

A newsletter from SRGMPDN- your Forum for Carnatic Music!

Concert In Review:

May 30, 2011

Vidwan.T.M. Krishna's concert at the SSVT Temple, Lanham MD on Sunday May 29th witnessed a packed auditorium.

TMK's selection of songs was outstanding – “Nadamaadi Thirinthu” in Kambodi was a lovely piece which was espoused with bhavam. The exposition of the line “thiru neerai sumantheero” in particular was pleasing. TMK's voice remained mellifluous throughout the concert and he struck an impressive vocal range without any strain which quite often touring musicians generally have to endure.

The delightful composition in Rudrapriya which progressed into an interesting ragamaliga in which both Sriram Kumar and TMK dealt independently with different ragas: Rudrapriya to Kaapi, to Bahudaari, Saaramathi, Charukesi and moving on later to Suddasaaveri. TMK rendition of Renuka Devi in Kannada Bangala was classy drawing comparisons to DKJ's rendition of this Dikshitar krithis. TMK briefly mentioned about Graha Swara's but politely declined to offer any details citing time limitations. TMK continued to enthrall the audience “Oruthi Maganaai”, “Om Saravan Bhava ennum thiru manthiram thannai” and “Ranga Baaro”. The Thirupugazh and “Sriman Naraayana” were real gems.

R.K. Shiramkumar has been a consistent performer over years and it is a marvel how well he adapts to various artists. His expositions of raga and swaraprasthara were delightful. Arun Prakash's percussion skill was outstanding as well. He was strong and commanding at times, but reverted to soft style when he needed to. The solo was embellished with sowkiyam and good amount of gripping korvais - overall it was well balanced which was greeted with ovation from the crowd. It was very satisfying concert which had its share of “elements of TMK” that rasikas have witnessed for some time now.

Vidwan.T.N.Seshagopalan's Harikatha at the SSVT Temple, Lanham MD on Sunday June 4th.

A top musician of today's Carnatic music world, Madurai TNS took a leap into formal Harikatha not very long ago. This time his topic was Seetha Kalyanam. His Harikatha had the right mixture of content, narration and music. His ability to narrate the story in an easy and engaging manner was seen throughout the rendition. The manner in which TNS combined stories and popular krithis helped convey the meaning to the audience.

He quoted extensively from Kambar, Valmiki, and Tulasi Ramayanams and pointed out subtle variations documented by each of them in the narration of the story. TNS sang some of the popular kritis such as 'Baluke Bangara Mayana' alongside the story. Given a stature as an elite vocalist, TNS used a variety of composers and sang parts of their compositions to enhance his harikatha.

Arun Ramamurthy and Jayanth Bala provided able support for this extraordinary event. Washingtonians are indeed very fortunate to see this dimension of this veteran Sangeetha Vidwan. With the exhibition of mastery of music, narration and knowledge supported by eloquence, there was something for everyone in the audience – whether it is a rasika, connoisseur or a story lover.

Upcoming Events and Concerts:

Concerts in July & August

Aug 6th – Vocal Concert by Sudarshan Ranganath at the Lotus temple, VA

Aug 20th – Violin Concert by Ranjani Atur at JSS Mission, Olney, MD

Aug 27th – Annual Swathi Thirunal festival followed by vocal concert by Sri. Palai C.K.Ramachandran Details: www.ssvt.org

Quiz time! Identify the artists in the photo below:

Answers will be revealed in the next edition



Answer to quiz in the last newsletter:



M.S. Subbulakshmi &
S. Varalakshmi

SIRIGMPDN(சிரிகமபதநி):

பட்டம்மா சின்ன வயசில ரொம்ப நன்னா
பல்லவிபாடுவா, ரொம்ப பாடு பட்டு உழைப்பாராம்.
வீட்டுக்கு வந்தவர்: ஆசையாக, பாடு
பட்டம்மான்று கேட்க, அரியக்குடி அதற்கு
பாடுபட்ட, அம்மான்று சொல்லுங்கோ ன்னாராம்.

மகாவிஸ்வநாத ஐயர் பாம்பேல ஒரு கட்சேரி
ஒத்துக்க ரொம்ப யோசித்தாராம். சிஷ்யன் வந்து,
பாம்பே போலாம்ணா, பறந்து போலாம்னு சொல்ரா என்று சொல்ல, அதற்கு அவர் போடா, போடா.
நான் பணத்துக்கெல்லாம் ஒண்ணும் பறக்கரதில்லைன்னு சொன்னாராம்.

Kuttis' Korner:

1. Name a composer who has composed in both Carnatic and Hindustani music.
2. What was different about the violin used by Vidwan T. Chowdiah.
3. Name veena S.Balachander's guru.
4. In total, how many full and half notes are there in Carnatic music?

(Answers in the next Issue)

Answers to last issues's Kuttis' Korner questions:

1. Which instrument is called the Rajavadhyam? *Thavil*
2. Which instrument is called the Devavadhyam? *Mridangam*
3. Which instrument is called the Mangalavadhyam? *Nadaswaram*

Thukkadas:

- M.S.Subbulakshmi - first musician to get Padma Bhushan (1954) and Padma Vibushan (1975)
- Trichy Sankaran to preside this year's music festival

<http://www.thehindu.com/arts/music/article2248201.ece>

Informative websites -

www.Carnaticindia.com

www.shivkumar.org

www.carnatica.net

www.rasikapriya.org

- **Sangeetha Kalanidhi** will be conferred on Vidwan Trichy Sankaran.
- **Sangeetha Guru Sironmani** Award was conferred to vocalist Shri B.Umashankar by Sukhi Nikhetan Arts Academy, an institution founded by Carnatic musician Hyderabad Siva.
- **Obituary** - Senior Vidwan, Sri. Chengalpattu Ranganathan, passed away recently. He was a disciple of Alathur Brothers and has been bestowed on several awards including the prestigious Sangeet Natak Akademi award and the Sangita Kala Acharya

Click on <https://sites.google.com/site/carnaticmusicrasikasofdc> to access the previous issues of the Manjari.

SRGMPDN welcomes feedback and articles for the newsletter.