub-genre flourished during the period of Vijayanagar Empire and was later mainly patronized by the Maharajas of Mysore & Travancore • Mainly sung through compositions called the kriti (or kirtanam) – a form developed between the 14th & 20th centuries by composers such as Purandara Dasa, Thyagaraja, Muthuswami Dikshitar & Syama Sastri • Sruti (the musical pitch), swara (the sound of a single note), raga (the melodic formulæ) & tala (the rhythmic cycles) form the foundation of composition. Main emphasis is on vocal music; most compositions are meant to be performed in gayaki (singing) style. Has improvisations in raga known as Manodharma Sangeetam (music of imagination) • Performed by a small ensemble of musicians led by a principal vocalist, violin (for melody), mridangam (for rhythm) & tambura (for drone) are generally used as accompaniments. Upapakavadyam are ghatam, kanjira or morsing • Some renowned Carnatic vocalists are Semmangudi Srinivas Iyer, MS Subbalakshmi, ML Vasanthakumari, DK Pattamal, Maharajpuram Santhanam & Balamurali Krishna