



Oottukkadu venkata Kavi Aradhana in Bengaluru



Oottukkadu Venkata Kavi Aradhana in Bangalore

The second annual **Oottukkadu Venkata Kavi Aradhana** was presented by Krishna Kalakshetra of ISKON, Bangalore, in association with The International Foundation for Carnatic Music (IFCM). Conceptualised and coordinated by Omkaar Jhankaar the event was sponsored by **Manyata Embassy Business Park, Bangalore**. The Aradhana, which included a group rendition of Venkata Kavi's incredible

Saptaratna kritis and a concert by Vidushi Sudha Raghunathan, was a sublime get-away bringing out the musical genius of Venkata Kavi, which blends wisdom and scholarship with soulful emotion. Venkata Kavi (1700-65), one of Carnatic music's greatest composers, remained undiscovered for almost 250 years but since the middle of the 20th century, his creations and contributions have enthralled the music and dance world.

The evening got off to a bright start with invocation by students of the IFCM, Bangalore Chapter, trained by Bhargavi Balasubramanian. It was inaugurated by Sri Thiru Prabhu, Director of Krishna Kalakshetra, ISKCON, Chitravina N Ravikiran and Vidushi Smt Neela Ramgopal.

Sri Thiru Prabhu spoke about the great devotion of Venkata Kavi in the temple of Kaliya Nartana Krishna in Oottukkadu, and the wonderful results it had produced to the world of music. He also spoke about the Kavi's place of birth and dwelling, Mannargudi, also known as Dakshina Dwaraka. .

Then followed a *ghosti ganam* of the **Saptaratna Kritis** with Chitravina N Ravikiran with participants from Vidushi Neela Ramgopal's Neelambari (Bangalore) and Vidushi Sukanya Prabhakar's Surabhi Gana Kala Mandira (Mysore). Shri Chaitanya Kumar on the flute and Shri Sudarshan on the mrdangam lent apt support to the rendition.

The Saptaratna kritis are among the best creations in Indian music, similar to Tyagaraja Pancharatnas. They consist of a pallavi, anupallavi and a series of charanams that can be rendered as swaras and sahyas. It is not known whether such forms existed before Venkata Kavi. The compositions are:

- *Bhajanamrta – Nattai*
- *Aganitamahima – Gowla*
- *Madhava hradi khelini – Kalyani*
- *Balasarasa murali – Keeravani*
- *Jatadhara – Todi*
- *Alavandennalo – Paras*
- *Sundara Nandakumara – Madhyamavati*

The Saptaratnas are a treasure trove of history, culture and spirituality alike, of this wonderful subcontinent. Sri Ravikiran gave brief introductions to each composition before it was rendered.

This was followed by a concert by **Vidushi Smt Sudha Raghunathan** featuring well known compositions of Venkata Kavi. The concert started with Shri Vighnarajam bhaje in Gambheera Naatai. It had a vigor that would release the right peptides to draw the audience, eager for more of the evening. Ati Nirupama Sundara in Pantuvarali showcased some unique features seen in Venkata Kavi's works. Set in Adi tala, the composition starts in tishra gati but shifts to chaturashra in the charanam. Sudha Raghunathan presented an extensive neraval in the pallavi and laced it with attractive kalpana swaras.

Paalvadiyum Mugam in Nattaikkuranji, Neerada sama neela Krishna in Jayantashri had listeners swaying their head in delight. A lighter composition, Vishamakkara Kannan preceded the improvised Mangalam wherein the artiste invoked auspiciousness upon Lord Krishna as well his devotee, Venkata Kavi. V L Sudarshan, Tiruvarur Vaidyanathan and Morsing Raman provided spirited support.

Posted by [Padmini Ashok](#) in [Music reviews](#) on Tue, 29 Sep, 2009

[Report abuse](#)

Comments

Switch language to HINDI ▾

Submit

Prashanth Kumar: Good to know abt venkata kavi & his work of saptaratna kritis. Pl. download some good pics & videos of the occasion on your profile, thanks.

Posted on Tue, 29 Sep, 2009



