

S. Sowmya

Carnatic Vocal Concert (Apr 8, 2006)

A Review by T. Parasaran

The concert was held in the Bharatiya Temple auditorium, on April 8th, in memory of Mr. S. Sankaran, a staunch supporter and well wisher of Sruti. Since he was an ardent admirer of Carnatic music, especially G.N. Balasubramanian (GNB) Sowmya dedicated the concert to both. She was accompanied on the violin by R.K. Shriramkumar and on the mridangam by Neyveli Narayanan.

The concert started off with the lively Kedaragowla Varnam, "Sami Daya Chuda" followed by the only kriti "Kalala Nerchina" in the Raga Deepakam by Sri Thyagaraja. After a short Alapana in Asaveri, Sowmya sang Thyagaraja's "Ye panikko Janma". It was followed by Muthu Thandavar's "Adikondar". Next there was a nicely rendered Alapana in Andolika with the kriti, "Raga sudha" which set the tempo for the evening. After Kamas Raga and Purvi Kalyani she sang GNB's "Nee charanambujamu" in Keervani. This was an interesting piece.

Though the start of Alapana in Kambodhi was rather tentative, Sowmya picked up a sincere elaboration of Raga and Tanam culminating in the pallavi, "Thillai eesanai", a pallavi made popular by GNB. Shriramkumar's violin rendering of Kambodhi Raga and the Thani of Neyveli were quite pleasing. The post pallavi pieces, "Vagaladi", a javali in Behag, a kirtana "ninnaye" in Sindhu Bhairavi, a Kavadi Chindu, "Chenni Nagara Vasan" and a Thillana rounded off the concert nicely.

The acoustics in the hall was good for the most part but sometimes the instruments tended to be quite loud and occasionally even drowned the vocalist. In my opinion, a livelier mix of Thalams would have made the concert a memorable one. All the same it was an audience pleasing, well performed concert.

About the author: T.Parasaran is a retired chemist who is interested in listening to all classical music forms and especially Carnatic music because of his origin from Tiruvarur!