

Forty years of Tamil Cinema- Music Directors

Anand

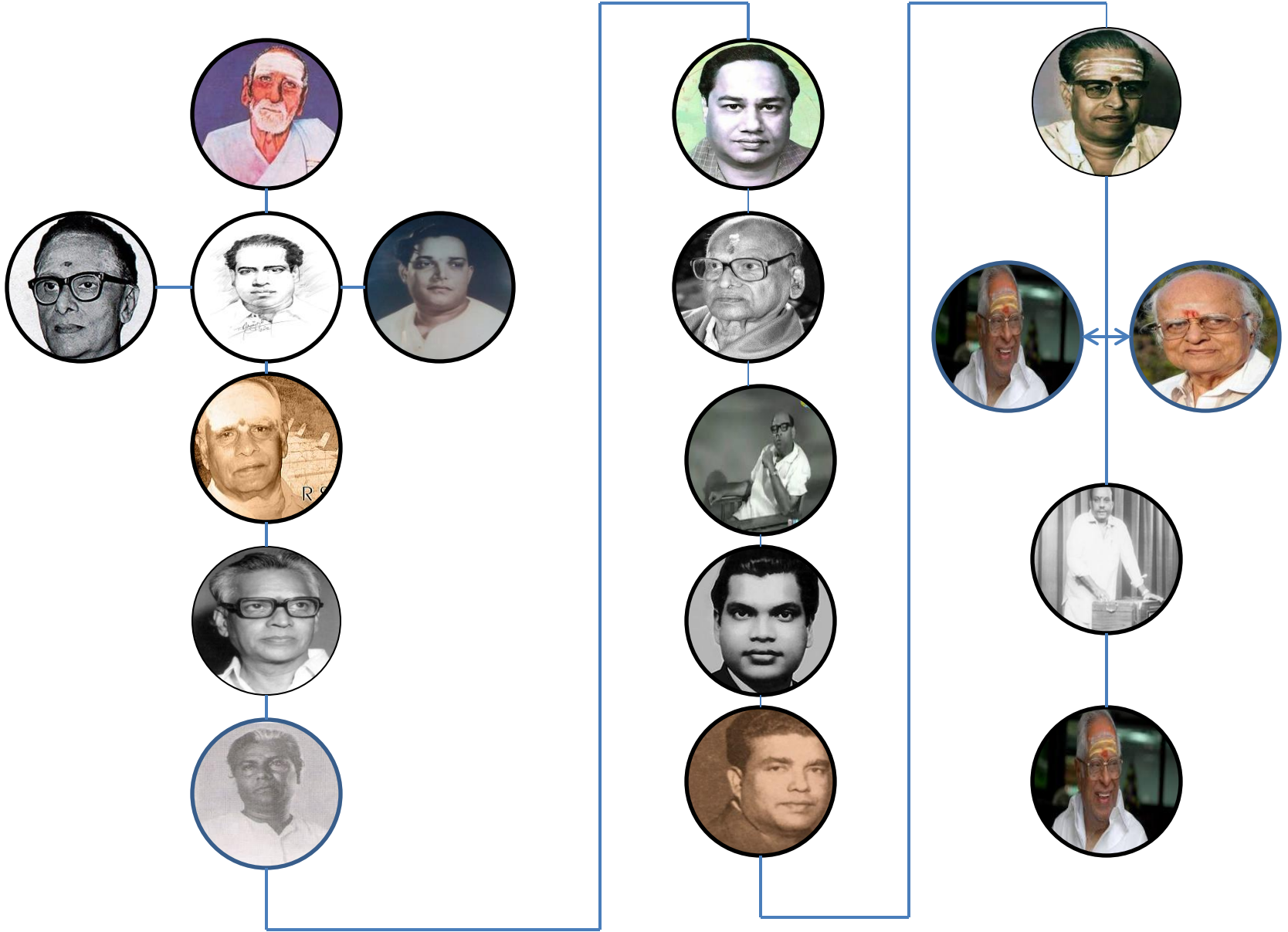
The Club

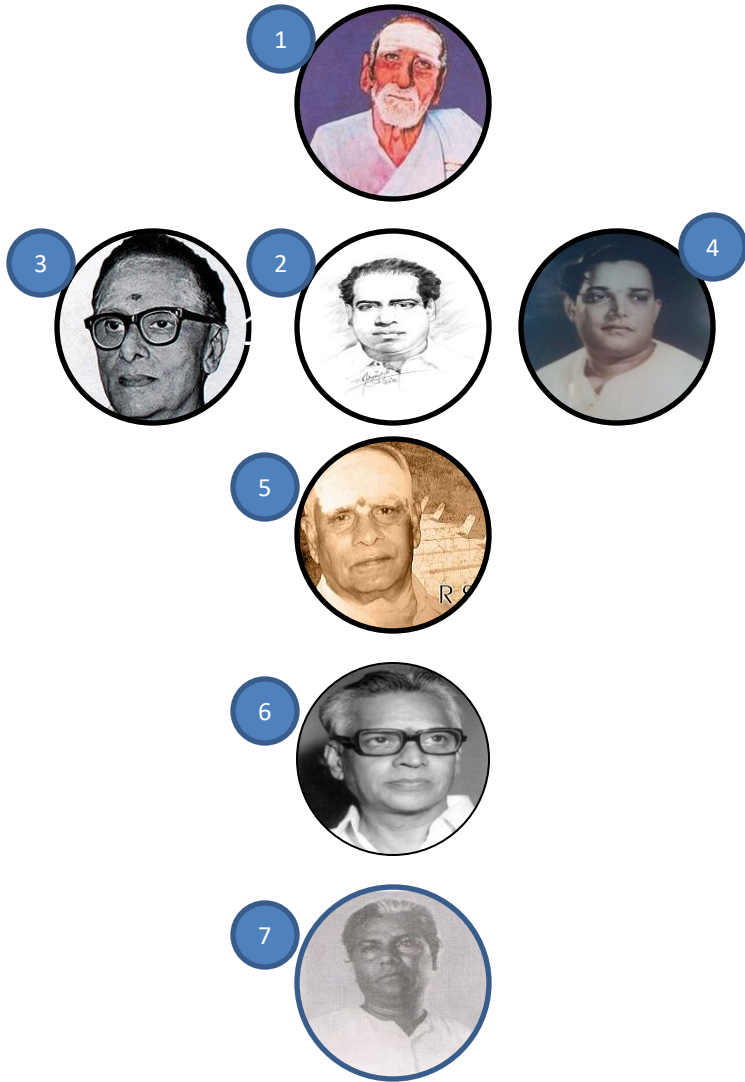
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Science and technology in 65 years

- Movies, Valve Radio and Gramophone Records (inventions by Edison in NJ!, valves for radio linked to Edison Effect)
- Transistor Radio, Videocassette Player, TV
- Computer, DVD, MP3
- Flash Drive, Headphone, Smartphone
- Smart TV, iPad
- Smart Speakers/Alexa Devices

தமிழ்த் திரையிசை: பாபநாசம் சிவன் முதல் எம்.எஸ்.விஸ்வநாதன் வரை





No	Name	Life Years	Playlist Years	Songs Selected
1	Papanasam Sivan	1890-1973	1934-1948	70
2	G.Ramanathan	?-1963	1936-1964	100
3	S.V.Venkatraman	1911-1998	1938-1963	50
4	C.R.Subbaraman	1924-1952	1943-1953	80
5	R.Sudarsanam	1914-1992	1941-1966	80
6	S.Rajeswara Rao	1922-1999	1942-1962	50
7	S.M.Subbaiah Naidu	1914-1979	1947-1978	50

8



9



10



11



12



No	Name	Life Years	Playlist Years	Songs Selected
8	T.G.Lingappa	1927-2000	1951-1964	40
9	T.R.Pappa	1922-2004	1952-1973	50
10	S.Balachander	1927-1990	1948-1970	25
11	A.M.Raja	1929-1989	1959-1962	46
12	Vedha	?-?	1956-1971	55

