

## From the Editor's Desk

In this special month we would like to dedicate the editorial section of the newsletter to our beloved Guru Smt. Sandhya Anand.

As we all know our Guru is part of our family and the difference that she has made to each of our lives is immeasurable. Towards that we would like to dedicate a poem by Rudyard Kipling - 'IF' to her.

IF - By Rudyard Kipling

If you can keep your head when all about you  
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you,  
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,  
But make allowance for their doubting too;  
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,  
Or being lied about, don't deal in lies,  
Or being hated, don't give way to hating,  
And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise:

If you can dream—and not make dreams your master;  
If you can think—and not make thoughts your aim;  
If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster  
And treat those two impostors just the same;  
If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken  
Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,  
Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken,  
And stoop and build 'em up with worn-out tools:

If you can make one heap of all your winnings  
And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,  
And lose, and start again at your beginnings  
And never breathe a word about your loss;  
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew  
To serve your turn long after they are gone,  
And so hold on when there is nothing in you  
Except the Will which says to them: 'Hold on!'



# From the Editor's Desk

## Contd...

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If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,  
Or walk with Kings—nor lose the common touch,  
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,  
If all men count with you, but none too much;  
If you can fill the unforgiving minute  
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,  
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,  
And—which is more—you'll be a Man, my son!

As much as this poem refers to a man, we believe the essence of it applies to all mortals that are living on this Earth.

Many more Happy Birthdays Sandhya Ma,'am !!

Lots of love

Students of Samskritasangitam School of Music

# Events Extravaganza!!

## In Pictures





# Events Extravaganza!!

## In Pictures



## The Life Of Shri Thyagaraja Swami

*Shreyas G.*

### **Who Is Sri Thyagaraja Swami?**

Sri Thyagaraja is one of the 3 trinities of Carnatic Music. He was regarded as one of the greatest composers of Carnatic music. He is said to have composed 24,000 songs but only 720 have been found. Lord Rama was Sri Thyagaraja's Isthadevatha and the majority of Thyagaraja's songs are about him. Sri Thyagaraja is also known to have the most variety in his compositions in terms of emotion, treatment of ragas and themes etc. Basically he is like Mozart in Western music, the only difference is Mozart lived for a short time But Sri Thyagaraja lived for a long time. He died when he was about 80 years old.

### **Sri Thyagaraja Swami's Childhood**

Sri Thyagaraja was born in Thiruvarur in Tanjore district on May 4 1776. Ramabraham and Seethamma were Sri Thyagaraja's parents. He had an elder brother named Panchapakeshan or Jalepsan . He also had another brother named Panchamanda, Sri Thyagaraja was the youngest of his family. His mother knew carnatic music and was a good singer. He had his very first music lessons from her. From a young age Sri Thyagaraja loved music, sometimes he even wrote small compositions on the walls!!! His father was a good scholar in Telugu and Sanskrit and he taught Thyagaraja these languages. Ramabrahmam noticed Sri Thyagaraja's interest in music and took him to Sonti Venkataramanayya, a musician at the court of King Sarabhoji. Once a week he went near the temple streets and sang compositions on Lord Rama, whatever money he got from the passing people - he gave it to his family.

### **Sri Thyagaraja Swami's Adulthood**

Growing up Sri Thyagaraja never cared for wealth. He did not want to join the royal court; he wanted to live a devotional peaceful life, but his elder brother Jalepsan wanted him to earn money through music. But Sri Thyagaraja did not listen to his brother's words. Once the king of Thanjavur wanted Thyagaraja to sing in his court, he offered Sri Thyagaraja 50m acres of land and lots of gold coins but Sri Thyagaraja refused. He had a small idol of Lord Rama but Thyagaraja treated it as if it was his friend. There are even compositions of Sri Thyagaraja that say that he is angry with Sri Rama. He once went on a pilgrimage to Tirupati but he could not see Lord Venkateshwara. He got disappointed and he composed a beautiful song "Thera theeyaga radha" expressing his sadness. Later Sri Thyagaraja returned to Thiruvaiyar and spent his final years singing about Lord Rama until he finally passed away on January 6, 1847 when he was 79 years old

### **Conclusion**

Today Sri Thyagaraja is as popular as he was 200 years ago. Thiruvaiyar has become a popular place for musicians to go for pilgrimage. Sri Thyagaraja aradhana which starts in January in Thiruvaiyar, India and in Cleveland, USA it starts in April. His legacy carries on and continues to inspire people. Sri Thyagaraja was a great man and has contributed a lot through his compositions and many other aspects.

