

Samskrtasangitam

School of Music

NEWSLETTER

July 2024

From the Editor's Desk

In this issue I would like to share with you my joy I pf teaching this year's summer camp. Like every year, I look forward to spending quality time with my kids during summer. The enthusiasm with which the young kids attend the sessions inspire me to come up with interesting topics and teach them more.



For Summer of '24, we had three camps for different musical levels. For most of the kids in level 1 camp, it was their first time spending so much time learning music. I was skeptical if they would sit for that long a time, but they proved me wrong. Just like the saying '*pashurvetti shishurvetti vetti gaanarasam phanee*', I clearly saw that they enjoyed music.

We started with breathing exercises followed by long notes which is very important warm up practice from all musicians. We learnt some fun Jati phrases and children put them together to make Jati sentences which could fit in any Tala. We even tried some multiplication tables with Jatis!

Kids amazed me by memorizing **60 melakartas** in the five day camp. It was a competition amongst them to memorize the list within minimum time. We even played the game 'follow the leader' with melakarta ragas.

The next camp focused on learning one of Sri Papanasam Sivan's kritis. Kids got to put into use all the basic techniques that they have learnt earlier.

The intermediate camp gave us all a chance to learn five most beautiful *jatiswaras*. The beauty of these compositions is that they are composed in such a way that students get exposed to advanced ragas at an early stage. We did *prasthara*, some interesting swara permutations. I was amazed at how effortlessly kids could switch between different ragas and their moods.

The advanced camp was on one of the gems of Sri Tyagaraja Swami. We learnt the **Gaula Pancharatna** in detail. We learnt the general meaning, word by word meaning, where to take breath and what happens when we take breath at other places, how meaning gets totally distorted when the word is split differently (knowingly or unknowingly because of lack of breath or lack of knowledge of meaning 😊), the mental state of Tyagaraja Swami while composing this song, how his mental state is put forth through this specific raga Gaula which is a melancholic raga, how he guides us, the society in taking the right path, the prastarams used, how the charana swaras are perfect examples for kalpana swaras, and much more!!

From the Editor's Desk

Contd...

All in all, teaching the summer camp was a wonderful learning experience for me. There is so much to learn out there and I'm so lucky that I get to do it along with my dear students.

We also took time to make some impromptu videos of our fun experiences. You will get to see them in my YouTube channel - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DHTk_N8LOCI

I would like to take this moment to wish you all a great summer. Enjoy your holidays. I'm sure all of you would add more color to your holidays with Music:-)

See you in next edition,

Best

Sandhya Anand

Director of Samskritasangitam School of Music

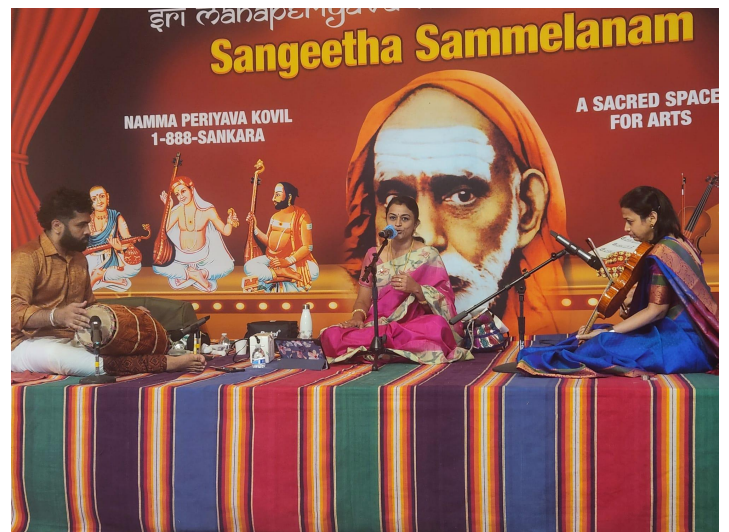
Events Extravaganza!!

In Pictures



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Students' Scribe

Leo Tolstoy and Music

Indu Subrahmanyam

1) Who was Leo Tolstoy? Why is he important today?

Leo Tolstoy was a Russian writer, who lived from 1828 to 1910, and he is significant even today for his exquisite talents of writing novels and being a master of writing realistic fiction. In fact, he is a world-renowned novelist, and is also famous for his inspirational quotes/sayings.

2) What are some of his famous written works?

Some of Leo Tolstoy's famous written works are "War and Peace" and "Anna Karenina" in literature. Also, he has written many profound quotes throughout his life that include very deep meanings.

3) How did he feel about music?

Leo Tolstoy felt emotionally connected to music. He had written a few beautiful quotes about music that showed this, such as...

- "Music is the shorthand of emotion."
- "Music is love in search of a voice."
- "Music makes me forget myself, my real position; it transports me to some other position not my own."
- "Under the influence of music, I really seem to feel what I do not feel, to understand what I do not understand, to have powers which I cannot have."

Music evoked an "emotional and powerful connection" between him, "rather than words," Tolstoy had said.

4) How did he perceive our culture? What did he take in from our Indian scriptures?

Leo Tolstoy became greatly influenced by the supreme Bhagavad Gita later in his life and he learned a lot about different cultures. He was an exponent in spreading diversity and he explored Indian culture, leading him to learn about music. He thought that music has a much more insightful way of communicating and conveying many ideas and feelings, than words and verbal forms of communication.

Carnatic Jumble from Prarambha Gayakas

Solve the jumble below to reveal a Carnatic raga!

1. sieukahcr
2. rnaamv
3. iaahlirb
4. ryskwmitmaua
5. hgamat
6. verahit
7. ptuirta
8. inhodalm
9. tahaaa
10. raabdr
11. swanradmaa
12. jnkaria
13. haandgmar
14. pakkamaadaa
15. athimuprs
16. haibvria
17. ulamona
18. anvtaahs
19. ragaykavega
20. annakrees

Answers to Carnatic Sudoku

It's Playtime

Answers to Last Month's Sudoku

26	65	49	41	12	2	69	14	21	
S	N ₃	G ₃	M ₂	D ₃	Ś	R ₃		P	72
R ₂	D ₂	P		G ₂	S	N ₃	M ₁	Ś	23
M ₁	Ś		N ₃	P	R ₁	D ₁	G ₃	S	15
G ₃	P	N ₁	Ś		D ₁	S	R ₁	M ₁	13
	M ₂	S	R ₁	N ₃	G ₁	P	Ś	D ₁	39
Ś	R ₂	D ₁	P	S	M ₁		N ₂	G ₂	20
N ₂		Ś	D ₂	M ₁	P	G ₃	S	R ₂	28
P	G ₃	M ₂	S	R ₁		Ś	D ₁	N ₃	51
D ₁	S	R ₁	G ₁	Ś	N ₂	M ₂	P		38

29	Ragam: Śankarābharaṇam
48	Ragam: Divyamani
33	Ragam: Gāṅgeyabhuśani
61	Ragam: Kāntāmaṇi
3	Ragam: Gānamūrti
8	Ragam: Hanumatodi
50	Ragam: Nāmanārāyaṇi
4	Ragam: Vanaspati
63	Ragam: Latāṅgi

Upcoming Events

Save the date!

Guru Performance

Date	Venue	Township , State
July 24	Jaipur	Rajasthan, India
July 27	Rameswaram Temple	TN, India
July 29	Madurai Meenakshi Temple	Madurai, TN India
Aug 3	Palakkad	Kerala, India

If I had my life to live over again, I would have made a rule to read some poetry and listen to some music at least once every week.”

— Charles Darwin, The Autobiography of Charles Darwin, 1809–82