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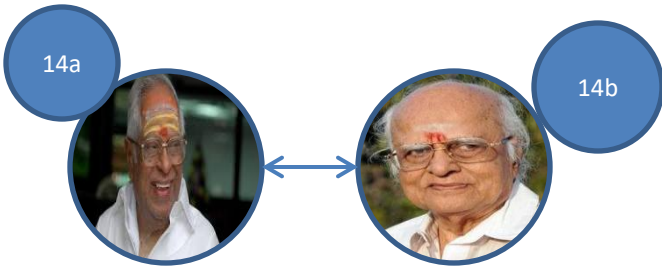
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No	Name	Life Years	Playlist Years	Songs Selected
13	K.V.Mahadevan	1918-2001	1942-1969	200
14a	Viswanathan-Ramamoorthy: M.S. Viswanathan	1928-2015	1952-1963	200
14b	Viswanathan-Ramamoorthy: T.K. Ramamoorthy	1922-2013	1952-1963	200
15	V.Kumar	1934-1996	1965-1979	60
16	M.S.Viswanathan	1928-2015	1966-1977	240

Papanasam Sivan (1890- 1973)

Years Active: 1934-1948

Songs Selected: 70

Notable Films: Pavalakkodi; Ambikapathy; Sevasadanam; Thyaga Bhoomi
Sivakavi, Haridas , Valmiki, Bilhana

Notable songs: En Neramum, Raadhe Unakku, Maa Ramanaa, Dheena Karunakarane
Soppana Vaazhvil, Vathaname Chandra, Kavalaiyai Theerpathu,
Krishna mukundaa, Kanna Vaa, Puvi meethu, Paamaalai

Distinction: Popularized carnatic music in films; wrote 950 songs in 70 films
He mentored M K Thyagaraja Bhagavathar, M.S. Subbulakshmi,
P.U.Chinnappa
Haridas ran for 110 weeks for MKT's songs composed by Sivan
He composed 1100 kritis (Tamil and Sanskrit)
Published a dictionary- Sanskrit Basha Saptha Samudhra

Honors: Padma Bhushan, Sangeetha Kalanidhi, Isai Perarignar
Popular Title: Tamil Tyagayaa
A street in Mylapore is named after him

G. Ramanathan(?- 1963)

Years Active: 1936-1964

Songs Selected: 100

Notable Films: Sathyaseelan, Haridas, Manthirikumari, Thooku Thookki, Madurai Veeran, Amardeepam, Uthamaputhiran, kappalottiya Thamizhan, Pattinathar Veerapandiya Kattabomman

Notable songs: Manmatha Leelaiyai, Vaaraai Nee Vaarai, Ulavum Thendral, Vaana Meethil, Sindhanai Sei Maname, Vasantha Mullai, Mullai Malar Mele, Chinna Payale, Endru Thaniyum, Kaatru Veliyidai, Muthai Tharu

Distinction: GR conducted the orchestra for Haridas; Papanasam Sivan was the composer. Movie ran for music and songs for 110 weeks in the same theater; he worked mainly for Modern Theaters films. He was considered a genius and one of the three musical trinity of Tamil cinema (other two- S.V.Venkatraman and C.R.Subbaraman)

Honors: He was known as Raganathan (sangeetha samrat) in music industry. Got the best music director award for the film- Veerapandiya Kattabomman in Cairo

S. V .Venkatraman(1911-1998)

Years Active: 1938-1963

Songs Selected: 50

Notable Films: Nandakumar, Meera, Gnanasoundhari, Krishna Bhakthi, Kodeeswaran Valmiki, Irumbu Thirai, Marutha Nattu Veeran, Arivaali

Notable songs: Dheena thay a parane, Giridhara Gopala, Kaatrinile varum Geetham, Arul Tharum Deva Matha, Kulaavum Thendral, Nenjil Kudiyirukkum Arumbuthira Muthuthira, Arivukku Virunthakum

