

Ghatam Giridhar Udupa

“THE PASHA 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. After initial tutelage under his father and well-known Mridangist **Ullur Nagendra Udupa**, he is currently a disciple of Vidushi **Ghatam Sukanya Ramgopal** and Vidwan **Ghatam V.Suresh**.

Udupa, a commerce graduate, has treaded the path of music with a heart of an artist and the will of an innovator. His persistence for perfection has taken him to the league of the nation’s most sought after percussionists.

Udupa performs on the Ghatam, the Indian claypot. He also performs on varied South Indian percussion instruments including Mridangam, Khanjira and Morsing. He renders Konnakol (syllables) with equal aplomb.

He has accompanied eminent musicians including Sarvashree He has accompanied eminent 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, Ganesh & Kumaresh, Mysore Nagaraj & Manjunath, Mandolin Srinivas, N.Ramani, K.J.Yesudas, T.V.Gopalkrishnan, T.V. Sankaranarayanan, Madhurai T.N.Seshagopalan, Trichur V.Ramachandran, Hyderabad Brothers, O.S.Thyagarajan, T.M.Krishna, Neyveli Santhanagopalan, P.Unnikrishnan, Sanjay Subramanyam, N.Vijay Siva, Shashank, Kadri Gopalnath, Veenai Jayanthi Kumaresh, R.K.Suryanarayana, Bombay Sisters, Nithyashree Mahadevan, Sudha Raghunathan, S.Sowmya, M.S.Sheela, Aruna Sayeeram and Ranjani & Gayatri.

Apart from playing authentic Carnatic Music, he has performed in many Fusion, Jazz, Blues, Flamenco, Symphony Orchestra, Celtic Music, Latin Music, DJ Music, World Music, Talavadya (Percussion Ensemble) and Jugalbandhi concerts and has been part of numerous International Music Festivals with renowned Indian Musicians like Dr.L.Subramaniam, Pandit Jasraj, Ustad Amjad Ali Khan, Ganesh Kumaresh, Pandit Anindo Chatterjee, Sivamani, Kavita Krishnamurti Subramaniam, Pandit Birju Maharaj, Ustad Sultan Khan, Louis Banks, Niladri Kumar, Amit Heri, Lucky Ali, Ranjit Barot, Bhavani Shankar, Rahul Sharma, Amaan Ali Khan, Ayaan Ali Khan and Swapan Chaudhuri and Western Musicians like Larry Coryell, George Brooks, Ernie Watts, John Neptune, Ivry gitlis, Lewis Pragasam, Virginia Mayhew 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), State Philharmonic Orchestra of Sibiu (Romania), Polska Filharmonia Sinfonia Baltica of Poland, Leipzig Philharmonic Chamber Orchestra (Germany) and Royal Symphony Orchestra of Oman.

Udupa 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 Fabrice de Graef and Mishko M'Ba to become part of the global band – "**Nasha**" that offers Celtic music fused rhythmically with Indian Percussions. Being the core percussionist for the band, Udupa adorns Celtic music with rich Indian rhythmic patterns. He is also a member of Poland based Flamenco Band "**Indialucia**" featuring Miguel Czachowski, Jan Kubek and Adam Glosnicki. Berlin radio, Radio France, Polskie Radio (Polish Radio), Radio Luxembourg and several radio networks have broadcast his solo concerts and interviews. He has recorded albums for Autogram, a leading German audio recording company and CM records of Poland.

Udupa is the first Indian percussionist to perform at the prestigious Krakow International Percussion Festival in 2005. On a special invitation by the organizers, he also conducted a workshop on South Indian percussions and introduced the concept and practice of Indian rhythm to a global audience.

Udupa has given concerts under the auspices of prestigious Sabhas all over India and abroad, including USA, UK, Canada, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, Spain, Switzerland, France, Denmark, Poland, Czech Republic, Luxembourg, Romania, Re Union Island, Singapore, Bangkok, Indonesia, Mauritius, Dubai, Muscat, Doha, Bahrain and Kuwait.

Widening his horizons with extensive global touring, Udupa has enriched his music with nuances sought from all schools of music. Accolades have come from around the world. Music lovers celebrate the finesse of his fingering, the dexterity of his playing, the incomprehensible speed of his intricate rhythmic designs. His fingers simply fly around Ghatam, perennially holding surprises for the audience.

Key Achievements:

- Conferred with title **“YUVA KALA BHARATHI”** by Bharath Kalachar, Chennai, 2004.
- First Prize at the **National Level All India Radio** Competition in the Year 2000.
- **CMANA Award** 2007 (Carnatic Music Association Of North America) by Percussive Arts Centre, Bangalore
- Recipient of the prestigious **Central Government Scholarship** for ghatam from 2002.
- Best Ghatam Artist Award from Gayana Samaja, Ganakala Parishat and Malleshwaram Sangeetha Sabha for the years 1992, 1996 and 1999 respectively.
- Founder Member of **Layatharanga**, An Ensemble of Percussions. Layatharanga released their first album, **Punarnava**, The Revival in 1999, **Thandava** in 2000 and **Pranava** in 2003.
- **Aryabhata Award** for the year 2000.
- **Ananya Yuva Puraskara** for the year 2003 as **“Best percussionist of the year ”**
- **Vijaya Kalashree** title – 1997
- First Indian percussionist to perform and conduct workshop at the prestigious Krakow International Music festival - 2005.

Performances in India and Abroad:

- Lakshminarayana Global Music Festival
- Royal Festival Hall, London
- Bangkok Jazz Festival
- Java Jazz Festival , Jakarta, Indonesia
- International Percussion Festival – Krakow, Poland
- El Violin Festival, Spain
- Colours of India, Bangalore and Chennai
- Theatre de la ville and Theatre Guimet, Paris
- De Bouche a oreille, Parthenay, France
- Swarutsav, New Delhi
- Theatre St Gilles, Re Union Island
- Indishes Konzert, Heidelberg, Germany
- Swaralaya, Kuwait
- Music Academy, Chennai
- Flamenco International Festival, Prague, Czech Republic
- Summer Guitar Festival, Wroclaw, Poland
- Lille 3000, France
- ICCR Hall, Berlin, Germany
- Millennium Park, Chicago
- Northfolk International Festival, Seattle

Press Reviews:

“THE PASHA 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

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

KANNADA PRABHA

“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”

THE HINDU

Contact

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