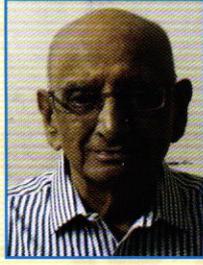


PROFILE OF THE AWARDEES

Sri S.V. Ramakrishnan



Sri S.V. Ramakrishnan or SVR, born on August 23, 1930 to a musically inclined Parents, has had a deep love for Carnatic Music since childhood. His Mother Smt. Kaveri, was musically gifted with a sweet voice and a wide repertoire of songs in Telugu. It was through her and his musically gifted sister Hemavathi, who learnt from Mudicondan Sri Venkataramana Iyer that SVR developed a love for classical music.

SVR since his school days was inclined to singing and acting popular musical plays of that years. After his studies SVR joined in the Reserve Bank of India in 1953. During his official assignment, where he was posted at various cities in India, he pursued his ardent love for Carnatic Music by becoming member of leading sabhas and attending as many concerts. He has heard all great musicians of the golden era of Carnatic Music, by which SVR gained knowledge in music to be able to appreciate all the nuances of it.

He retired as DGM from NABARD in 1988, and settled in Nanganallur in 1995 where he soon got involved in cultural activities. Even after retirement, SVR's thrust to music had resulted in formation of the sabha Sri Krishna Fine Arts Society in 1999, which was inaugurated by Sangeeta Kalanidhi, Sri Semmangudi Srinivasa Iyer. After serving as the society's treasurer for many years, SVR has been its secretary for the past 10 years.

The society has been holding monthly concerts without a break for these past 19 years apart from Sri Krishna Jayanthi festival for 5 days and a competition for school children in Carnatic vocal music at two levels which has gained popularity over the years. The Sabha is conducting Tyagaraja Aradhana as well as Dikshitar and Syama Sastri Jayanthis for the past few years as well as thematic concerts around other composers such as Sri Oothukkadu Venkatasubaa Iyer, Sri Purandara Dasar and Annamacharya. He also organized birth centenary concerts for GNB, Madurai Mani Iyer and Dr. M S Subbalakshmi. He continues his enthusiastic service for Carnatic Music with the support of his family.

SVR's daughter Dr. Lakshmi Sreeram is an accomplished performing Vidhushi both in Carnatic and Hindustani styles.

Smt. Varalakshmi Anandakumar



Born to a musically inclined Parents, Varalakshmi had her early training in music from her aunt Smt Maragatham Ramaswamy, presently heading the Ragamalika school of music in Washington, U.S. Then she came under the tutelage of Sangitha Kalanidhi (Late) Sri D.K. Jayaraman for advanced training and became one of his senior most disciples. She has also learnt from Vidwan Sri P.S. Narayanaswami and is presently learning from Vidwan Sri Srimushnam Raja Rao from whom she has had the opportunity to learn scores of Dasarpadams.

Varalakshmi has been giving concerts all over the country and at all the sabhas in Chennai in addition to programmes like the National Programme of Music at the AIR, Doordarshan and at the Nada Neerajanam programme of the TTD. She has also done a project on Deities and Devotional aspects in Thiruppugazh Hymns, sponsored by the Department of Culture, Government of India, which was guided by Vidushi Smt Shyamala Venkateswaran.

She has received several prizes and awards like Tambura prizes at competitions including the Rajaji Tambura at the Tamil Isai Sangam for compositions of Gopalakrishna Bharati, Best Vocalist from the Music Academy and Sri Krishna Gana Sabha, Award of Excellence from Hamsadhwani. Varalakshmi has brought out a book 'Janaranjakam', a notated compilation of the 'hits' of her guru Sri D.K. Jayaraman., which was published by the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan. She is in the process of bringing out a second volume. A prolific writer, she has been a regular contributor to many music magazines including Layamani Layam of Guru Kaaraikkudi Mani. She was a long time Trustee of the Shanthi Arts Foundation and Endowments (SAFE). Presently she, along with her fellow disciple Smt Durgga Venkatesh runs the Ramapriya Arts Foundation in Chennai.

Varalakshmi holds a PhD degree in French and is presently holding the post of Associate Professor at the Queen Mary's College. She had the privilege to give a lecture demonstration on our Classical music at Poitiers, France as well as at many International Conferences for French.