Distinction: Recorded the first play back song in Tamil, Dheena thay a parane in 1938 AVM movie Nandakumar sung by Lalitha Venkatraman
He was one of the three musical trinity of early Tamil cinema (other two- G. Ramanathan and C.R.Subbaraman)
Introduced singer and actor T.R.Mahalingam in his film
Set music for M.S., DK Pattammal and M.L.Vasantha Kumari
Molded the career of M.S.Viswanathan and L.R.Easwari
Set music for Christian and Muslim songs in addition to Bhaja Govindam and Silappadhikaram

Honors: Fondly remembered as a pioneer of Tamil film music

C.R. Subbaraman (1924-1952)

Years Active: 1943-1953

Songs Selected: 80

Notable Films: Lavangi, Velaikari, Nalla Thambi, Manamagal, Kanniyin Kathali, Devadas,

Notable songs: Adi bhagyalakshmi, Pattukkoru pulavan, Vignanathai valarkka, Kalangathiru manamey, Ellam inba mayam, Nalla penmani, Vaan meethile, Thunintha pin maname, Oh, Devadas, Ulage Mayam

Distinction: He was well liked by M.K.Thyagaraja Bhagavathar
NSK introduced him as “singam of Music” to others
He introduced many singers- Ghantasala, M.I.Vasanthakumari
P. Leela
He introduced M.S.Viswanathan and T.K.Ramamurthy to film producers. Kannadasan’s first song, Kalangathiru Manamey in Kanniyin Kathali (1949) was composed by S. M. Subbaiah Naidu and CRS

Honors: Regarded as one of the musical Trinity of early Tamil cinema (others- S. V. Venkatraman and G. Ramanathan)
Regarded as a pioneer and lion of Tamil film music

R. Sudarsanam (1914-1992)

Years Active: 1941-1966

Songs Selected: 80

Notable Films: Sri Valli, Naam Iruvar, Vaazhkai, Ore Iravu, Parasakthi, Kalathur Kannamma, Deivappiravi, Annai, Naanum Oru Penn, Kuladeivam, Poompuhar, Penn, Kula Deivam, Karthigai Deepam

Notable songs: Sundari Nee, Aaduvome, Solai Malar, Enni enni parkka manam, Un Kann Unnai, Thunbam Nergaiyil, Kaa Kaa Kaa, Oh Rasikkum Seemaney, Thaye yasodha, Naan Oru Muttalunga, Ammavum Neeye, Anbale Thediya, Kanna Karumai, Ponnaal Ithu Poley, Enna Paravai,

Distinction: Associated with AVM studios most of his life.
When AVM purchased rights for Bharatiyar songs, Sudarsanam composed music for many Bharatiyar songs. Later he also set music for Bharatidasan's songs.
Famous actors- Vyjayanthimala, Sivaji Ganesan and Kamala Hasan were introduced in films in which he was the music director

Honors: He was fondly remembered as “திரையிசை மேதை”

S.Rajeswara Rao (1922-1999)

Years Active: 1942-1962

Songs Selected: 50

Notable Films: Miss Malini, Chandralekha, Apoorva Sakodhararkal, Maya Bazaar (four songs), Missiyamma, Pattaliyin Vetri and Vikramathithan

Notable songs: Thiilaiyambala, Ennappan Allava, Chandralekha drum dance, Vaarayo Vennilave, Ennai Aalum Mary Matha, Maayame naan ariyen, Aha Inba Nilavinile, Podhum unthan jalamey, Kan kanum minnal thano, Venmukile Konja Neram Nillu

Distinction: Child prodigy; identified carnatic ragas when he was four years old; Master of many instruments; learnt Hindustani music from K.L.Saigal; Sensitive artist; due to uncompromising attitude, he left many films half way but all his songs became popular in those films; however he was not listed as music director

Honors: Awarded a honorary doctorate from an Andhra University
Government of India released a stamp to honor him

S.M.Subbaiah Naidu (1914-1979)

Years Active: 1947-1978

Songs Selected: 50

Notable Films: Rajakumari, Kanniyin Kadhali, Velaikari, Ezhaipadum padu, Malaikallan, Annaiyin Anai, Nadodi Mannan, Thirumanam, Maragatham, Konjum Salangai, Mannippu, Kalamegam

