

# Shri Trivandrum R. Venkataraman



R. Venkataraman, a distinguished veena maestro and a top-ranked (A top) artist with All India Radio and Television, was celebrated for his distinctive approach that seamlessly merged tradition and modernity in veena playing. His musical journey commenced with early training in vocal Carnatic music, which began at the tender age of four.

Subsequently, he honed his skills under the guidance of Late K.S. Narayanaswamy, ultimately securing a National Scholarship for the Veena. Notably, he achieved the first rank in both vocal music and veena during his tenure at Sri Swathi Thirunal College of Music.

After his tenure as an Assistant Professor of Veena, Venkataraman joined All India Radio in 1964, where he dedicated his services until his retirement in 1996. An iconic moment in his career was his participation in the Veena-Venu-Violin trio concerts, alongside Shri Lalgudi G. Jayaraman and N. Ramani, which introduced innovative instrumental combinations to the realm of Carnatic music. He graced the stage at Navarathiri Mandapam and conceived special feature programs that showcased his deep musical knowledge.

Venkataraman's illustrious career extended to performing for dignitaries, and he received numerous accolades, including the Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Academy award for 1982 and the Shanmukha Vadivu Award from the Music Academy, Madras, in 1973.

He also played a significant role as a mentor, instructing students in vocal and veena, and held academic positions. His contributions included enlightening lecture/demonstrations on various aspects of Carnatic music. Additionally, he took his musical talents across borders, touring Australia, the United States, and other international locations, leaving a lasting and global impact with his music.