### **Sources :**

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tyagaraja>

<https://swarajyamag.com/culture/why-i-think-thyagaraja-was-the-greatest>

<https://www.slideshare.net/slideshow/thyagaraja-the-immortal-musician/38799851>

# It's Playtime

## Raga Quiz from Dhruva Anand

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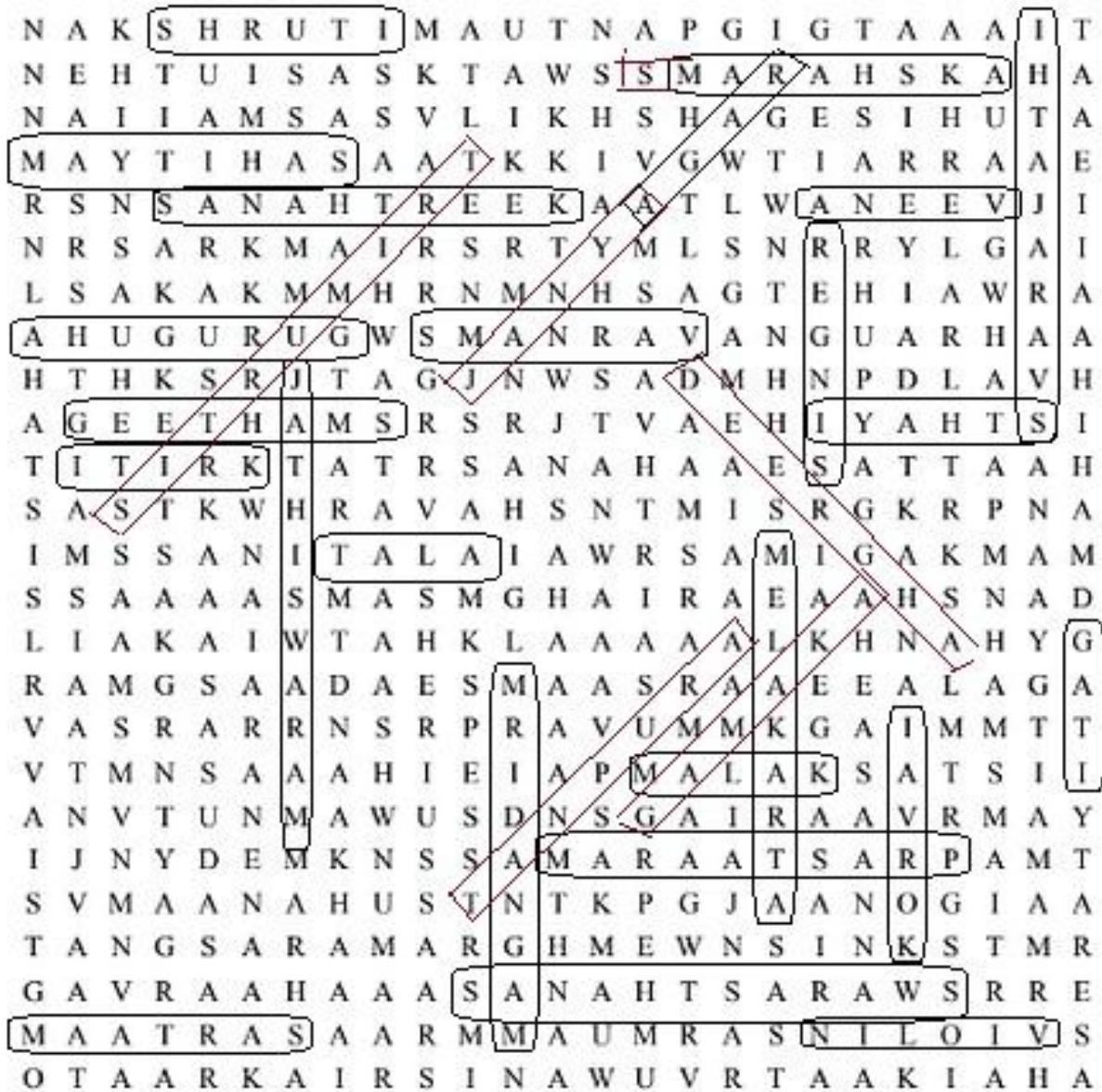
[https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1ULdcAm\\_bjcameXpX9BF0po-MxzHYFIWb/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=112845790631519348520&rtpof=true&sd=true](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1ULdcAm_bjcameXpX9BF0po-MxzHYFIWb/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=112845790631519348520&rtpof=true&sd=true)

**Follow the link to get taken to a raga quiz!**

# It's Playtime

## Answers to Last month's word search

### Carnatic Word Course!



- |               |              |                |              |
|---------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| · STHAYI      | - TANPURA    | · SINGER       | · MRIDANGAM  |
| · MELAKARTA   | · PRASTAARAM | · SWARASTHANAS | · TRIMURTIS  |
| · GURUGUHA    | · SAHITYAM   | - GAMAKA       | · SVARAJATHI |
| · VARNAMS     | SIMHANANDANA | JANYA          | · KORVAI     |
| · JATHISWARAM | · SHRUTI     | · GEETHAMS     | - DEERGH     |
| · RAGA        | · KEERTHANAS | · VEENA        | · KRITI      |
| · TALA        | · GATI       | AKSHARAMS      | · MAATRAS    |
| · KALAM       | · VIOLIN     |                |              |

# Upcoming Events

## Save the date!

### Guru Performance

Date	Venue	Township , State
September 28	Bridgewater Balaji Temple	Bridgewater, NJ
Oct 12	Music Class	New Lessons begin
October 5	SBAT	Washington D.C

**“Life is one grand, sweet song so start the music.”**

**Ronald Reagan**