



Nadavani

The Newsletter of Ranjani Fine Arts, Bellandur, Bengaluru.
www.ranjanifinearts.org

AUGUST 2013

Opening Note

What a past few weeks we've had at Ranjani Fine Arts! Our very first lecture-demonstration, by Vidwan G. Ravikiran, witnessed a packed hall. A couple of weeks later, Vidwan Prasanna Venkatraman and team treated RFA rasikas to a great concert. And at the time of writing this, we are all still reliving the memories of last weekend's Guru Utsava, where we all experienced a great feast of music and outpouring of goodwill (our September issue will cover the Guru Utsava in detail—we hope that words and images will be able to capture some of the wonderful spirit that prevailed during this occasion!)

We are greatly encouraged by the overwhelmingly positive response to our first issue of Nadavani, and thank you all for your kind words and good wishes. It is with pleasure that we present our second issue, which features the RFA events of June-July 2013. As always, we request and welcome your feedback.

- P. Venkataraghavan

RFA THANKS GURU UTSAVA SPONSORS

Our deep thanks to **Mahaveer Orthopaedic Clinic, Haralur Road, Bangalore**, and **Sri. M.R.Seetharam, MLC** — the Gold Sponsors of our recently concluded Guru Utsava. Their timely and generous support made it possible to organize this unique 2-day event to celebrate Guru Purnima.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Next Monthly Concert : Saturday, August 10, 2013 @ 5 PM

Vidushi K Gayatri (vocal); **Vidushi Charulatha Ramanujam** (violin);
Vidwan K.U.Jayachandra Rao (mridangam)

There will be a performance by students of Smt. Rajalakshmi prior to the concert.
Venue : Sobha Lakeview Clubhouse, Bellandur, Bangalore.

Workshop on Rare Kritis of Saint Tyagaraja : Aug 29-31, 2013



Ranjani Fine Arts has arranged for a special 3-day workshop on “**10 Rare Kritis of Saint Tyagaraja**”, conducted by **Sangeetha Kala Acharya Vidushi Neela Ramgopal**. This workshop is a unique opportunity to learn these rare kritis from such a senior vidushi. For registration, please contact Sri. B.S.Balasubramanyam at 9632682540.

Date/time: Aug 29 (5PM-8PM), Aug 30(5PM-8PM), Aug 31 (4PM-7PM).
Venue : Sobha Lakeview Clubhouse, Bellandur, Bangalore

Membership

RFA thanks all members who have renewed their memberships, and welcomes all new members.

We request those who have not yet renewed their memberships to do so—it is your support which makes it possible for us to bring the monthly programs and all other RFA events to this neighbourhood. You may renew your membership online at www.ranjanifinearts.org or in person at the membership desk during the next RFA event.

We also invite all rasikas, teachers, students and musicians to join the RFA community by becoming members. Please call Shri V.Shrinivasan at **9342582686** if you need any assistance regarding membership.

CURRENT MEMBER COUNT

2 5 9

Announcements

- **RFA announces its First Research Conference**, which will be held later this year. The theme of the conference is "**Classical Music - Its Social Relevance and Impact**". This project will be a huge learning experience for the discerning student of music and sociology. We welcome volunteers who wish to be part of the core team to write in to ranjanifineartsteam@gmail.com.
- **RFA GenNext**, our new initiative to involve teenagers in various RFA activities, has received a good response with 8 teenagers signing up during the Guru Utsava event. A kickoff meeting is being planned in August to plan the various events to be organised under the GenNext aegis. More teenagers are welcome. To sign up, please contact S. Subramanian on 9980133144.

Memorial Concerts

Memorial concerts can now be held under the RFA banner. If you would like to hold a concert in memory of a loved one, Ranjani Fine Arts can help you arrange this. Please contact Shri B.S.Balasubramanyam at 9632682540 or Shri V. Shrinivasan at 9342582636 for more details.

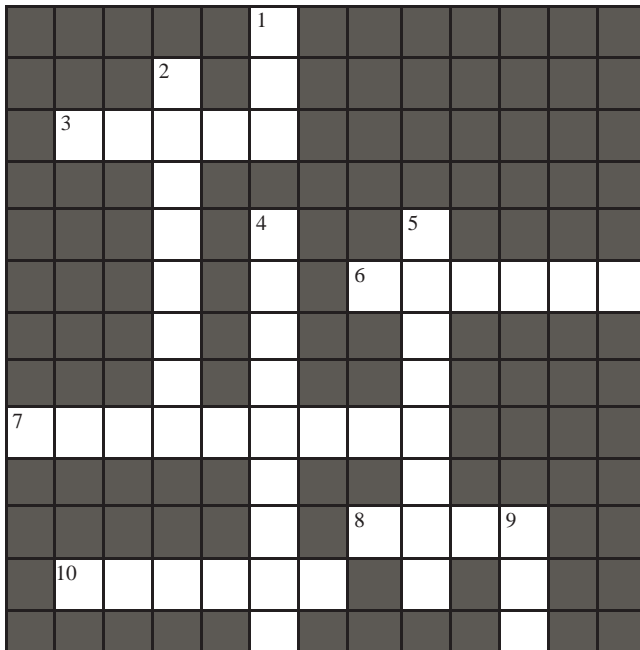
Inviting Volunteers

Ranjani Fine Arts is run entirely by volunteers. If you'd like to join our team, please write to us at ranjanifineartsteam@gmail.com to discuss possible volunteer opportunities.

