

5 Carnatic musicians from TN bag Sangeet Akademi awards

Chennai: Four Carnatic musicians from the state have bagged the Sangeet Natak Akademi Puraskar for 2013 and senior Carnatic musicologist R Sathyanarayanan has been awarded the Akademi Ratna fellowship. Singer Aruna Sairam, vocalists D Seshachari and D Raghavachari (Hyderabad Brothers), mridangam exponent Trichy Sankaran and nadaswaram player Thiruvizha Jayashankar received the award. Five Hindustani musicians also received the award for music.

"It is an honour. The award is a fruit of our efforts for the past 35 years," said D Seshachari of Hyderabad Brothers.

In dance, Jamuna Krishnan and B Herambhanathan were awarded for Bharatanatyam, while seven others received the award for other forms of dance. Other winners from Tamil Nadu include T A R Nadi Rao and N Jeeva Rao for Tamil folk music and Meenakshi for ghatam-making.

Nadi and Jeeva Rao from Thanjavur are folk artists who specialise in Poikkal Kuthirai (dummy horse dance). "We are



(From top left) Aruna Sairam, Trichy Sankaran, Hyderabad Brothers Seshachari (left) and Raghavachari

happy that the Akademi has recognised our art," said Nadi.

The Akademi fellowship has been conferred since 1954. "The awards not only symbolise the highest standard of excellence and achievement on a national basis, but also recognise individual work and contribution to the practice of the arts," said an Akademi release.

The award carries a cash prize of ₹1 lakh and a certificate, while the fellowship carries a prize of ₹3 lakh. TNN