

# Ghatam Giridhar Udupa

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## “The King of Pot Music”

- RAVE MAGAZINE

Synonymous with the ghatam, world-renowned percussionist Ghatam Giridhar Udupa is one of the most loved names in the field of music. With three decades of musical journey enriched by collaborations with eminent artists across the world, concert visits to more than fifty countries and numerous accolades and awards, Udupa today stands as a true global icon, an ambassador of world music, and a pioneering exponent of Carnatic classical music.

His journey started at the age of 4, when he took to percussions under the mentorship of his father Vidwan Ullur Nagendra Udupa and later under Vidhushi Sukkanya Ramgopal and Vidwan V Suresh. Rooted firmly in the tradition of Carnatic Classical music, Udupa has extensively widened the boundaries of his repertoire with a range of pathbreaking collaborations.

He is the founder and director of **The Udupa Foundation**, a registered charitable trust founded in 2015, with the aim of promoting music, performing arts and culture. The Foundation deals primarily with the promotion of performing arts and culture.

He is the Brand Ambassador for **Harman AKG Microphones**.

He has accompanied eminent South Indian Classical Musicians including Sarvashree M.Balamuralikrishna, M.S.Gopalkrishnan, R.K.Srikantan, T.N.Krishnan, T.K.Murthy, Palghat Raghu, Umayalpuram K.Sivaraman, Guru Karaikudi R Mani, L.Subramaniam, N.Ramani, K.J.Yesudas, T.V.Gopalkrishnan, Mysore Nagaraj & Manjunath, T.N.Seshagopalan, Ganesh & Kumaresh, Mandolin Srinivas, R.K.Padmanabha, Jayanthi Kumaresh, Bombay Jayashri, R.K.Suryanarayana, Basavanagudi G Nataraj, Aruna Sayeeram and others.

Apart from playing authentic Carnatic Classical music, he has performed in many Hindustani Classical, Fusion, Jazz, Blues, Flamenco, Celtic Music, Latin Music, Arabic Music, Japanese Music, Talavadya (Percussion Ensemble), Bollywood Music, European Folk Music, Symphony Orchestra, and has been part of numerous International Music Festivals with renowned Indian Musicians like Pandit Shivkumar Sharma, Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia, Ustad Amjad Ali Khan, Ustad Sultan Khan, Pandit Jasraj, Pandit Vishwa Mohan Bhatt, Pandit Birju Maharaj, Pandit Anindo Chatterjee, Ustad Shahid Parvez, Pandit Swapan Chaudhuri, Pandit Kumar Bose, Shankar Mahadevan Ehsaan Loy, Hariharan, Trilok Gurtu, Sivamani, Ranjit Barot, Louis Banks, Niladri Kumar, Ronu Mazumdar, Taufiq Qureshi, Fazal Qureshi and Western Musicians like John McLaughlin, Larry Coryell, Hubert Laws, Ernie Watts, Airto Moreira, John Kaizan Neptune, Lewis Pragasam and others. He has also worked with many leading music directors from the Film industry in India.

Udupa is part of his own Carnatic World Music band **“Layatharanga”**, Flamenco band **“Indialucia”** and Carnatic-Jazz cross over European band **“Saagara”**. Udupa has been a part of several global symphonic and chamber orchestras around the world - 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.

Music lovers from across the globe celebrate the finesse of his fingering, the dexterity and speed of his intricate rhythmic designs, and his contagious energy and charm on the stage.

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

## AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- Sangeet Natak Academy's “ **Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puruskar** ” for Carnatic Instrumental Music ( GHATAM ) - 2013
- Best “ **Upa Pakka Vadhyam Award** ” from The Music Academy, Chennai – Jan 2015
- “ **Madhura Murali Puraskar** ” from the Legendary Dr.M.Balamuralikrishna, Chennai - 2012 ( 82nd Birthday Celebration of Dr.M.Balamuralikrishna )
- “ **Nadajyothi Puruskara** ” from Nadajyothi Sri Thyagaraja Swamy Bhajana Sabha, Bengaluru – March 2015
- The **Lions International Award** - 2011
- “ **Asthana Vidwan** ” of the Sri Matam of Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam - 2010
- **Yuva Laya Prathibhamani** - 2009
- **Rotary Youth Award** – 2008
- “ **CMANA Award** ” - 2007 (Carnatic Music Association Of North America) by Percussive Arts Centre, Bengaluru
- “ **Yuva Kala Bharati** ” by Bharath Kalachar, Chennai - 2004
- Recipient of the Central Government Scholarship for Ghatam - 2002
- **Ananya Yuva Puraskara** - 2002
- **Aryabhata Award** - 2000
- **Vijaya Kalashree** - 1997
- Best Ghatam Artist Award from **Gayana Samaja, Ganakala Parishat** and **Malleswaram Sangeetha Sabha** for the years 1992, 1996 and 1999 respectively

## **PERFORMANCES IN INDIA AND ABROAD :**

- **UNITED NATIONS** - New York, USA
- **Carnegie Hall** - New York, USA
- **Sydney Opera House** - Sydney, Australia
- **The Kennedy Centre** - Washington D.C, USA
- **Wortham Centre** - Houston, USA
- **Royal Festival Hall** - London, UK
- **Darbar Festival** - London, UK
- **Bangkok Jazz Festival** - Bangkok, Thailand
- **Java Jazz Festival** - Jakarta, Indonesia
- **International Percussion Festival** – Krakow, Poland
- **Miri International Jazz Festival** - Malaysia
- **Shanghai World Music Festival** - Shanghai, China
- **Forbidden City Concert Hall and Peking University** - Beijing, China
- **El Violin Festival** - La Coruna, Spain
- **South Bank Centre** - London, UK
- **ICCR Hall** - Berlin, Germany
- **Sawai Gandharva Festival**, Pune
- **Swarutsav** - New Delhi, India
- **De Bouche a oreille** - Parthenay, France
- **Theatre St Gilles** - Re Union Island
- **Rainforest World Music Festival** - Malaysia
- **Indishes Konzert** - Heidelberg, Germany
- **Theatre de la ville and Theatre Guimet** - Paris, France
- **Swaralaya** - Kuwait
- **Chowdiah Memorial Hall** - Bengaluru, India
- **Bengaluru Gayama Samaja** - Bengaluru, India
- **Music Academy** - Chennai, India
- **Summer Guitar Festival** - Wroclaw, Poland
- **Flamenco International Festival** - Prague, Czech Republic
- **The fifth Cross-Culture Warsaw Festival** - Warsaw, Poland
- **Northfolk International Festival** - Seattle, USA
- **San Jose Center for the Performing Arts** - San Jose, USA
- **Lakshminarayana Global Music Festival** - India
- **Lille 3000** - Lille, France
- **Wroclaw Philharmonic Hall**, Wroclaw, Poland
- **Cemal Resit Rey Concert Hall** - Istanbul, Turkey
- **Millennium Park** - Chicago, USA
- **Ethno Port Poznan Festival** - Poznan, Poland
- **Festival of the Spirit** - Italy
- **Kozlov Club** - Moscow, Russia
- **Fundación Gilberto Alzate Avendaño** - Bogota, Columbia

## **PRESS REVIEWS**

“THE KING OF POT MUSIC”

**RAVE MAGAZINE**

“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.”

**THE HINDU**

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

**KANNADA PRABHA**

“The Finesse and speed with which his fingers handled the instrument was simply fascinating.”

**THE HINDU**

## Contact

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