



Music Manjari - Malar 5

A newsletter from SRGMPDN- your Forum for Carnatic Music!

Now, on www.srgmpdn.listen2myradio.com every Sunday from 7:00 pm -9:00pm!

Interview with Carnatic Idol Winner for “Best on Stage Presentation”

Recently SRGMPDN interviewed Saketh Pathula, a recipient of the Carnatic Music Idol USA award.

For the first time ever, Jaya TV and Cleveland Thyagaraja Aradhana Committee sponsored a Carnatic Idol USA in five major cities in the US. Out of the thirty kids chosen from a preliminary round across the 5 regional centers, Saketh Pantula and Srinidhi Krishnan were the two from our neck of the woods. During the the finals held on Oct 29th in San Jose, CA Saketh was one of the 4 winners and won the “Best On Stage Presentation” award!

Upcoming Events and Concerts:

Dec 17th, 2012 9:00pm: SRGMPDN Lec-Dem event by Smt. Lavanya Narayanan. Details on SRGMPDN.weebly.com

Jan 14th, 15th 2012: 29th Annual Thyagaraja Aradhana . Details on www.ssvt.org

Jan 28th, 2012: SRGMPDM Chamber Concert by Chi. Gokul Chandramouli.

Below are the excerpts from the interview with Saketh and his family on his experience of participating and winning in this event.....

Saketh’s family learnt about this competition through other SRGMPDN members two days before the event and decided to participate in the preliminary round held in New Jersey on Sep 17th. Two different age groups, Juniors (14 or Under) and Seniors (15-25 age group) were considered. The selection process in Preliminary round was rather vigorous; the participants were asked to provide 3 krithis from which they were quizzed.

Saketh provided Smara Janaka, EnAti Nomu Palamu and Rama Nee SamAna MevarO and sang krithis in Behag, Bhairavi and Karaharapriya. He was asked to perform raga alapanai and kalpana swarams in Karaharapriya including nadai variation and kalpana swarams in Vidamu Seyave.

Right after Saketh went through the rigorous questioning, **Saketh was spot selected for the trip to San Jose.**

SRGMPDN learnt about the Saketh’s experience at the finals at San Jose on Sep 24th. Popular Carnatic musicians from Chennai, Neyveli Sri. Santhanagopalan, Smt. Sowmya, Sri. Sasikiran were the judges for this entire competition.

- Each contestant had to provide a list of 3 Varnams, 3 krithis, 7 ragams of their choice
- Patterns will be provided by the judges and the kids will be asked to build upon the patterns in one of the 7 ragams

1st Round – Fun Activity – Relay

- Groups of 4 were asked to perform this activity – Saketh had to change his pitch so as to adapt to the other 3.
- The exercise given to them was singing patterns in alankaram eka talam
- The kids were also asked to do a relay round in ragam and talam

2nd round - Varnam

- Saketh offered to sing Kedaragowla varnam in Misra Jhampa Talam rather than the more commonly sung Adi tala varnam and his choice was much appreciated by the judges.
- Saketh also sang part of Navaragha Malika varnam and sang the charanam in AkAram

- Saketh sang part of Bhairavi varnam and was asked to sing in tisra nadai 2nd and 3rd kalam which he found very challenging

Finalists Selection

- On completion of this round, all but 6 of the 30 contestants remained in the competition.
- Saketh and Srinidhi Krishnan were among the finalists.

Final Round

- Saketh was asked to sing a brief sketch of Saveri ragam in 60 seconds followed by pallavi of the krithi Shankari Shankuru (sahityam and AkAram) and several rounds of kalpana swaram.
- Saketh was asked to elaborate Kalyani Ragam
- Saketh also sang kalpana swarams in the krithi Shiva Shiva Shiva Ena Radha – Pantuvarali

✓ Winners

- 4 of the 6 finalists won awards.
- 3 kids from San Jose won the Carnatic Idol, 1st runner up and 2nd runner up respectively.
- Saketh won the “**Best On Stage Presentation**” award.

....Saketh was very excited and humble about his winning this award as his father puts it ‘it is part of his musical journey..’

