

## VIKKU VINAYAKRAM



Thetakudi Harihara Vinayakram, also known as Vikku Vinayakram, is a Grammy award winning Indian percussionist. Born on 24<sup>th</sup> June 1944, he took up playing at a very young age, with his concert career starting at age 13. He plays Carnatic music with the **ghatam**, an earthen pot. He is credited with popularizing the ghatam, both nationally and internationally, as well as breaking the gender barrier in percussion.

He was soon accompanying many famous vocalists in Carnatic music at the time, including Chembai Vaidyanatha Bhagavathar, G. N. Balasubramaniam, M. S. Subbulakshmi, Madurai Mani Iyer, and Maharajapuram Santhanam among many others. Vinayakram's tryst with the international music platform came in the early 1970s when he joined the music band Shakti to play along with John McLaughlin and Zakir Husain.

He was awarded the Padma Shri in 2002. In 2012, the Sangeet Natak Academy conferred on him the Sangeet Natak Academy Fellowship, the highest honour for the performing arts.

Vikku Vinayakram was in our Institute on 15 August 2013, on the occasion of the 52<sup>nd</sup> Foundation day celebrations.