



Kadri Gopalanath and Kannyakumari in concert for Mudhra at a hall in T. Nagar on Dec. 26

## Music Academy finale

The Music Academy closes its Music Conference and Concerts of 2011 with the *sadas* on January 1, 2012, starting 5 p.m.

Prof. Trichy Sankaran, who presided over the 85th Annual Conference of the Academy will be conferred the "Sangita Kalanidhi" title at the *sadas*. Other awards to be presented are during the 85th Conference. Sangita Kala Acharya: 2 Awards to Neela Ramgopal (Vocalist) and to Rama Ravi (Vocalist). T.T.K. Awards: 2 Awards - Mayavaram Somasundaram (Kanjira) and 1 to T.R. Navaneetham (Flute) - photos on right

The Pappa Venkataramiah award for violin is being given to Trivandrum Subramania Sarma.

The *sadas* closes with an ensemble concert

The newly instituted Natya Kala Acharya award for dance is to be given to Bharatanatyam exponent Dr. Padma Subrahmanyam. This award will be given away at the inaugural function of the Dance Festival on 3rd January 2012.



Rasika T A Ramanathan from Tirupur snapped this photo in the lobby of the Music Academy and captioned it - 'Modern and tradition, swapped of course'.

## Narasimhacharis' tribute to Rukmini Devi

The senior Bharatanatyam dancers, the Narasimhacharis will present their tribute to Rukmini Devi Arundale with a production titled *Sooladi Saptha taala Pada Varnam on the Life and Works of Rukmini* is a special show by these dancers who were decorated with awards by Indian Fine Arts recently.

The show is at the BalaMandir German Hall, T. Nagar and is on January 2, 7.15 pm. Tickets sold at gate.

## People

Michelle Sequeira from Belgium will present a Bharatanatyam recital at Brahma Gana Sabha on January 3, 4:30 pm.

And this will be the first dance recital for this Indian-origin artiste.

Below, Michelle shares her thoughts on herself, her initiation to the art and her journey . . .



I am a Bharatanatyam dancer of Indian origin based in Belgium. I came to Chennai this week and will be performing at the Sivagami Pethachi Auditorium, Luz Church Road, Alwarpet.

I am one of a handful of classical Indian dancers in Belgium and have been training and performing for fifteen years.

I became interested in the dance from an early age when my parents took me to see various performances by visiting dancers, across Europe.

It was impossible to find a good teacher in Belgium and after much search, I was able to get in touch with Kalpana Raghuraman who was based in the Netherlands.

Raghuraman is a professional dancer and choreographer and has trained under her mother Sharadha Raghuraman as well as masters such as the Dhananjayans, C.V. Chandrashekar and Padmini Ravi. To formally learn this classical dance form, I had to travel every week from Belgium to the Netherlands to train with Raghuraman.

And in 2006, I was able to do my arangetram.

While I have performed on stage on a number of occasions in Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg and France, this is the first time I will be performing in India.

I am looking forward to this experience even though I am a little nervous about dancing in front of an audience of true connoisseurs!

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## Audio Posts on Kutcheribuzz.com

On the KutcheriBuzz web site, are audio files that capture speeches, lectures and some music during the season

- A German jazz trio plays a mallari and a Lalgudi Jayaraman composition

- Scholar B M Sundaram talks on mridangam vidwan Palani Subramania Pillai

- Violinist T N Krishnan's speech at a function where S Sowmya was awarded a title

- Nithyasree Mahadevan talks on Sowmya


More audio files will be posted in the days ahead.

Do listen in and share your comments. Feedback is also welcome.


Mesmerizer

guess?

the two artists hidden  
| in this photograph



Answer elsewhere in this issue



SUNDARAM FINANCE

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The Dhanajayans presented *Poorna Thrayee* for Bharath Kalachar at the YGP Auditorium in T. Nagar on Dec.26

## CHECK THIS

How would you like to open the first day of the new year when it comes to classical music / dance/ drama?

Here are a few leads to the events that sabhas have lined up this Sunday.

Each show can be enjoyed by the family. Take them along if they have not been to any concerts this 'season'. Or introduce your friends to the 'season'.

9.15 am - Flute concert by Shashank at Music Academy

9.30 am - Violin duet by G J R Krishnan and Vijayalakshmi

9.45 am - flue concert by N. Ramani at Krishna Gana Sabha

10 am - B. Kannan promises a special treat in his veena concert at Narada Gana Sabha

10 am - Ghatam Karthik and his HeartBeat ensemble promise a variety - at Vani Mahal, T Nagar.