Notable songs: Thirumuga Ezhilai, Kalangathiru Maname, Oosipattase, Kannan Mana Nilaiyai, Ethanai Kalam Thaan, Kanavin Maya, Thoongatheey Thambi, Kannil Vanthu, Mangiyathor, En Ennam, Kannukulle Ennai Paru, Kunguma poove, Singara Velane, Konjum Salangai, Vennila vaanil

Distinction: Started his career as an assistant to musical trinity of Tamil cinema Friend of MGR; worked with him in many films
Kannadasan wrote his first song when SMS was an assistant to C.R.Subbaraman; Introduced T.M.Soundhararajan to films
M.S. Viswanathan worked as an Assistant to SMS and SMS promoted MSV to many movie producers and paved for his success

Honors: He was known as “Sangeethayya” in the South Indian Music World.

T.G.Lingappa (1927-2000)

Years Active: 1951-1964

Songs Selected: 40

Notable Films: Mohanasundaram, Kalyanam Panniyum Brahmachari, Vilayattu Bommai, Mudhal Thethi, Thangamalai Rahasiyam, Sabash Meena, Ellorum Innaattu Mannar, Sangili Devan, Muradan Muthu

Notable songs: Kanavilum Unai, Vennilavum Vaanum, Mohathai Kondru Vidu, Theertha Karaiyinile, Onnule Irunthu, Amudhai pozhiyum nilave, Chithiram Pesudhadi, Ennarumai Kadhalikku, Thendral Urangidum Thamai Poo Kulathile

Distinction: Son of a well known music director G.Govindarajulu Naidu
Proficient in many instruments even when he was a boy
Worked with famous directors (musical trinity, R.Sudarsanam)
Chandrababu sang his first song in his film
Set music for several Bharatiyar songs with TR Mahalingam and also few songs of Bharatiidasan

Honors: Remembered for many memorable tunes

T.R.Pappa (1922-2004)

Years Active: 1952-1973

Songs Selected: 50

Notable Films: Athmasanthi, Aasai, Raja Rani, Rambaiyin Kadhal, Rangoon Radha Mallika, Kuravanji, Vijayapuri Veeran, Kumara Raja, Arunagirinathar, Iravum Pagalum, Maru Piravi

Notable songs: Valluvan solle, Aasai anbellaam, Nalu kaal kuthirai, Sirippu-sirippu Samarasam Ulaavum, Thalaivaari poochoodi, Neelavanna Kannane, Yaar solluvaar, Ullathile uram, Onnume puriyale, Muthai tharu Ullathin Kathavugal, Aedi poongodi

Distinction: He received his first violin education from his father
He played violin for famous musicians such as G.N. Balasubramaniam, D.K.Pattammal and M.L.Vasanthakumari
He set music for 1000 devotional songs of Sirkazhi Govindarajan including Chinnachiru Pen Poley.
He composed music for Abhirami Andhaadhi

Honors: He was appointed Principal of Music College by Tamilnadu Govt.
He received Isai Perarignar award from Tamil Isai Sangam

S. Balachander (1927-1990)

Years Active: 1948-1962

Songs Selected: 25

Notable Films: Idhu Nijama, En Kanavar, Kaithi, Rajambal, Avana Ivan, Bommai
Nadu Iravil

Notable songs: Naane Magizhnden, Thoothu Selvayo, Minnalai Polae, Oru Thirusaai
Irukkuthu, Vali vali vali, Neeyum Bommai Naanum Bommai, Kankaattum
Jadayile Kaviyam Kanden, Naalu Pakkam Yaeri

Distinction: Child prodigy; learnt to show expertise in music at the age of four
Picked up many instruments to play well without a teacher
Excelled in Veena
Experimentalist. Always curious, always introduced novelty in everything
he did. His film Antha Naal is a cult classic. No songs, no dances in this film
Introduced Alfred Hitchcock style in some of his films
K.J.Yesudas sang his first film song- Neeyum Bommai

