

From the Editor's Desk...

- During NavarAtri, I cherish connecting with the divine. As per tradition, I released videos for navarAtri for students to cherish the divine experience.

All the songs dedicated to the Goddess either speak of her benevolence, her valour or narrate tales from the multiple forms she chose to appear in. The narrative around each of these forms is focused on the Goddess' courage, steadfast devotion and commitment.

This year, NavarAtri had a surprise in store for me! One of my rasikas Sri. Radhakrishna Prakhya appreciated the kritis using his eloquence in Samskritam, that I can't wait to share it with readers!

The nuance was, he appreciated the song, using raga, student names and essence of song through his verses. Without much ado, I would like our readers this month to dive into his penning and take this moment to wish you all a happy Deepavali..



सदाशिवकृतं गीतं सन्ध्यासुनन्दप्रदायकम्।
काञ्चीपुरीश्वरी पातु सावेरीरागसन्नुता॥

sadāśivakṛtaṃ gītaṃ sandhyā"nandapradāyakam |
kāñcīpurīśvarī pātu sāverīrāgasannutā ||

The song composed by Sri Sadashiva Rao is a source of
delight in the evening. May the presiding deity of
Kanchipuram, the one who is praised in this song based
on Saveri raga, Kamakshi, protect us!



<https://youtu.be/fQAqn7D0sU0>



ईशवशङ्करी गौरी मनोहरस्वरूपतः।
सदा भक्तवशीभूता कामाक्षी कुरुते शुभम्॥

īśavaśaṅkarī gaurī manoharasvarūpataḥ।
sadā bhaktavaśībhūtā kāmākṣī kurute śubham ॥

Gauri, who enchants and controls Isha (Shiva)
With her captivating form
Is always captivated in turn by her devotees (through
their intense devotion)
As Kamakshi, she blesses them with good fortune!



<https://youtu.be/6-mb7T1Ntrk>



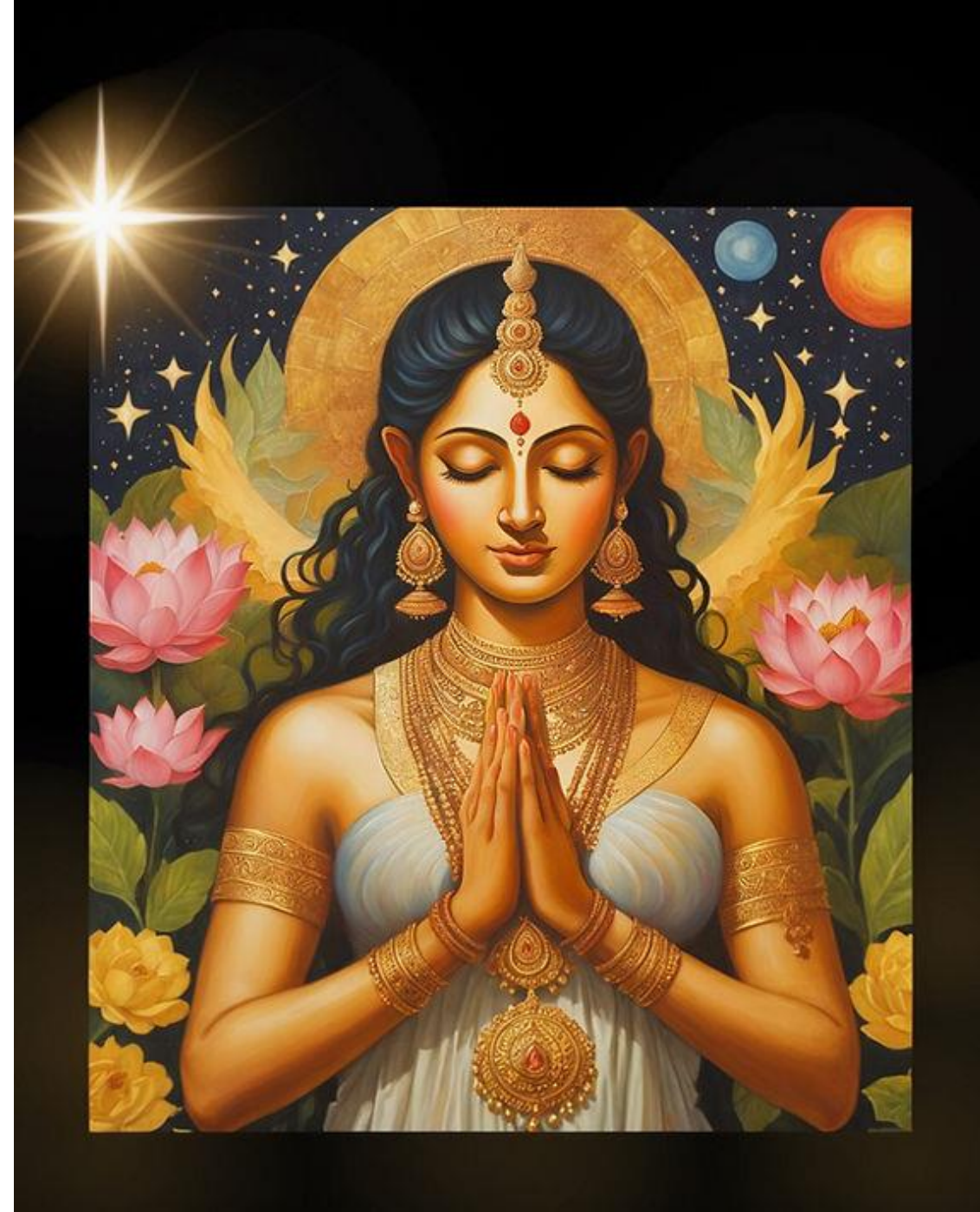
मार्गभ्रष्टाय सन्मार्गं दर्शयेत् ध्रुवो यथा।
तथा शङ्कुरु कल्याणि त्वां विना न गतिर्भुवि॥