Children's Corner

For all rasikas young in age, or at heart

Solve this "Carnatic Crossword" and email your answers to ranjanifineartsteam@gmail.com. Prizes for the first 3 correct entries from rasikas below 14.



Across

3. You can use a tambura, a Radel box or an iPhone app to maintain this (5)
6. *Ninnukori, Vanajakshiro, Sami Ninne* are examples of this type of composition which you usually hear at the beginning of a concert (6)
7. What we call the 72 janaka (parent) ragas (9)
8. Tyagaraja's lord (4)
10. Clay companion of 4 Down (6)

Down

1. Raga of *Endaro Mahanubhavulu* (3)
2. You hear this word in every Dikshitar kriti (8)
4. Concerts would be dull without this percussion instrument's "*sogasuga*" talam (9)
5. Auspicious ending to a concert (no, it's not the prasadam!) (8)
9. A popular 8-beat talam (3)

Congratulations to last month's winners!
Arvind Vidhyashankar(8), Sreya Srinidhi(10), Veda Arvind(10)

Answers to last month's jumble

1.RANJANI 2.BILAHARI 3.KALYANI 4.MOHANAM 5.HINDOLAM 6.GOWLA. RAGAMALIKA

First Lec-Dem at RFA



Vidwan G. Ravikiran holds rasikas in rapt attention at RFA's first lec-dem

Vidwan G. Ravikiran, who performed at Ranjani Fine Arts' first concert in March 2012, also graciously agreed to deliver RFA's first lecture demonstration (lec-dem) on the **"The Art of Listening to Classical music"** on June 29, 2013.

It was an uncharacteristically relaxed evening for RFA volunteers, given that there was less pre-event preparation for the Lec-Dem event. Though the usual concert stage was replaced by a small table, the musical instruments by a white board and marker, the stage was nevertheless set for the first ever Lec-Dem at RFA. It was heartening to see the venue filled to capacity for this inaugural 'non-concert'

event. Ravikiran's opening remarks immediately grabbed the audience's attention, when he said that an artist competes with soap operas, weekend activities, cricket etc. to keep his/her audience engaged during prime time. Much to the interest of the rasikas, he drew parallels between the critical review of a music concert and cricket lovers discussing the fall of a wicket for long after the next batsman is in!

After a brief on the evolution of *kutcheri* model over the last century, Ravikiran ventured into the main topic for the evening with an interesting poser to the Rasikas: "When was the last time you listened to a bad concert and what made you feel so?" This provoked an highly interactive session, with the audience chipping in with various different reasons that included nostalgia, ambience, acoustics, religious sentiment, loudness, melody/lack of it, speed, lack of *shruthi*, missing X-factor (!), not enough *Bhava* and so on.

Ravikiran adeptly built the platform for the rest of the lec-dem based on these comments from the helpful rasikas. From explaining how nostalgia enhances enjoyment of the concert to why a manual Tambura (and not the electronic *shruthi* box) helps maintain the *shruthi*, Ravikiran discussed each of the rasikas' inputs about the reasons for a bad concert in detail. The audience were rapt in attention and visibly impressed by the confidence and knowledge with which Ravikiran addressed their queries. Like a skilled surgeon, Ravikiran carefully handled the sensitivity around the religious emphasis of Carnatic music by highlighting the inclusion of *javalis* and *thillanas* in every concert. He triggered a murmur of amusement by stating that several *javalis* actually contained erotic prose set to traditional music.

In the concluding part of the Lec-Dem, Ravikiran explained, with the eagerly awaited demonstration, the difference between a *varnam* and a *kriti* and also how/why a *varnam* deserves equal respect as a *kriti*. He also touched upon some interesting findings from recent research into Carnatic music that whetted the appetite of the audience for more. As he continued, exposing the audience to the some interesting facets of the Great Trinity's compositions, we fervently wished that the hands of the clock would stop and we could continue enjoying the interesting insights that a great music lover and passionate student of the art was sharing with us with no reservations. Ravikiran also amply demonstrated his skill with words weaved with the right touch of humor, discretion and candor.

Overall it was a superb learning experience for all rasikas—young or old, expert or amateur. We now are looking for an encore!