Honors: Awarded Padma Bhushan for his talents in music
Has a cult following even among new Tamil film directors
Established a legacy-Balachander is Veena, Veena is Balachander

A.M.Raja (1929-1989)

Years Active: 1959-1962

Songs Selected: 44

Notable Films: Kalyana Parisu, Pelli kanuka (Telugu), Vidivelli, Anbukkor Anni, Then Nilavu, Aadi Peruku

Notable songs: Samsaaram, Aasaiyinale Manam, Unnaikandu Naanaada, Vaadikkai Maranthathum, Thullatha Manamum, Kaadhalile Tholviyutraal, Ennaalum Vaazhvile, Paatu Paada Vaa, Nilavum, Malarum, Oh Ho Endhan Baby, Thanimaiyile Inbam Kaana Mudiyyuma

Distinction: Melodious voice, Raja-Jikki pair was well liked by many listeners
He sang in many languages- Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada, Sinhala
Self confident artist. Did not compromise with mediocrity

Honors: His tunes are memorable. Within a short film career, he left a deep impression in the minds of many listeners

Vedha (?)

Years Active: 1956-1971

Songs Selected: 63

Notable Films: Marma Veeran, Anbu Enghey, Manamalai, Parthiban Kanavu, Chitrangi Vallavanukku Vallvan, Amma Engey, Iru Vallvarkal, Vallavan Oruvan Yaar Nee

Notable songs: Kaathirunthen romba nalaa, Amirtha Yogam, Dinghiri Dinghale Ethanai Kodi, Nadakkathu Jambam, Pazhagum Thamiley, Idhaya Vaanin Anthi mayanguthadi, Munnam Avan Naamam, Nenjinile ninaivu mukam Or Aayiram, Papa papa Kadhai, Paradi Kanne, Naan Malarodu, Palingunaal Oru Malaigai, Naane Varuven, Naanathaley, Kann Vazhiye, Ithu Neerodu

Distinction: Vedha worked as music director for Modern Theater which “re-made’ many Hindi movies. Vedha imported many Hindi tunes but he made them suitable to Tamil taste by working with lyricists. As a result they were better than originals! He set the music for Tamil James Bond movies.

Honors: No official honors. Vedha became a synonym for- fast music, pop music and haunting music

K.V.Mahadevan (1918-2001)

Years Active: 1942-1979

Songs Selected: 200

Notable Films: Manonmani, Nalla Kalam, Townbus, Mudhalali, Neelamalai Thirudan
Thaipiranthhal vazhipirakkum, Vannakili, Ratha Thilagam, Thiruvilaiyadal
Idhaya Kamalam, Kandhan Karunai, Thillana Mohanambal, Adimai Penn

Notable songs: Kanden en kaadhal, Chittuk Kuruvi, Erikaraiyin mele, Amudhum thenum,
Adikkira kai than, Ore oru oorile, Engiruntho vanthaan, Pasumai
Niraintha, Gangai karai, Oru naal podhuma, Unnai Kaanatha, Arupadai
Ezhanda pazham, Vaaranamaaiyam, Marainthirunthu, Aayiram Nilave

Distinction: Music director for 600 films, in all four south Indian languages
Popularized carnatic music in many films
He gave importance to Lyrics; created music to suit Lyrics;
It helped lyricists to come up with lyrics with substance
He demanded minimum standards from his singers and took
responsibility for the musical outcome
He introduced L.R.Easwari and S.P.Balasubramaniam

Honors: National awards for two films (Kandhan Karunai and Sankaraparanam)
Thirai isai Medhai Award
Rare honor-Loved everyone and everyone addressed him “Mama”

Viswanathan-Ramamoorthy
M.S.Viswanathan (1928-2015)

Years Active: 1952-1965

Songs Selected: 360

Notable Films: Panam. Gulebakavali, Mahadevi, Pudhayal, Malaiyitta Mangai, Pathi Bakthi, Amudha Valli, Bhaga Pirivinai, Thanga Padhumai, Kavalai Illatha Manithan, Mannadhi Mannan, Bhagyalakshmi, Paazhum Pazhamum, Pasa Malar, Pava Mannippu, Aalayamani, Bale Pandiya, Kathiruntha Kangal, Nenjil Oar Aalayam, Padha kanikkai, Padithaal Mattum Podhuma, Pasam, Policekaran Magal, Senthamarai, Sumai Thangi, Veera Thirumagan

