



Dr. B. SIVA of Hyderabad

Musical Journey

Dr. B. Siva of Hyderabad, who holds a doctorate in music, was born in 1975 to Sivashri Balasubramanian and Mrs. Kamala.

He began his musical journey at the age of 16. In Hyderabad, he initially learnt music from **Sri Chandrasekar**, a music teacher. He subsequently continued his musical training under **Mrs. Banu Kannan**. To further his musical knowledge, he moved to Chennai, where he completed a diploma course in music at the Chennai Music Academy. During the same period, while pursuing his undergraduate and postgraduate studies at the University of Madras, he also received training from the late **Sangeetha Kalanidhi Amarar S. Rajam Iyer**. He further refined his musical skills under the late **Sethalapathi Balasubramania Iyer**, a direct disciple of **Papanasam Sivan**, and attained distinction in Tamil Isai. He also learnt traditional music from **Mrs. Sundaravalli Srinivasan**, further enriching his musical expertise.

Dr. Siva has dedicated himself to teaching music as a form of divine service. He has served as a music lecturer at Vivekananda College, Chennai, and Ponneri Sri Saraswathi College of Education. He has also distinguished himself as a musician with All India Radio and served as a member of the advisory council of Tamil Nadu Music and Fine Arts University.

In recognition of his musical excellence, dedication, innovative teaching methods and contributions to the development of Tamil Isai, he has received numerous titles and honours.

His distinguished awards and titles include Sangeetha Kala Rathna from Thiruparankundram Sri Skanda Guru Vidyashramam, Asthana Vidwan of Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Mutt, Isai Selvar, Ezhisai Endhal, Santha Tamilisai Selvar, Thiruppugazh Semmal and Suga Gana Nada Jothi.

Dr. Siva has performed at numerous prestigious venues and events, including the Chennai Music Academy, Ponguthamizh Pannisai Mandram, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Delhi Tamil Sangam, the Second International Siddhar Conference and the International Panchapuram Conference. He also performed at the Third International Muruga Bhakti Conference in Durban, South Africa, and the Fourth International Muruga Bhakti Conference in Colombo, Sri Lanka. His performances at these international events have helped Tamil Isai reach audiences across the world.

For several years, he appeared on Makkal TV alongside his students in various programmes. These included Panpaduvom, the Margazhi Thiruppavai programme, and programmes featuring South Indian music, various ragas and devotional compositions such as Thiruppugazh. By employing innovative presentation methods, he made these musical and devotional works enjoyable for both musically trained audiences and the general public. His achievements in these endeavours are particularly noteworthy.

He has also presented musical programmes on various television channels for special occasions such as Navaratri, Deepavali and Makar Sankranti, captivating audiences and earning a lasting place in their hearts.

Another remarkable achievement in his musical journey was his Thiruppavai musical presentation at Thiruvaiyaru, organised by the world-renowned Lakshman Sruthi in Chennai. Accompanied by 200 of his students, he presented this programme, which became a memorable milestone in his musical career.

His dedication to further developing Carnatic music and nurturing the students who learn under him is immeasurable. He has established Vannam Sughi Nikethan, where around 250 students receive training in Carnatic music in a comfortable environment equipped with modern facilities. He has also published numerous music books along with CDs to accompany them. Notable among these are Navagraha Keerthanaigal, Naalvar Thirumuraigal, Isaithamizh Paamaalai, its six volumes, and Chinna Chinna Paattugal.

He has compiled all 314 Thiruppugazh songs associated with the Arupadai Veedu into a book in both Tamil and English, which is highly commendable. He has also established the Thiruppugazh Isai Peravai Trust to spread Thiruppugazh music worldwide. Through this initiative, he plays an important role in preserving and passing on all the musical compositions of Arunagirinathar Swamigal to the next generation.

He has selected 106 short Thiruppugazh songs for children and music enthusiasts, set them to rhythm, and published them. These recordings are available free of charge on his channel, where everyone can listen to and enjoy them.

He has composed ragas for approximately 550 Thiruppugazh songs blessed by Sri Arunagirinathar Swamigal and recorded them with rhythm and instrumental accompaniment. He also holds the distinction of being the first to present the Thiruppugazh songs associated with all six Arupadai Veedu in live musical performances at the Arulmigu Kamala Vinayagar Satsangam. This remarkable achievement belongs to our Dr. Siva.

He has conducted research on the musical compositions of Lord Murugan and earned a doctorate in the field. As an expression of his research, he has introduced Sri Valli Kalyanam, a traditional Divya Nama Bhajan, to his students and has presented it on stage at several venues, captivating audiences.

He has made a significant contribution to bringing the musical composition Geetha Gangeya Kaaviyam by Sri Viswanathakavi of Kanadukathan, comprising the 24 songs celebrated as Guhashtapathi, to the public. He is also making efforts to introduce Sampradaya Subramanya Divya Namam to children.

The musical concerts he has presented at various temples and auditoriums with 108 students under the title Ashtothra Sangeethakaram, in his own distinctive style, have received tremendous appreciation from the public. Numerous newspapers and magazines have praised the unique musical contributions of Dr. P. Siva.

Dr. Siva's musical journey is truly distinctive. His ability to sing Thirumurai and Thiruppugazh songs with proper word separation, while preserving the correct raga and musical structure so that the younger generation can understand them, is remarkable. His ability to render Viruthams with sweetness and clarity of meaning is indeed a divine blessing.

His musical service extends beyond the boundaries of Tamil Nadu. It is heartening that several music schools and colleges in Malaysia, South Africa, Mauritius, Sri Lanka, Dubai, and European countries have welcomed him as an advisor, enabling him to spread Tamil art and culture among people across the world.