mārgabhraṣṭāya sanmārgaṃ darśayeta dhruvo yathā |
tathā śaṅkuru kalyāṇi tvāṃ vinā na gatirbhuvi ||

Just as Dhruva (the pole star) guides
Those who stray from their path
Oh Kalyani! Please offer good fortune (to those who are
unfortunate)
Other than You, there is no other refuge in this world!



<https://youtu.be/RDFJGm-8Wlw>



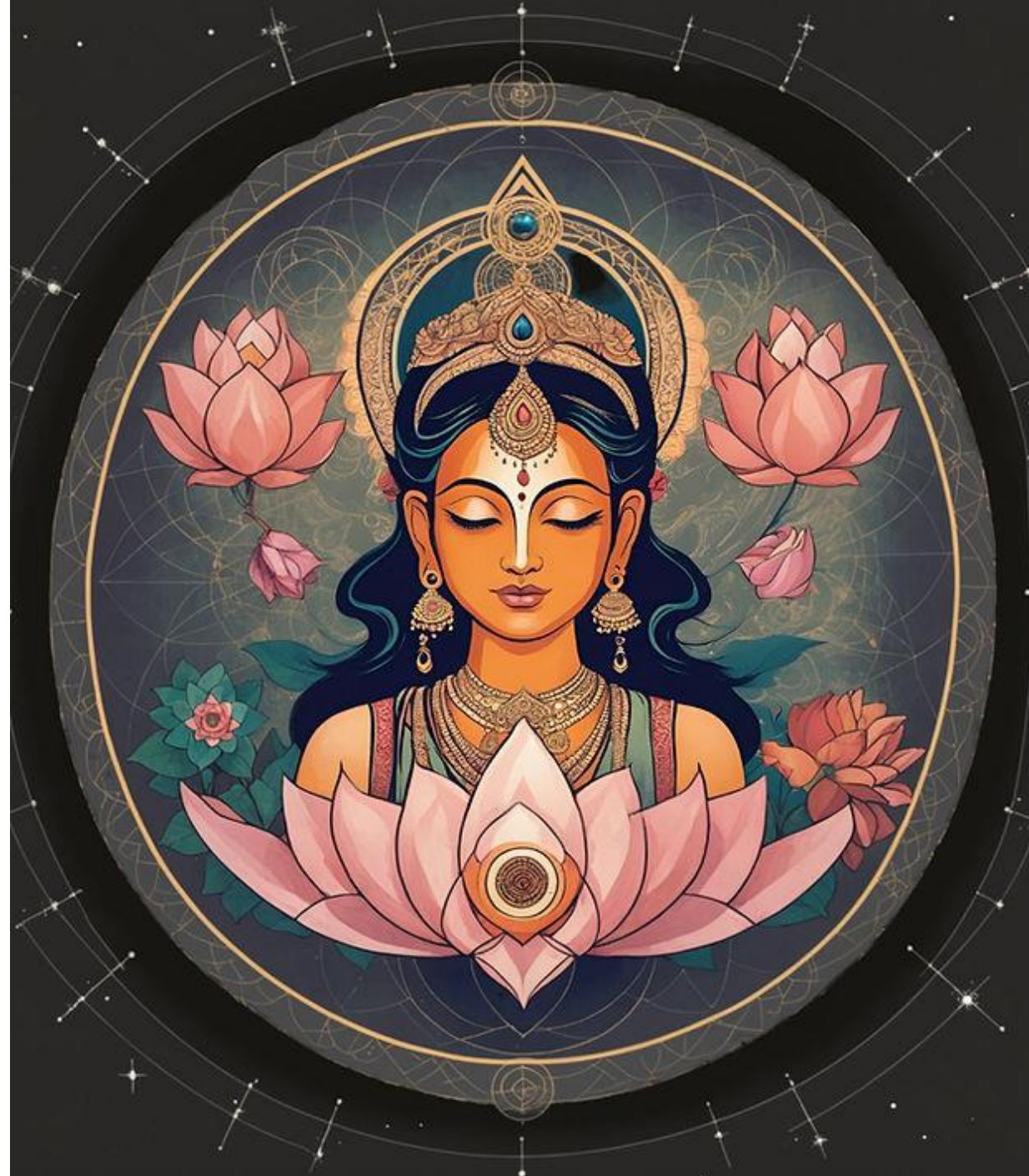
वाममार्गप्रिये शक्ते वामाचारप्रमोहितान्।सुप्तान् जागरयेः शीघ्रं
त्वदीयकिङ्किणीध्वनेः॥

vāmamārgapriye śakte vāmācārapramohitān |suptān
jāgarayeḥ śīghraṃ tvadiyakiṅkiṇīdhvaneḥ ॥

Oh Shakti! Tantric practices please you immensely With
the sounds of your anklets Please bring them back to
their senses quickly Who are bewitched and numbed by
vile ways of living



<https://youtu.be/xran9x8D1Ls>



त्वदीयकरुणादृष्ट्या केवलं कल्पकाम्बिके।महावाक्यप्रबोधस्य