Notable songs: Enghey Theduven, Aasaiyum Nesamum, Singara Punnagai, Thanga Mohana, Chinna chinna izhai, Senthamizh Then Mozhiyal, Chinnan chiru kann malar, Aadai katti vantha, Thalayam Poo Mudichu, Pirakkum Podhum Acham Enbathu, Maalai Pozhudhin, Udalukku Uyir, Ponaal Pogattum Malarnthum Malaratha, Athaan En Athaan, Kallellaam Manicka, Vazha Ninaithaal, Nianaippathellaam, Padaithane, Veedu Varai Uravu, Oho ho, Manitharkaley, Paal Vannam, Indhan Mandrathil, Manithan Enbavan, Roja Malare, Paadaatha Pattellaam, Ninaikka Therintha Maname.....

Distinction:

Expertise in harmonium and keyboard

Early association with great music directors- S.V. Venkatraman,
S.M.Subbiah Naidu and C.R.Subba Raman

N.S.K gave them opportunity to play music in his film and persuaded them
to work as a team. Both worked as a team in 100 films

MSV had great friendship with the great lyricist Kannadasan

Honors:

The pair was known as “Mellisai Mannar” in Tamilnadu

Honorary doctorate (along with Ramamoorthy) from Sathyabama Univ.

Viswanathan-Ramamoorthy
T.K.Ramamoorthy (1922-2013)

Years Active: 1952-1965

Songs Selected: 360

Notable Films: Karpagam, Mani Osai, Nenjam Marappathillai, Periya idathu Penn, Aandavan Kattalai, Kaikodutha Deivam, Kalai Kovil, Karnan, Kadhalikka Neramillai, Pachai Vilakku, Padagotti, Puthiya Paravai, Server Sundaram, Vaazhkai Vaazhvatharkey, Panchavarnakili, Enga Veetu Pillai, Pazhani, Santhi, Vennira Aadai, Aayirathil Oruvan

Notable songs: Saravana Poykaiyil, Athaimadi Methaiyadi, Devan Koil Maniyosai, Nenjam Marappathillai, Neerodum Vaikaiyile, Kattodu Kuzhalaada, Aaru Maname Aaru, Sindhu Nadhiyin, Thanga Ratham Vanthathu, Ullathil Nalla Ullam, Naalaam Naalaam, Oli Maymana Ethirkaalam, Ennai Eduthu, Thottaal Poo malarum, Koduthathellaam, Onru Engal Jaathiye, Chittu Kuruvi, Unnai Ondru, Partha Gnabakam, Silai eduthaan, Aathoram, Azhagu Rasipparkey, Thamizukkum, Azhan Muruganidam, Naan Aanai ittaal, Naan Maanthoppil, Aarodum Mannil, Idhayam Irukkinrathey, Annan Ennada, Senthoo Murugan, Ammamma Kaatru, Atho Antha Paravai, Paruvam Enathu

Distinction:

Violin expertise gained from father and grandfather

Early association with great music directors- C.R.Subba Raman, R.Sudarsanam and T.G.Lingappa.

N.S.Krishnan gave opportunity to play music in his film and persuaded them to work as a team with MSV. Both worked as a team in 100 films

Honors:

The pair was known as “Mellisai Mannar” in Tamilnadu

Honorary doctorate (along with Ramamoorthy) from Sathyabama Univ.

