

Akkarai Sisters

S Subhalakshmi & S Sornalatha

Akkarai Sisters S Subhalakshmi and S Sornalatha are among India's most distinguished musicians today, renowned for their soulful music that has won the hearts of music lovers worldwide. They are the disciples of their father, Akkarai Shri S Swamynathan, as well as Shri V Janakiraman, Shri O V Subramanian, Padmabhushan Shri P S Narayaswamy, and Chitravina N Ravikiran. Having taken the music world by storm as child prodigies, the sisters have performed in countless prestigious venues around the world and today hold the unique distinction of being amongst the foremost in the field whether in vocal and violin duets, or accompaniment for many an eminent artiste. They have also featured in many acclaimed collaborations with Hindustani, Jazz, Western Classical, and other musicians from around the world. Sornalatha is also a composer with creatively crafted compositions in Tamil, Telugu, and Sanskrit to her credit.

The sisters have been honoured with numerous awards and titles, such as Subhalakshmi's Rajiv Gandhi Yuva Puraskar from the President of India and Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar (2007), and Sornalatha's gold medal from the University of Madras upon her graduation in MA music, the national intercollegiate gold medal at Kurukshetra, and Kalki Krishnamurthy Memorial Award (2018). In 2003, Subhalakshmi was identified as one of India's 50 most promising individuals across all fields by The Week magazine. The sisters together were awarded the Shanmukha Sangeetha Shiromani in 2009 and the Yuva Purandara Award in 2016. In 2019, Subhalakshmi became the youngest violinist to be awarded the A-top Grade at All India Radio and Doordarshan. The sisters are highly sought-after as teachers and have benefited numerous students around the world with their knowledge and experience.