सम्भवोऽल्पमतौ मयि॥

tvadiyakaruṇādr̥ṣṭyā kevalam
kalpakāmbike।mahāvākyaprabodhasya
sambhavo'lpamatau mayi॥

Oh Kalpakamba! Only with your benevolent glances on
me,I, the feeble-minded one, can understand the
mahavakyas!



https://youtu.be/nmcX179_SLA



मानसन्ध्यानमग्नं स्यात् त्वद्दीप्तपादपद्मयोः।
नान्या गतिर्विना ताभ्यां भुवनेश्वरि भूतले॥

mānasandhyānamagnaṃ syāt tvaddīptapādapadmayoḥ।
nānyā gativinā tābhyāṃ bhuvaneśvari bhūtale ॥

**Oh Bhuvaneshwari!
May my mind meditate
On Your radiant lotus feet
Other than them, there is none for me to seek!**



<https://youtu.be/EsE2X2aiQPk>



शृङ्गेरीस्वामिभिर्यत् स्वयमभिरचितं स्रग्धरावृत्तमूलंसङ्गीतं ह्यष्टकं तत् श्रुतिसुखकरणं यैः
स्मृतौ स्थापितं च।सन्ध्याऽनश्रीध्रुवान् च त्रिभुवनपरिपाम् इन्दिरां सर्वकालेविद्यासद्बुद्धिदात्री
कर्मलजदयिता पातु वागीश्वरी सा ॥