4 pm - Ganesh and Kumaresh, at Bharat Kalachar

6 pm - K L Yesudoss at MFAC, Mylapore

6 pm - U Shrinivas' mandolin concert at Kalarasana, Gemini Circle.

6.45pm - Y Gee Mahendra presents 'Nadagam;', Tamil play for Mudhra, at T. Nagar

7.15 pm - Crazy Mohan's comedy play in Tamil for Nungambakkam Academy in T. Nagar.

## Rasikas Report

### Talks on Gangai Konda Cholapuram Raghunathabhyudayamu

Here are short notes on two talks held as part of the Tamil Heritage programme during the 'season'.

One was the History and Art of Gangai Konda Cholapuram and the other on Raghunatha Nayakabhyudayamu.

When my family had visited Gangai Konda Cholapuram earlier this year, the temple was closed. So the first lecture interested me.

The other lecture was on Nayak kings contribution to fine arts. During the Nayak period, Telugus (Brahmins) migrated from Andhra region and settled in a few belts of Tamil Nadu - namely Thanjavur, Madurai and Tirunelveli.

Their contribution also interested me.

Dr. Kodavasal Balasubrahmanyam spoke on 'The history and art of Gangai konda Cholapuram'.

He took the audience on a virtual tour around the temple, explaining in detail its topography, history, beauty and stories attached to the sculptures, the hard work behind the artistry and the sorry state of affairs today in preserving some of the scripts on the stones.

'Why did King Rajendra change his capital from Thanjavur?'

Thanjavur is intercepted by rivers, waterways and green fields. A capital space also needs to have space for the kingdom's military base. Rajendra did not want to spoil nature's gift in Thanjavoor by creating spaces for his army. Hence, he changed the capital to Gangai Konda Cholapuram.

'Raghunathabhyudayamu'; lecture by by dancer Swarnamalya.

The title seems to be a tongue twister, but not if split



properly, Raghunatha - abhi - udayamu.

Abhi - udayamu means from dawn in a sequence i.e from dawn to dusk. (Abhi is a prefix having different meanings).

A book written by Raghunatha's son Vijaya Raghava deals with one day in the life of his father Raghunatha Nayaka, from dawn to dusk.

Swarnamalya used the narration and dance style. She played Chitra Rekha, the court dancer. Swarnamalya conceived a story of her own on Chitra Rekha, as heroine in love with Raghunatha and spending the night with him.

Swarnamalya said she admired court dancers of the

past centuries. She vividly described the valour, scholarliness, artistisc skills of Raghunatha Nayaka. She said that the Thanjavoor veenai was designed by Raghunatha Nayak. He was known as 'Kalai Kadal' meaning Ocean of fine Arts.

Post Script:

Swarnamalya's observation: 'Isai vizha varalaarril mihach chiranda kurukkidu'

('a very good interruption in the history of December music season')

Members of Tamil Heritage Trust addressed the gathering in flawless, fluent Thamizh. The vocabulary was a treat for Thamizh rasikas.

- V. Vasantha

## Feedback please!

So what worked and what did not this December Season.

As the fag end of Season 2011 rolls out it may be time for rasikas to express themselves.

What impressed you this season?

What did not?

What was the overall quality of the concerts? Did the young musicians impress?

Did the awards ceremonies and the speeches bore you to death? And should we do away with them?

Did the lec-dems educate you or are they pedestrian affairs?

Accoustics. Seating. Facilities. Information. Box Office. These too need our feedback.

Mail your comments to KutcheriBuzz - kutcheribuzz@gmail.com

We will post them online.



January 5 - 8, 2012

Venue: All around Sri Kapali Temple, Mylapore

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Heritage Walks  
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Folk Arts  
Fine Arts  
Food Street  
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www.mylaporefestival.com



1. Name Saint Thyagarja's kriti in the raga Umabharanam ?
2. Who is the author of 'Geetha Govindam' ?
3. Who is the author of famous operas like 'Sri Krishna Leela Tarangini', 'Parijatapaharanam', Hari Bhakti Sudhamavam?
4. Who is the composer, widely regarded as 'Sangita Pithamaha'?
5. What is the mudra of the famous vidwan and composer Sri M D Ramanathan ?

Answers: 1. Niamammunan 2. Sri Jayadeva 3. Sri Narayana Theertha 4. Sri Purandaraasa 5. Varadassa

Mesmerizer  
Answer



L. Subramaniam



N. Ramani



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