

Review of 1994 SRUTI Concerts

**Delightful Dance Program by
Rama Ramesh
October 8, 1994**

Kavitha Sarangan

Rama Ramesh is a name that most of us swiftly associate dance. As one of Chitra Visweswaran's premier disciples, she has in her own right proven herself to be a proficient and capable dancer. SRUTI had the pleasure of having her performance on October 8, 1994.

She began her performance with a brisk and succinct Anjali in Nattai ragam followed by a soothing slokam, "Om Jayatvam Devi". The slokam set the mood for a Kali Gauthavam by Rangamuthu Nattuvanaar wherein Rama brought forth a vision of Kali in all her forms before our eyes. The next piece was "Vilayada Idhu Naeramma", a padam in the ragam Shanmukhapriya, which Rama choreographed herself to the music of, asthana vidwan, Sri T.N. Bala.

Rama expertly brought the audience to great heights in the following varnam, "Roopamu Juchi", in the ragam Thodi by Sri Muthuswamy Dikshitar. This was a wonderfully executed piece on Lord Nataraja with fast-paced jathis and poignant abhinaya. Although it has been disputed that this piece may have been composed by others, the currently accepted theory is that Sri Muthuswamy Dikshitar is the composer.

A padam by Uthukadu, "Suthukara Kalli", was the next piece. This was immediately followed by a padam in the ragam Abheeri, "Bajare Re Manasa". This was a beautiful piece on Lord Rama which Rama had also choreographed

herself. Rama easily conveyed the grandeur and majesty of Lord Rama's reign by relating events from the Ramayana.

The next padam, "Ninniako Ranga" was a Purandara Dasa krithi which depicted the stories of Vamana, Draupadi, and Prahlad. Her rendering of this piece was very nostalgic for those in the audience who had the opportunity to see her teacher, Chitra Visweswaran, perform the same piece a few years ago.

Finally, there was, of course, a fast thillana in the ragam Ranjani. The intricate rhythmic footwork and graceful poses were a delightful ending to a refreshing program.

Rama was superbly supported vocally by Kalaimamani Madurai T. Sethuraman. Sri T. Sethuraman is a well recognized figure in the dance arena and an exceptional artist. He gave, as always, his very best and was greatly appreciated by his audience. She was also ably supported on nattuvangam by her very own mother, Rajam Subramanian! Srimathi Subramanian did a wonderful job and delighted the audience in her rendering of the jathis.

Sri J. Shankar was the mridangist of the afternoon. He was, as usual, excellent beat for beat with the jathis. Last but not least was A.V. UnniKrishnan on the flute. There are not enough words to describe his melodious mastery over the nuances of this instrument.

In conclusion, this was a delightful program. The tempo was maintained such that all nine pieces were each memorable in one's mind. This was a most enjoyable performance and hopefully there will be more where this came from!

Kavitha Sarangan is a student at Penn State University and is also learning Dance from Ramaa Ramesh. She also has learnt and performed vocal Carnatic music.