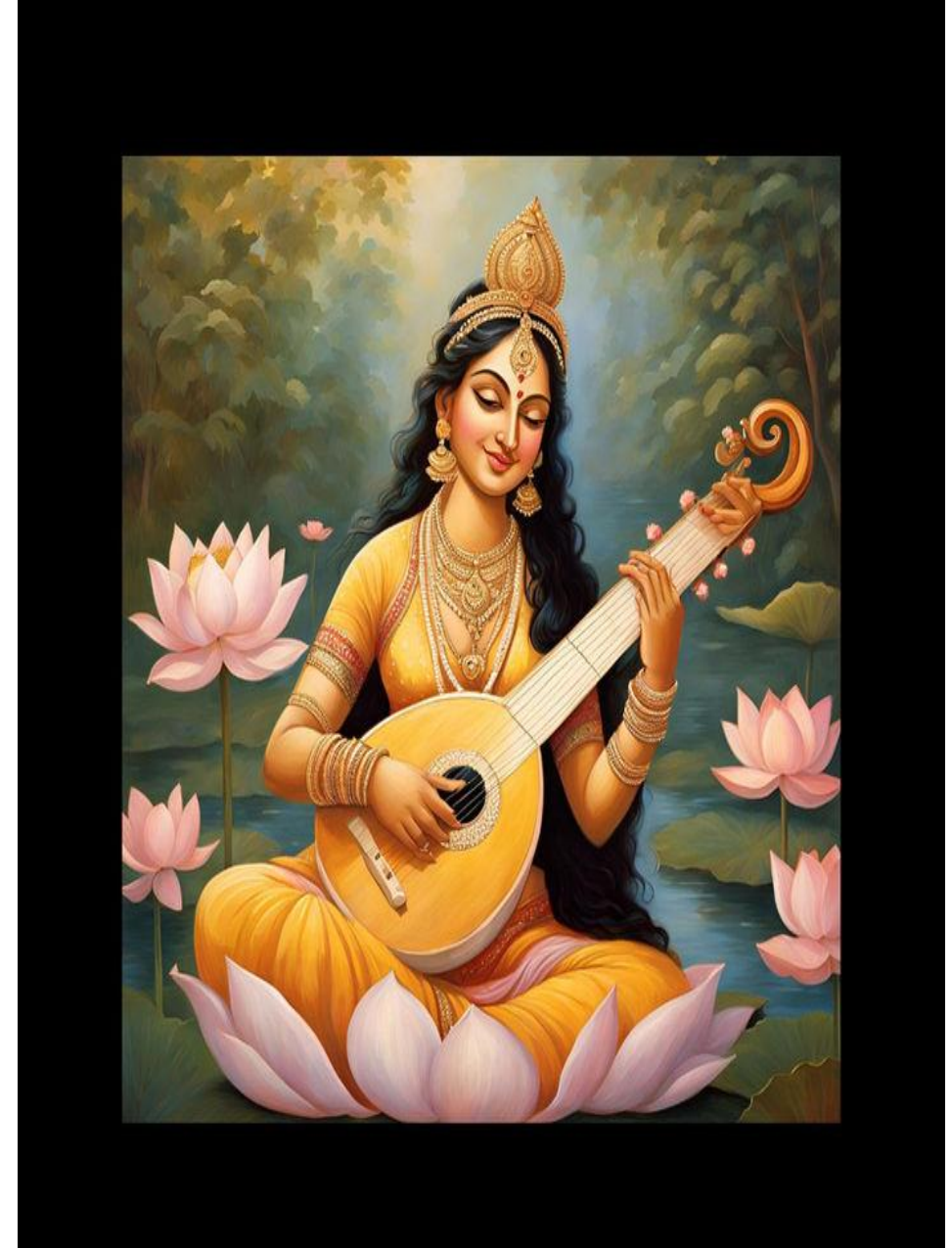
śrṅgerīsvāmibhiryat svayamabhiracitaṃ sragdharāvṛttamūlaṃsaṅgītaṃ
hyaṣṭakaṃ tat śrutisukhakaranaṃ yaiḥ smṛtau sthāpitaṃ
ca।sandhyā'nuśrīdhruvān ca tribhuvanaparipām indirāṃ
sarvakālaṃvidyāsadbuddhidātrī kamalajadayitā pātu vāgīśvarī sā ॥

The ashtakam written by the Shringeri Swami himself in the Sragdhara meter, Memorized fully as well as sung harmoniously and pleasingly, May Brahma's beloved, Vageeshwari who bestows knowledge and good intellect, Always protect Sandhya, Anushri, Dhruva, Bhuvaneshwari and Indira!



https://youtu.be/9_7yanPpzwg

See you in next edition,
Sandhya Anand
Director of Samskritasangitam School of Music



Students Art Corner

Om SHANTHI!