- Santosh Shaastry

Voice of the Artiste

"My heartfelt thanks for the warm hospitality and the wonderful audience. It was a pleasure as always to be part of an event at RFA!!!"

The event gave me an opportunity to introspect and analyze the various facets of the Carnatic Idiom - both on and off-stage. I look forward to keeping in touch with RFA - and wish you all the best as you continue to serve the cause of Carnatic Music with great aplomb!!"

- Vidwan G. Ravikiran

"Thanks a lot for the photos and wishes! It was a pleasure to perform at your organization."

- Vidwan Prasanna Venkatraman

Superb concert by Prasanna Venkatraman



**Vid. Prasanna Venkatraman (vocal), Vid. Rajeev Mukundan(violin), Vid. R. Sankaranarayanan (mridangam)
at RFA's July 2013 concert**

Ranjani Fine Arts witnessed a scintillating concert by Vidwan Prasanna Venkatraman and team on July 13, 2013. Prasanna chose to start the concert with Poochi Srinivasa Iyengar's brisk and melodious *Kanada varnam - Nera Nammiti*, followed by Patnam Subramania Iyer's *Aparadhamula* in *Lathangi*. A good delineation of *Chakravaham* was followed by Thyagaraja's *Etula Brotuvo*. A short and beautiful *alapana* in *Shri* came next, and the audience was guessing that maybe a *Sri Varalakshmi* was coming up. Much to their surprise and delight, Prasanna launched into *Pranatharthihara Prabho Purare*, the *pallavi* of Maha Vaidyanatha Iyer's 72-Melakarta *ragamalika*. While many in the audience were wondering how many of the 72 *Melakartas* they would get to hear, he proceeded to cover the 12 ragas of the first 2 *chakras*. This was a novel idea indeed. Next came an elaborate and nuance-packed *alapana* in *Bhairavi*, followed by Dikshithar's *Balagopala* with *niraval* and *swaras*, which was very well received. In a bold experiment, Prasanna followed this with an unusual choice of raga - Papanasam Sivan's *Sivakama Sundari* in *Mukhari*.

The Ragam, Tanam, and Pallavi in *Suruti* was the highlight of the concert, with a very beautiful *alapana* bringing out all the nuances of the raga. The Pallavi in *Misra jampa* in *tisra gati* was well sung. Post RTP, there were two more melodious compositions. Accompanying Prasanna on the violin, Rajeev Mukundan gave good support on the songs and exhibited his individuality in *raga alapana* as well as *kalpana swarms*. R.Sankaranarayanan's mridangam support was very good with a well played *tani avartanam*.

- Dr. K. G. Shyam Krishnan

Students of Geethanjali School of Music : July 2013



Prior to the main concert of the July 2013 program, the students of Geethanjali School of Music gave a beautiful performance at Ranjani Fine Arts. With pleasant renditions of compositions which included *Sri Rajamatangi (Suddha Dhanyasi)*, *Gam Ganapathe (Hamsadhwani)*, *Sivakama Sundari (Mukhari)*, *Deva Deva (Mayamalavagowla)*, *Bho Shambo (Revati)* and a *devaranama* in *Pantuvrali*, they did their guru Smt. Anjali Sudhir proud. *Maitreem Bhajata*, one of the last pieces, was sung especially well by the children.

Readers' Letters

Dear Sri. Arvind and the 17 others,

Your newsletter is an amazing effort. The growth rate of RFA is unprecedented in the history of sabhas. I am delighted and overwhelmed by the succession of brilliant ideas and their efficient execution. There are many rasikas like me watching you with awe and all I can say is THANK YOU on behalf of each one of us.

- K.S.S. Raghavan, Bangalore

*This is truly amazing - you guys are going places!! Really *the sabha to emulate*! Truly superb!*

- Sudha Prakash, Bangalore

Congrats Team RFA. Nice layout. Wonderful beginning.

- Keshava Murthy, Bangalore

A great initiative!!! The newsletter concept is amazing and it has come out really well. The content is interesting to read even for a person like me who doesn't understand the finer nuances of classical music. The introduction of Children's Corner is a novel idea. All the best for the entire team.

- Shylaja Rajiv, Atlanta

Dear RFA team

This is an excellent initiative by your organization, and yet another positive step in your efforts grow the community of rasikas. I enjoyed reading the first issue and look forward to receiving many more.

- Sathya Kalyanasundaram, Bangalore

Thanks for sending us the first annual update on RFA events and a copy of the inaugural issue of Nadavani. Both bring out the passion, enthusiasm and professionalism of the RFA Team. Congratulations and best wishes for your future efforts.

- P.P.Kanthan., Bangalore

Write to us

Ranjani Fine Arts would like to hear from you! If you have any comments about the newsletter, suggestions for improvement, or would like to contribute an article, please email us at ranjanifineartsteam@gmail.com.