SRGMPDN: How did you feel at the competition venue? Were you nervous....

Saketh: I was very nervous throughout the competition. I took several deep breaths before walking onto the Stage each time and this helped me to calm down and stay focused.

....Saketh has tremendous respect for his parents and extended family and was highly appreciative of each of their contributions towards guiding him in his musical journey.

SRGMPDN: How did the musical guidance and talent in your family helped you....

Saketh: My aunt Dr.Pantula Rama is my guru and shapes me through my music classes over phone, and whenever she is here. My grandfather (Pantulu Gopala Rao) made me practice alankarams in different ragams, in different ‘eduppus’ and ‘nadais’. He went over the raga structure and provided great many tips to get prepared for the competition. He is also a composer, teacher, singer and plays violin. My Mother (Revathy) is a constant source of inspiration and support in making sure I practice music every single day and father always perfects my singing with tips and corrections during my practices.

SRGMPDN: What was the most enjoyable aspect of taking part in the Carnatic Idol competition?

Saketh: I enjoyed the entire process including practice, participation, learning from other contestants and the judges and getting to see San Francisco. Even though I was happy to win a prize, I enjoyed the overall experience.

SRGMPDN: What do you want to say for any aspiring contestants in the future?

Saketh: It is a great learning experience. I would say anyone who seeks my opinion to “Go for it”.

Congratulations to Saketh Panthula and Srinidhi Krishnan on behalf of SRGMPDN!

SRGMPDN is very thankful to the Panthulas for kindly agreeing for this interview exclusively for our newsletter.

News & Awards:

- **Carnatic Idol USA** - The Hindu features a grand article on Carnatic Music Idol USA in its Music column - <http://www.thehindu.com/arts/music/article2621376.ece>
- **DVD Release** - Raaga Rasika has launched the volume I and Volume II of "Guide to Carnatic Concert Appreciation". This collector's edition of 2-pack DVD set includes over three hours of video - a full length concert by Vidya Subramanian's (a disciple of violin maestro Lalgudi Shri G. Jayaraman) ensemble interspersed with detailed explanations and analysis in English on how a Carnatic Concert is planned and performed.

Quiz time! Identify the artists in the photo below: Answers will be revealed in the next edition



Thukkadas:

Ask The 'Guru' - new section in next issue -
Our musicologist Sri.Shiva will answer your questions- email srgmpdn@googlegroups.com

Chennai Music Festival Schedule:

<http://ramsabode.wordpress.com/concerts-in-chennai/>

<http://www.kutcheris.com/schedule.php>

Obituary - Senior Vidwan, Sri. T.K.Govinda Rao passed away recently. He was a disciple of Sri. Musiri Subramania Iyer and served as Chief Producer of All India Radio in New Delhi. He has been conferred Padma Vibushan, Sangita Kalanidhi, Sangita Choodamani and several other awards. The most prominent of his disciples are Bombay sisters, C. Saroja and C. Lalitha.

Answer to quiz in the last newsletter:



Vocal: Chembai

Violin: Erode Viswanatha Iyer

Mridangam: Palghat Mani Iyer (note: his position, he then fought to literally bring mridangam to the forefront!)

Kanjira: Pudukottai Dakshinamurthy Pillai

SiRiGMPDN(சிரிகமபதநி):

It is said that musicians generally have a great sense of humor. Maharajapuram Sri Santhanam apparently had it in abundance.

It is said that, once towards the end of a concert while he was facilitated, the organizer appealed: " Annaa, neenga inga adikkadi varumbadi amaiyanum..."

Santanam quipped, " Aha, varumbadi irundha varumbadi irukkum!" playing on the word varumbadi[which could mean income also!

Kuttis' Korner: Tid-Bit

Kriti vs. Keerthana

A kriti has three components - Pallavi, Anupallavi and Charanam. A singer prepares himself/herself in Pallavi, launches in Anupallavi and continues with Charanam.

A Keerthanam, on the other hand, reflects an "undiluted devotion," which makes a singer devotion-personified.

Click on <http://srgmpdn.weebly.com/> to access the previous issues of the Manjari.

SRGMPDN welcomes feedback and articles for the newsletter.