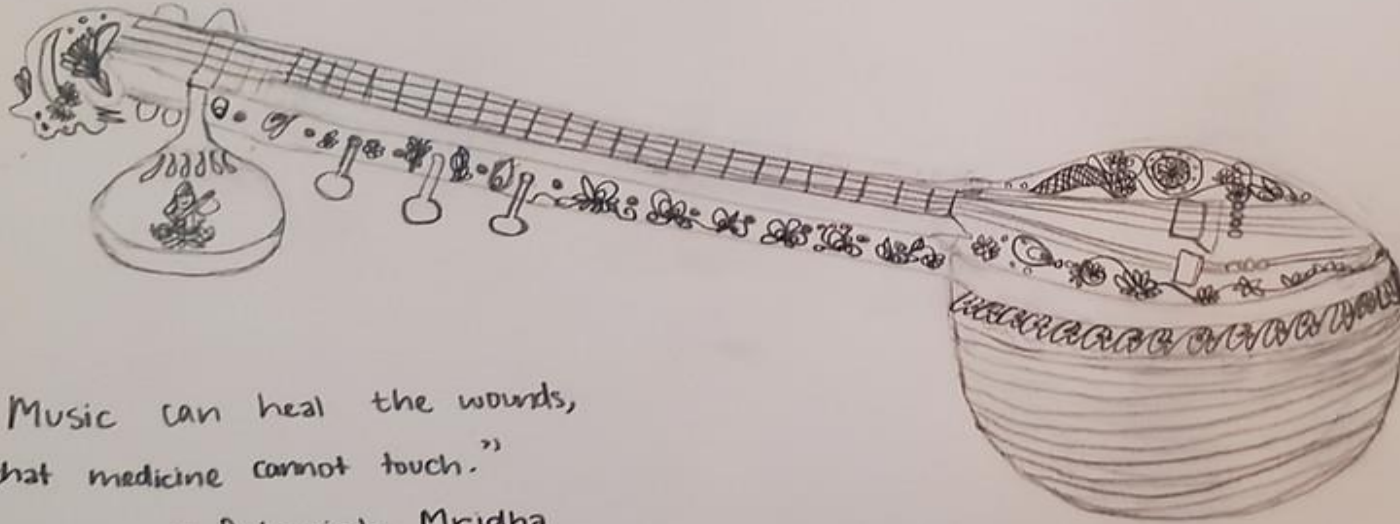
Ragas that bring peace

- Sivananjini
- Sama
- Keeravani

Music is peaceful in many ways...

Songs about peace:

- Maithreem bhajtha
- Shanthi nilavavendum



"Music can heal the wounds,
that medicine cannot touch."

- Debasish Mridha



"It is music and dancing that make me
at peace with the world."

- Nelson Mandela



Temple Music

FOR PEACE



Music For Peace

Saketh Narayanan



Babies Love Lullaby



Sound of Ocean

Music can heal
 Music gives happiness
 Music calms our mind
 Music brings people together



Gaveeshapatro - Veeshapatro

Single sloka on Shiva & Vishnu

The slokam extols the unity of Vishnu and Shiva as different aspects of the same Ultimate Reality called Brahman. The slokam in its unmodified form, venerates and describes Lord Shiva. Reciting the slokam after deleting the first aksharam or syllable in each word reveres and describes the attributes of Lord Vishnu!

