



**VIDUSHI KALAVATHY AVADHOOT**

### **Profile**

Born on 9<sup>th</sup> September 1969, Vid. Kalavathy hails from a family of musicians. As the daughter of the illustrious musician couple Sangeetha Kalaratna Bangalore K. Venkatram and Gamaka Kala Kogile G R Jaya, Kalavathy has music running in the entire family.

Her father Bangalore K. Venkatram was a ghatam maestro, an organizer par excellence and the Founder Director of Percussive Arts Centre, and mother G R Jaya is a veteran Gamaka artiste and vocalist of repute. Her brother V Krishna is an eminent Mridangam artiste, and the Director of Percussive Arts Centre who has accompanied veteran artists for many years.

Kalavathy is happily married to Sri D Avadhoot, a connoisseur of music who has been encouraging her a great deal in shaping her musical career.

## **Academic Excellence**

Kalavathy's drive for academic excellence had its roots at a very young age. She was conferred the "BEST GIRL" at Vijaya High School. She secured 3<sup>rd</sup> rank for the state in the 2<sup>nd</sup> PU examinations. She is a gold medallist and secured 1<sup>st</sup> rank in MA (Music).

## **Musical Training**

After the initial training under mother Vid. G R Jaya and Vid. Usha Char, Kalavathy had intensive training under Ganakalabhushana Anoor. S. Ramakrishna. She was indeed very fortunate to have learnt under Guru Sri Ramakrishna who moulded her to be the artist she is today.

Later, she learnt under Vid. Seethalakshmi Venkateshan and is currently pursuing higher training under Vid. P. S. Narayanaswamy of Chennai.

## **Kalavathy's style of singing**

Endowed with a rich and mellifluous voice, Kalavathy Avadhoot's vocal stands out for the feel (bhava) she imparts to her music. An unhurried style of deliberating a raga with a flawless sruthi sense and a rich manodharma; neat krithi rendition with a tradition bound paataanthara; effortless neraval and swaraprasthara with a sharp sense of laya, and above all, meticulous planning make her concerts very fulfilling to the learned and connoisseurs alike.

## **Performances**

Kalavathy Avadhoot has performed all over India at major sabhas in Chennai, Mumbai, Kolkata, Delhi, Trichy, Mysore, Bangalore, Shimoga, and Bellary to name a few.

She has toured the USA several times for "Nada Tarangini" and Cleveland Tyagaraja festival. She also toured Amsterdam, Netherlands in the year 2005 for the "Carnatic Lab" project.

As an active member of the Percussive Arts Center's music ensemble, Kalavathy has performed special concerts and lecture-demonstrations in Mumbai and Chennai, under the direction of Vid. Anoor Ananthakrishna Sharma. She has also performed at Rama Lalitha Kala Mandira's Spring festival, Bangalore Gayana Samaja's annual music conference and other popular sabhas of India.

Kalavathy has presented exclusive thematic concerts of Dasa Keertana, Ragamalika compositions, Kanakadasa and Purandaradasa compositions etc.

She has also recorded a number of special programs for the All India Radio. A notable few are – Pracheena Pallavigalu, Srividya Darshanam, Chamundeshwari Ashtottara Kritis of Mutthaiah Bhagavatar.

### **Other Accomplishments**

Kalavathy lent her voice for Art movies like “Madhwacharya”, “Ramanujacharya”, and “Bhagavadgeetha” etc under the direction of G V Iyer and B V Karanth, singing alongside musical legend Dr. M Balamuralikrishna.

She has released several CDs and cassettes of devaranamas and thematic compositions like Sri Datta Guru Guna Gayana, Pearls of Purandara, Paahi Maam Annapoorne, Sri Ranganatha, Abhayamba Vibhakti Kritis, Amba Vani, Kanaka Purandara etc. Vachana Vaibhava, a thematic CD on Shivasharana Vachanas is a notable production that she was part of under the direction of Guru Usha Char, and Rama Katha Sudha under the guidance of Guru Anoor Ramakrishna.

Kalavathy has been training a number of talented young students as part of ‘Swaranidhi’ where they learn and perform thematic concerts like Prahlada Bhakti Vijayam and Nauka Charitram of Sri Tyagaraja, Purandara Keertana Mala, rare and special compositions of Mayuram Vishwanatha Shastry, Subrahmanya Bharatiyar and Tirumale Rajamma. Her son and disciple, Datta Prasad was recently lauded for his achievements in the Sa Re Ga Ma Pa reality show on Zee Channel. Rahul Vellal, yet another young disciple has been performing all over the globe under the able guidance of Kalavathy. Several other senior students also regularly perform concerts and group productions.

### **Laurels and Awards**

Kalavathy Avadhoot was awarded

- a) All India Radio Music competition prize
- b) The Merit Prize for securing maximum number of awards by Bangalore Gayana Samaja (1989)
- c) Silver Jubilee Endowment Prize at Krishna Gana Sabha in 1994
- d) “Best Main Musician” awarded by Karnataka Gana Kala Parishath, Indian Fine Arts Society, Chennai (2000)
- e) “Youth Excellence Award” from Rotary South Parade (2001)
- f) Awarded the Fellowship by Govt. Of India, Dept for Culture for study of Allied Ragas in Carnatic Music
- g) “Ananya Yuva Puraskara” (2006)
- h) “Gana Kala Shree” by Karnataka Gana Kala Parishath (2009)
- i) “Sathyashree” awarded by Vani School of Music (2009)
- j) “Vishesha Kala Chethana” awarded by the Vishesha Fine Arts (2013)



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