



Music Manjari - Malar 7

A newsletter from SRGMPDN- your Forum for Carnatic Music!

Congratulations to our area winners in the Cleveland Aradhana!

Kum. Sruthi Ramesh for harikatha - 1st prize

Chi. Sanjith Narayanan for violin - 3rd prize

Chi. Kamalakiran for advanced pallavi - special prize

Area Concerts in Review

SRGMPDN Forum concert on March 17th by Kum. Brinda Manickavasagam

Kum. Brindha Manickavasagan accompanied by Kamalakiran Vinjamuri and Jayanth Balasubramanian presented a wonderful Carnatic Music concert. Her concert had the right mix of tradition in her choice of weighty ragas like DhanyAsi, harikAmbhOji and kalyAni, variety of composers such as Tyagaraja, Dikshitar, Maha Vaidyanatha Iyer, Thanjavur Sankara Iyer, Arunagiri Nadhar. It was especially refreshing to hear some of the less commonly heard krithis like rAmAbi rAmA and murugA thirumAl marugA. Brindha's manOdharma stood out for its originality and she used her creativity to bring out the beauty of the ragams and compositions with telling effect. Kamalakiran continues to amaze us with his prodigious talent and infectious enthusiasm on the stage. His violin accompaniment was brilliant from start to finish and in particular, his kalyAni raga alapana was special. Jayanth used his vast concert accompaniment experience to full effect and embellished Brindha's sangathis beautifully with excellent anticipation and sensitivity.

SSVT concert on April 2, 2012 by Chi. Sandeep Narayanan

Sri. Sandeep Narayanan's concert at the SSVT witnessed a thin yet a delightful crowd. Sandeep's selection of songs were outstanding and ably supported by Mysore Srikanth on Violin and Neyveli Venkatesh on mridangam. The concert started with a brisk HarikEsa NallUr MuthiAh BhAgavathar's Ata TALA varNam on raga Mohanam ("Mana Mohana"), followed by ThyAgarAja's "JAnaki RamaNa" krithi in rAgA suddha seemandhini set to Adi tALA. Next Sandeep went onto a rare composition "gAnAmrudha pAnam" on a rare rAgA jyOthiswaroopiNi but handled it very well. Then came a Dikshithar's piece "Shri rAmam Ravikula" in Narayana Gowla, a classic rendition. Before the main piece, a quick "ChalamEla RA" on Marga Hindolam with pleasing melody and tempo. The main piece, a SankarabharaNam kriti "swaraRaga sudha" by Sri. ThyAgarAja set to Adi tALA was very soulful packed with manOdharma aspects. Mysore Sreekanth followed the vocalist at pace and his support was a key aspect of listener's enjoyment of Sandeep's ideas.

Neyveli Sri. Venkatesh provided a sparkling thani for this. Before the RTP, Sandeep presented another rare composition from Swathi ThirunAL on rAgA vakuLabharaNam with the sAhithyam starting with "SAdhu Tadha nia bhAmineem". He took up the RTP in KAnada on the pallavi lines "kA vA vA vElavA, then pazhani malai murugA vA" and the ragamalika swaras were on rAgA Ranjani, kOmAlAngi and Sindhubhairavi. A second thani by mridangist set fireworks!

Sandeep continued to enthrall the audience with real gems such as "Pagaivanukkarulvaay" (Raga mAlikA - Bharatiyaar), "Thirisila giriar Darisanam" (Senchurutti), Viruttam (on request) Oorilen kaani illai followed by

Upcoming Events and Concerts:

April 22nd: Kalarasana@SSVT A

Lecture demonstration by

Sri.J.Shivakumar

May 6th: Vocal Concert by

Kum.Amritha Murali @SSVT

Auditorium

May 13th: Vocal Concert by

Smt.Ranjani & Smt.Gayatri

May 19th: SRGMPDN concert by

Smt.Deepa & Kum.Dhivya

"Brindavanam iduvo" Suddha Dhanyasi and Thillana
"Taam Taam Taam Udana" Khamas until mangalam.
Overall, it was very satisfying concert which had its share of elements of Sandeep Narayanan and Sanjay Subramanian that rasikas have witnessed for some time now.

Ask the Gurus: Bring your questions to the lec/dem this Sunday at SSVT.

SSVT LocalTalent Series on March 24th Lec/Dem byGokul Chandramouli. Topic: Navarasas in Music

As the title suggests the lecture was on navarasa. Gokul elaborated on a few of the rasas namely karuna, valour, bhayanakam, and srngaram among others. Starting with the Sahana varnam, he beautifully demonstrated each of them with a krithi or phrase in ragas such as aTANA, Sahana, karaharapriya.

Gokul explained how the lyrical value, rhythm and rendition brings out the bhavam in carnatic music. Of special mention was his brilliant rendition of the Viriboni varnam in adi thalam combining tisra and chatusra nadais to demonstrate adbhudha rasa was absolutely remarkable and displayed his astonishing mastery over rhythm. Gokul also made efforts to make the Lec-Dem interactive and there was a lot of audience participation throughout the program. Gokul was ably accompanied by Pavani Srikanth on the violin and Balajee Shanmugam on the Mridangam.

