



Rasika Ranjani Sabha®

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30/1 SUNDARESWARAR STREET, MYLAPORE, CHENNAI - 600004

CITATION

KALA RATNA AWARD – 2023

to

Smt. Sikkil Mala Chandrasekhar

Smt. Sikkil Mala Chandrasekhar is a flautist who continues in the tradition of her famous Gurus, the Sikkil Sisters – Padmashri Awardees, Sangeetha Kalanidhi Kunjumani and Neela. In playing style, Mala combines the strongest aspects of both Kunjumani's clear classic lines with Neela's flair and expressiveness. Other major influences on Mala's playing are the expertise and repertoire of noted vocalist and teacher Radha Viswanathan and of Radha's mother Bharath Ratna Late Smt. M.S.Subbulakshmi whose family Mala joined by marriage.

Mala concertizes throughout India and abroad in USA, Canada, London, Australia, New Zealand, Europe, Jordan, Singapore, Malasiya, Dubai and Mauritius) to name a few for a span over 37 years. She is recognized as the most gifted exponents of Carnatic music in her generation and one of its top flautists. She is a "Top graded" artist of AIR (All India Radio) and also an empaneled artist of the ICCR.

She has performed in numerous places, some of the notable performances of hers were at World Tamil Conference (Thanjavur), Sangeeth Natak Akedemi, India Habitat Centre, Rashtrapathi Bhavan (Indraprastha), United Nations (USA) Peace And Harmony Concert, Thanjavur Big Temple, Chembur Fine Arts (Mumbai), Music Academy (Chennai). She was the first woman to represent India during the International Flute Convention held at Atlanta, Georgia, USA and was also the first Indian Flautist at the Jordan Music Festival in Almufarak, Maadaba and Amman organized by ICCR. She has also worked as a visiting professor at the Government Music College, Adyar, Chennai for about 5 years.

She is the recipient of several awards like 'Lifetime Achievement Award' by Parampara and Shanthi Arts Foundation and Saha India Parivar (Lucknow), 'Aasthana Vidushi' Sri Sharada Peetham Sringeri, Sri Syama Sastri Sangeetha Rathna Award, Papanasam Sivan Award, Maharajapuram Santhanam Meritorious Awards, Nada Kala Vipanchee, Madura Murali Puraskar, Shanmukha Sangeetha Shiromani, Venu Gana Sironmani, Isai Peroli, Kalki Krishnamurthy Award, Yuva Kala Bharathi, Palladam Sanjeeva Rao Award, Kalaimamani, Flute Mali Award. Besides the above she has won honours from Music Academy, Narada Gana Sabha and other prestigious organizations for the "Best Senior Flautist". She has cut many albums – cassettes, CDs and DVDs under reputed companies like Saregama, Kosmic, Gita Cassettes, etc.

Some other achievements of hers include being selected as an expert committee member in South Zone Cultural Center in 2002, in the Ministry of Culture for Scholarship and Salary Grants 2011-2014, in Government Music College – Tamil Nadu Music University. She has been invited by the National State Arts Council by the Government of Singapore as an adjudicator to adjudge music competitions at Singapore in 2014.

She was the first Indian to participate at a conference held in May 2006 at the National Music Museum in Vermillion, South Dakota, USA. She has presented various lecture demonstrations on Carnatic Music (especially Flute) at various universities in USA some of which include Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pennsylvania, Gettysburg College, Swarthmore college, Temple University. Upenn University, Baruch College and George Mason University.

The Award Committee of Rasika Ranjani Sabha takes great pleasure in conferring the

KALA RATNA AWARD – 2023

for EXCELLENCE IN FLUTE to Smt. SIKKIL MALA CHANDRASEKHAR

on this 18th day of August 2023.

A.R.Santhanakrishnan
President

**R.Nagarajan &
R.Vaithiyanathan**
Secretaries