

Ghatam Giridhar Udupa

“The King of Pot Music”

- **RAVE MAGAZINE**

Ghatam Giridhar Udupa is one of the leading musicians in the world of rhythm. Thumping into the musical world at an age as tender as 4, Udupa has been mesmerizing the audience with his immaculate style and innate creativity.

Born into a family of music and literature, rhythm flows in his blood. He had his initial tutelage under his father and well-known Mridangam artist Vidwan **Ullur Nagendra Udupa** and later became a disciple of Vidushi **Ghatam Sukanya Ramgopal** and Vidwan **Ghatam V.Suresh**.

For Carnatic Classical Music he performs on the Ghatam, the Indian claypot. For other genres he also performs on varied South Indian percussion instruments including Mridangam, Kanjira and Morsing. He renders Konnakol (syllables) with equal aplomb.

He has accompanied eminent South Indian Classical Musicians including Sarvashree L.Subramaniam, M.Balamuralikrishna, M.S.Gopalkrishnan, R.K.Srikantan, T.N.Krishnan, T.K.Murthy, Palghat Raghu, Umayalpuram K.Sivaraman, A.K.Palanivel, Mysore Nagaraj & Manjunath, Mandolin Srinivas, Ganesh & Kumaresh, N.Ramani, K.J.Yesudas, T.V.Gopalkrishnan, T.V. Sankaranarayanan, T.N.Seshagopalan, Jayanthi Kumaresh, R.K.Suryanarayana, Kadri Gopalnath, Bombay Jayashri, Sudha Raghunathan, Aruna Sayeeram and others.

Apart from playing authentic Carnatic Classical music, he has performed in many Fusion, Jazz, Blues, Rock, Flamenco, Symphony Orchestra, Celtic Music, Latin Music, DJ Music, World Music, Arabic Music, Japanese Music, Talavadya (Percussion Ensemble), Bollywood Music, European Folk Music and has been part of numerous International Music Festivals with renowned Indian Musicians like Dr.L.Subramaniam, Trilok Gurtu, Pandit Shivkumar Sharma, Ustad Amjad Ali Khan, Ustad Sultan Khan, Shankar Mahadevan, Pandit Jasraj, Pandit Vishwa Mohan Bhatt, Pandit Anindo Chatterjee, Ustad Shahid Parvez, Shankar Ehsaan Loy, Ustad Fazal Qureshi, Pandit Birju Maharaj, Sivamani, Louis Banks, Niladri Kumar, Ustad Taufiq Qureshi, Amit Heri, Lucky Ali, Kavita Krishnamurti Subramaniam, Ranjit Barot, Bikram Ghosh, Rahul Sharma, Selva Ganesh, Pandit Swapan Chaudhuri, and Western Musicians like Larry Coryell, George Brooks, Ernie Watts, John Kaizan Neptune, Chico Freeman, Kai Eckhardt, Hubert Laws, Corky Siegel, Ivry gitlis, Airto Moreira, Fritz Renold, Lewis Pragasam and others. He has also worked with many leading music directors in India.

He has been part of several Global Symphony and Chamber Orchestras including Fairfax Symphony Orchestra (USA), Kwazulu-Natal Philharmonic Orchestra (South Africa), State Philharmonic Orchestra of Sibiu (Romania), Sinfonia Baltica (Poland), Leipzig Philharmonic Chamber Orchestra (Germany) and Royal Symphony Orchestra of Oman.

He is a founder Member of "**Layatharanga**", a team of Indian classical musicians who have embarked on creating new waves of music blending different forms of classical, folk and world music. To take his music to the global audience, he has teamed up with Poland based Flamenco Group "**Indialucia**" and France based Celtic Band "**Bamboo & Clay**". He has conducted many workshops & lecture demonstrations for many prestigious institutions all over the world. He has also composed and conducted for many world music projects.

He is one of the few musicians from India to perform at the prestigious **“UNITED NATIONS”**, NEW YORK with Dr.L.Subramaniam in March, 2011. He has been part of numerous International Music Festivals and performed at the most prestigious venues in the world including Sydney Opera House - Sydney (Australia), The Kennedy Centre - Washington D.C. (USA), Royal Festival Hall - London (UK), Wortham Centre – Houston (USA), Millennium Park – Chicago (USA), Music Academy - Chennai (India), Bangkok Jazz Festival – Bangkok (Thailand), Miri International Jazz Festival - Sarawak (Malaysia), Ethno Port Poznan Festival - Poznan (Poland), Lille 3000 – Lille (France), The fifth Cross Culture Warsaw Festival - Warsaw (Poland), Flamenco International Festival - Prague (Czech Republic), Swaralaya (Kuwait), Theatre de la ville and Theatre Guimet -Paris (France), Theatre St Gilles (Reunion Island), Shanghai World Music Festival - Shanghai (China), Forbidden City Concert Hall –Beijing (China), El Violin Festival - La Coruna (Spain), Java Jazz Festival - Jakarta (Indonesia), Rainforest World Music Festival- Sarawak (Malaysia), International Percussion Festival – Krakow (Poland), Cemal Resit Rey Concert Hall – Istanbul (Turkey).

Udupa has given concerts under the auspices of prestigious Sabhas all over India and abroad, including USA, UK, Canada, South Africa, Brazil, China, Australia, Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, Spain, Switzerland, France, Denmark, Poland, Italy, Turkey, Ireland, Slovenia, Czech Republic, Luxembourg, Romania, Indonesia, Mauritius, Re Union Island, Singapore, Malaysia, Bangkok, Dubai, Muscat, Doha, Sri Lanka, Bahrain and Kuwait.

Apart from receiving critical acclaim for his instrumental abilities, Ghatam Udupa has also received many national honours. He has been honoured as **"Asthana Vidwan"** of the Sri Matam of Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam, 2010. He was conferred with title **"MADHURA MURALI PURASKAR"** from the Legendary Dr.M.Balamuralikrishna, Chennai, 2012 (82nd Birthday Celebration of Dr.M.Balamuralikrishna), "Yuva Kala Bharati" by Bharath Kalachar, Chennai, in 2004, "Vijaya Kalashree" title in 1997,"Yuva Laya Prathibhamani" in 2009. He has won the Aryabhata Award for the year 2000 at a young age of 20. He is the recipient of the Central Government Scholarship for Ghatam from 2002.

PRESS REVIEWS

“THE KING OF POT MUSIC”
RAVE

“Udupa, who is making forays into big concert circuits, is a joy to watch and listen to.”

THE TIMES OF INDIA

“A percussionist’s persistence for perfection”
INDIAN EXPRESS

“Giridhar Udupa is a wizard on the Ghatam”
DECCAN HERALD

“The dexterity of Ghatam playing by Udupa reminds one of Vikku Vinayakaram”

THE HINDU

“Udupa’s hands deftly fly across the Ghatam bringing out the creative genius in him.”

VIJAY TIMES

“His fingers thump literally bursting crackers.”

DECCAN HERALD

“Giridhar Udupa, on the Ghatam, leaves the audience spell bound with his scorching speeds and nuances which are not very easy on an instrument like Ghatam.”

PERCUSSIVE ARTS CENTRE

“Watching him play the instrument itself is a treat to watch”

“Udupa has aptly demonstrated that talent has no age bars”

KANNADA PRABHA

CONTACT

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