SSVT LocalTalent Series on March 24th Violin Concert by Smitha Krishnan

Smitha Krishnan started her violin recital with a brisk rendition of Dikshitar's "Gajananayutam" in the raga Vegavaahini. Her crisp Alapana preceding the kriti and kalpana swaras for the song set the right mood for the detailed alapana in Bahudari that followed next. Tyagaraja's popular composition in this raga - "Brova bharama" was presented. Next came a sedate Akhilandeswari followed by the main piece for the evening - "Pankaja Lochana" in Kalyani. The concert was concluded with "Bho Shambho" in Revati.

The right choice of compositions with the appropriate balance of manodharmam ensured that the recital was well received and enjoyable. Aparajit's support on the Mridangam was unobtrusive and blended well with the music. Smitha's sensitive playing made the overall experience for this reviewer memorable.

35TH CLEVELAND THYAGARAJA ARADHANA – A SPECIAL REPORT BY SRINIDHI KRISHNAN



Over the Spring break, I attended the 35th annual Cleveland Thyagaraja Festival. It was a wonderful vacation. We stayed at the Comfort Inn as always, because this is the place where all the musicians from India stay. It is really cool to ride the elevator with a great musician like Flute Ramani, or sit at a table next to Smt. Suguna Varadachari in the Hotel dining area. I also met the Carnatic Music Idol 2012 winners, Karthik Suresh Iyer (junior) and Vishnu Dev Nambudari (senior) – they are here to perform during the festival.

Here are some of the events I attended this year:

Sri OS Thiagarajan's concert on Thu, Apr 5. He sang a wonderful Mukhari followed by Semmangudi's Ksheenamayi.

Group singing of the Pancharatna krithis – This year, some of the usual people like Sudha Raghunathan and S Sowmya were missing, but there were new people like Veenai Srinivasan and Ghatam Karthik.

Concert by the Carnatic Music Idol USA winners, Geeta Shankar (junior) and Shyamala Ramakrishna (senior) – while Geeta elaborated Thodi and Charukesi, Shyamala improvised in Mukhari and Kalyani. Both sang extremely well, much to the delight of everyone in the packed auditorium.

The competitions, of course. I especially enjoyed the concert competition. Sat, Apr 7th was the 92nd birthday of the great Pandit Ravi Shankar. As a homage to this great musician, the participants of 2012 Sustaining Sampradayam program sang a bhajan composed by Panditji. This bhajan “Hey Naath” is a prayer to remove the darkness of ignorance and bless us with the light of knowledge. Before we sang this bhajan, all the lights in the auditorium were turned off; the only source of light was from the little flameless candles that we were holding (and the incessant flashing of cameras ☺). The program was broadcast live for Pandit ji to watch it in California. This was a very special experience!

During the felicitation ceremony, I was excited when Smt Radha Ganesan, a dance teacher from our area, was awarded the title of “Nrithya Seva Mani.. This being the centenary year celebration for Madurai Sri Mani Iyer, Palghat Sri Mani Iyer as well as Smt. T. Brinda, the 2012 Cleveland Festival is dedicated to their memory. I had the honor to participate in the “Homage to Madurai Mani Iyer – Sustaining Sampradayam” concert on Saturday evening.

The next morning, on Sunday, it was time to drive back home. I wish I could stay there for the entire festival... But, thankfully, we have subscribed to the webcast of the festival, and I can continue to enjoy the programs right here at home. Among the webcast concerts, Sri R.K.Srikatan performed several compositions of Harikesanallur Muthiah Bhagavathar popularized by Madurai Mai Iyer – it is awe-inspiring to see 93 year old Srikantan Sir sing flawlessly and effortlessly!

Concerts of Smt. Alamelu Mani and Smt. Nirmala Sunderarajan were reminiscent of the Brinda-Mukta legacy. Smt. Suguna Purshotthaman and Smt. Suguna Varadachari sang a special RTP for the two great Mani Iyers – the pallavi was “kuralukku oru Madura Mani, viralukku oru Mridanga Mani”.

SRGMPDN is thankful to the contributors of this newsletter! Special thanks to Kum. Srinidhi Krishnan for the article on the 2012 Cleveland Aradhana!

Identify the Artist!



Kuttis' Korner by Srinidhi Krishnan

Q: Which ragam did the mathematician sing?

A: Kanakaangi, because he was very good in KaNakku.

Q: Which ragam did the Bhagavathar sing to in front of President Bush?

A: Bhushavali.

Q: Which ragam does the Watch-maker love?

A: Vacha-spathi

Q: Which ragam could give you a rich dose of antioxidants?

A: Abheri (aah-berry)

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SRGMPDN welcomes feedback and articles for the newsletter.