The slokam reads thus:

गवीशपत्रो नगजातिहारी कुमारतातः शशिखण्डमौलिः ।लङ्केशसम्पूजितपादपद्मः पायादनादिः परमेश्वरो नः ॥

Gaveesha patro nagajaartihaaree
Kumaara taatah shashikhandamoulih |
Lankesha ampoojita paada padmah
Paayaadanaadih parameshvaro nah ||


May the Lord, who mounts atop his vaahana Nandi, who is the consort of Parvathi, the daughter of the Himaalayas, the Lord who is the father of Kumaara, the Lord who decorates His hair with the crescent Moon, the One whose lotus feet are worshipped by Lankesha (Ravana), the one who is eternal, with no beginning, May He, the Supreme Lord, protect us!

When the first aksharam is redacted, the slokam reads thus:

Veeshapathro gajaartihaari
Maara taatah shikhanda moulih
Kesha sampoojita paada padmah
Aayaadanaadih rameshvaro nah

May the Lord, who mounts atop his Vahana, Garuda, the Lord who vanquished the misery of Gajendra, the Lord who is the father of Manmatha, the Lord who decorates His hair with a peacock feather, the One whose lotus feet are worshipped by Lord Brahma and Lord Shiva, the One who is ever ready to rush to His devotees' rescue, the One who is the Lord of Lakshmi, May He, the Supreme Lord, protect us!

How better to celebrate the One Supreme Power, for Shiva and Vishnu are but One! It is but fitting that the identity of the author of this slokam, that describes the Oneness of all Supreme Universal Power is unknown ..



Student Scribe By Indira Subrahmanyam

Research about Sri M.D. Ramanathan

1) Who was Sri M.D. Ramanathan? Who was his Guru?

Sri M.D. Ramanathan was a renowned Carnatic Vocalist, and he hailed from Palakkad, which is a very cultural place in Kerala. He was born in one of the most beautiful, green, lush, and divine parts of Kerala which is full of nature. He was trained in Karnataka Sangeetham, Carnatic Music, from a really young age, by his Guru, Sri Tiger Varadacharya. Sri M.D. Ramanathan and his Guru both fully believed that the only way to learn Indian Carnatic Music was with the Guru-Shishya bandham (bonding). As Sri Tiger Varadacharya was his Guru, Sri M.D. Ramanathan always included the signature, “Varadadaasa” in all his compositions as his respect towards his Guru, being a singer as well as a composer.

One example of this is in his Kapi Thillana, where he includes “...Adi Varadadaasanuta,” at the end of the Charanam.

2) What was his childhood like? What was his family's musical background?

Sri M.D. Ramanathan was extremely dedicated and passionate about Carnatic Music at quite a young age. Moreover, since his father, Sri Devesha Bhagavathar, was a Carnatic vocalist and violinist, and his uncle was a Carnatic vocalist, Sri M.D. Ramanathan was influenced by Karnataka Sangeetham naturally. In fact, when he was only 4 years old, he sang Bhaja Govindam in front of Jagadguru Shri Chandrasekharendra Saraswati Mahaswamigal himself and got his blessings! Furthermore, when he was 9 years old, he presented his Arangetram, which was his very first public concert.

3) How did he structure his concerts? What did he usually sing in them?

Almost all of Sri M.D. Ramanathan's concerts started off with the Kalyani Varnam in Ata Talam, "Vanajakshi Ninne Kori," by Sri Pallavi Gopala Iyer. Most of his concerts had a composition on Lord Ganapathi in them; Vathapi Ganapathim by Sri Muthuswami Dikshitar was sung by him very often. Also, many concerts by Sri M.D. Ramanathan featured a Navagraha Kriti, and he gave Chittaswarams for all of them. He considered all Carnatic songs as his own too. In addition, the Pancharatna Kritis by Sri Thyagaraja Swami were always there, entitled in his "Menu," or choice of compositions. Plus, he liked to sing a Neraval in the Madhyamakalam portion of a Kriti. To wind up his concerts, he typically concluded by singing Kalitavarasethubandham as a Mangalam. Even now, he is commonly known for his slow-paced compositions.

Sri M.D. Ramanathan:

Every brick in Sri M.D. Ramanathan's home was built from a remuneration for each one of his performances. Overall, he performed a whole variety in his concerts, from small Geethams and Varnams, to intricate Ragam Thanam Pallavi elaborations and Thillanas!

4) What were some of his accomplishments? What was his profound saying about music?