V. Kumar (1934-1996)

Years Active: 1965-1979

Songs Selected: 60

Notable Films: Neerkumizhi, Naanal, Major Chandrakanth, Bommalattam, Ethir Neechal, Iru Kodugal, Ranga Raattinam, Velli Vizha, Then sindhuthu vaanam, Thoondil Meen, Nangooram, Nadakame Ulagam

Notable songs: Aadi Adangum, Kuyil Koovi Thuyil, Oru Naal Yaaro, Vaa Vaathyare, Aduthathu Ambujathai, Punnagai Mannan, Mutharame, Kathoduthaan, Unnidam Mayangukiren, Ennidathil Unnai, Aalayam Nayakan, Thirukoil Thedi, Kalyana Sappadu, Vetri Venduma, Thamarai Kannangal

Distinction: B.A. degree from Loyola College
Worked with Director K.Balachander in many films
He composed music for 100 films and generated a fan base even when MS Viswanathan was overwhelmingly popular

Honors: Kalaimamani Award from State of Tamilnadu
Melody King Award from MGR

M.S.Viswanathan (1928-2015)

Years Active: 1966-1977

Songs Selected: 240

Notable Films: Anbe Vaa, Chithi, Petraal Thaan Pillaya, Ramu, Bama Vijayam, Nenjirukkum Varai, Ooty Varai Uravu, Kudiyiruntha Koil, Uyarnta Manithan, Nam Naadu, Shanthi Nilayam, Mohd. Bin Thuglak, Rickshawkaran, Ulagam Sutrum Valiban, Aval Oru Thodarkathai, Dheerka Sumangali, Netru Indru Naalai, Apoorav Ragankal, Manmatha Leelai, Moondru Mudichu, Sila Nerangalil Sila Manitharkal

Notable songs: Anbe Vaa, Puthiythor Ulagam, Maname Muruganain, Nalla nalla pillaikalai, Nilave ennidam, Muthu kulikka, Varavu Ettana, Madhavi Ponmayilaal, Muthukalo Kangal, Happy Indru Mudhal, Vizhiye Vizhiye, Paal Polave, Pournami Nilavil, Nalla Perai, Maduraiyil Pirantha, Iyarkai Enum, Vaazhnthu Paarpom, Ammaadi Ponnukku, Unnidathil Ennai, Allah Allah, Sandanthil Nalla, Azhagiya Thamizh, Chiitu Kuruvikkenna, Adi Ennadi Rakkamma, Parama Sivan, Aval oru navarasa, Deivam Thantha Veedu, Malligai en mannan, Nee ennenna sonnaalum, Athisaya Raagam, Elu Swarangalukkul, Manaivi Amaivathellaam, Vasantha Kala, Kandathai Sollukiren, Veru Idam Thedi

Distinction:

After breaking with T K Ramamoorthi, Viswanthan composed music for 700 films during 1965-2015; sang in many films; even acted in few films. Introduced novel singing techniques such as whistling, singing, western tunes and disco songs. He was a kind man. He showed his gratitude to his mentor S.M.Subbiah Naidu and his wife by taking care of them during their old age. Similarly he took care of stranded actor and friend J.P.Chandrababu during his last years.

Honors:

Kalaimamani award from State Govt.
Isai Perarignar award from Tamil Isai sangam;
Honorary doctorate from Manonmaniyam Sundaranar Univ., Tirunelveli
Thirai Isai Chakravarthy, a special title from Govt. of Tamilnadu
Earned good will of many artists. Rajnikanth once said” "You will rarely find someone like MSV in any industry. He lived life like a selfless saint, free from jealousy and lies”.

Access to a brief biography of Music Directors and Selected Songs (1560)

In My blog : Miscellaneous/Music Directors Section
Thanks to the digital revolution in media- YouTube

<https://muruganand.com/category/miscellaneous/music/>

No	Name	Songs	No	Name	Songs	No	Name	Songs
1	Papanasam Sivan	70	8	T.G.Lingappa	40	13	K.V. Mahadevan	200
2	G.Ramanathan	100	9	T.R.Pappa	50	14	Viswanathan-Ramamoorthy	360
3	S.V.Venkatraman	50	10	S.Balachander	25	15	V.Kumar	60
4	C.R.Subbaraman	80	11	A.M.Raja	46	16	M.S. Viswanathan	240
5	R.Sudarsanam	80	12	Vedha	55			
6	S.Rajeswara Rao	50						
7	S.M.Subbaiah Naidu	50						