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## GURU PRASANNA G

Guru Prasanna is a highly talented percussion artiste who has mastered the art of Khanjira playing and is considered as one of the highly competent and sought after artistes' of Bangalore, India. He was born in Bangalore on 24th December 1976, to Smt. **G Leelavathi** and Sri **K Gundappa**.

He was initiated to learn Mridangam at the age of 6 under the tutelage of Vidwan **R Sathyakumar** at Sri Ayyanar College of Music. Guru continued his Mridangam learning under the tutelage and guidance of versatile percussion genius, **Layakala Prathibha Mani** Vidwan **Anoor R Ananthakrishna Sharma**. He pursued the Khanjira training under **Nada Gambheera** Vidwan **C P Vyasavittala**, an accomplished Khanjira exponent and the premier disciple of Khanjira maestro Vidwan **Late G Harishankar**. Thus, hailing from a rich tradition and the un-parallel school of "**Harishankar School of Khanjira**", Guru has been learning all the nuances of Khanjira playing and art of mastering the instrument.

Started at the age of 12 as a performing artiste, Guru Prasanna has given performances at prestigious organizations all over India and Abroad. He is performing as an "**A**" graded artiste of AIR and DD.

As an accompanying artiste, he has been regularly performing with many renowned artistes such as, Dr. R. K. Srikantan, T. V. Shankaranarayanan, Dr. N. Ramani, Dr. M. Balamuralikrishna, O. S. Thyagarajan, A. K. C. Natarajan, Madurai T N Seshagopalan, M. S. Sheela, Sanjay Subramanyam, T. M. Krishna, P. Unnikrishnan, U. Shrinivas, Chitraveena N. Ravikiran, Mysore Nagaraj & Dr. Mysore Manjunath, Ganesh & Kumaresh, Dr. Suma Sudhindra, Dr. Jayanthi Kumaresh, Sudha Raghunathan, Malladi Brothers, Abhishek Raghuram and many alike.

He has been regularly giving khanjira accompaniment with percussion legends such as Dr. T K Murthy, Dr. Umayalapuram K Sivaraman, Prof. Trichy Shankaran, Guruvayur Dorai, Dr. Yella Venkateshwara Rao, Guru Karaikudi R Mani, Palghat T R Rajamani, Dr. Haridwaramangalam A K Palanivel, A V Anand, Thiruvarur Bhakthavatsalam, Srimushnam V. Rajarao, Mannargudi A. Eashwaran, Tanjavur Govindarajan, Trichur C. Narendran, Anoor Ananthakrishna Sharma, Arjun Kumar, V Praveen, K V Prasad and many more.

Guru Prasanna has featured in many concerts CD's / Albums and featured in some special Laya vinyasa's with many renowned Mridangam artists. He is part of many Instrumental orchestrations like

**Indian National Orchestra** – Concept and Orchestration by Dr. Jayanthi Kumaresh

**Laya Lavanya** – Concept and Orchestration by Vidwan Anoor R Anantha Krishna Sharma

**Vrusti** – Percussion Ensemble of the Percussive Arts Centre

**Layalahari** – Percussion Ensemble of Sri Ayyanar College of Music

As a Khanjira artist he has been representing the nation upholding the Indian tradition and also collaborating with western and Jazz musicians in many nations such as

- **Abu Dhabi** – Performed for the organization "Ragamalika" with Sikkil C Gurucharan on the occasion of "Seetha Kalyanam" – 2013
- **Rome & Milan** – Performed with a contemporary music ensemble and collaborated with European musicians with Dr. Mysore Manjunath – 2012
- **France** – Performed in the first ever Carnatic classical music concert in the prestigious Opera De Lille with Dr. Mysore Manjunath – 2010
- **France & Belgium** – Performed with the famous Jazz group, **Aka Moon** – 2010
- **France & Belgium** – Performed with a contemporary music ensemble along with **Ictus** musicians at Opera De Lille and Kaaithheater – 2010
- **United States of America** – To take part in the annual music festival conducted by Nadatarangini – 2000

*Practice, Patience & Perseverance*

He has got many awards and titles in recognition of his achievements such as,

- Recipient of the prestigious “**Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar**” for the year 2010, the highest national recognition for youth for outstanding talent in the field of Khanjira presented by Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi – 2012
- Blessed by Parama Poojya Periyava as “**Aasthana Vidwan**” of Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam, Kanchipuram – 2011
- “**Ananya Yuva Puraskar**”, youth award for excellence in the field of Khanjira, by Ananya GML Cultural Academy, Bangalore - 2007
- **CMANA Prize**, awarded to the talented young percussionist in the 25th Thaalavaadyotsav of Percussive arts centre, Bangalore – 2006
- Late Sri B. Seetharam Iyengar Memorial award with the title ‘**Khanjira Praveena**’, by Sri Thyagaraja Aradhana Samithi formed by Vidwan V. Praveen, Bangalore – 2005
- “**Best Khanjira Artist**” by the Karnataka Gana Kala Parishat, during the 33rd Annual Conference, Karnataka – 2002
- “**Ananya Prathibhe**” for Khanjira by Ananya GML Cultural Academy, Bangalore – 2000
- Secured 1<sup>st</sup> Prize in Khanjira with **B-grade** in AIR National level competitions – 1998
- Recipient of Karnataka State Scholarship from 1989-91