Sri M.D. Ramanathan was very articulate and eloquent, meaning that he expressed everything clearly in his music. He was full of heart and had a scholarly mindset of pure knowledge. He was exceptionally strong and accomplished in both Shuddha Swaras and Gamakas which is very rare. Additionally, he had won a prize of second place in a competition at the Madras Music Academy and was remembered for this accomplishment of his as well. For instance, Bhavayami Raghuramam was composed by Maharaja Sri Swati Tirunal. Then, it was tuned to a Ragamalika by Sri Semmangudi Srinivasa Iyer. After that, Vid. M.S. Subbulakshmi popularized it and this kriti was heard by numerous people. However, Sri M.D. Ramanathan uniquely took this song to Celestial Levels! Sri M.D. Ramanathan had written his own definition of Music. This is a wise way to take Karnataka Sangeetham, which was just taken from the word, "Music." As a matter of fact, lots of people think that he himself created this word! This is how he intended to show the true meaning of Music:

M – Morality

U – Universality

S – Sincerity

I – Individuality

C – Creativity

IT'S PLAYTIME

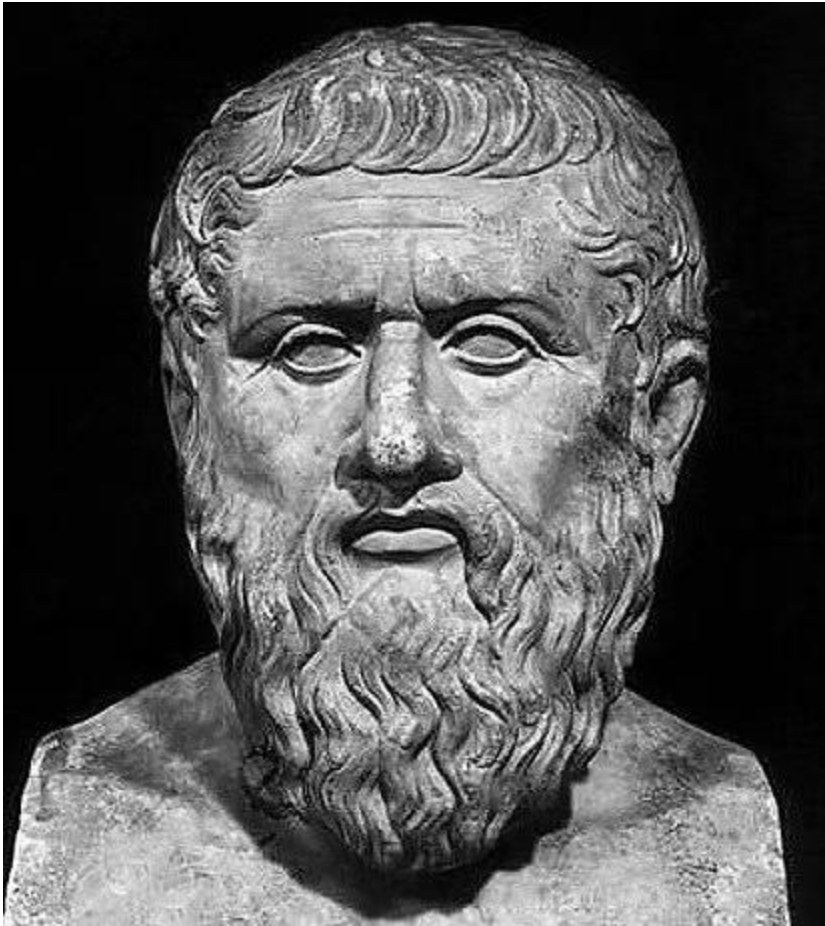
**Brace yourself for a fantastic time! We're about to have more fun with Carnatic Connections
by
Akshara**

Link to play:

https://connections.swellgarfo.com/game/-O6D-Z5DZ_LAo7tMyFHN

Instructions to play:

Select four words that seem to have something in common. Click 'Submit'. If you're correct, the four selected words will group together, and the game will proceed. If you're incorrect, you'll lose one of your four chances, and the game will continue



Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind,
flight to the imagination

Plato
- Ancient Greek Philosopher

Stay tuned until our next newsletter!