
Pallavi of the Capital District

Newsletter January 2009

Pallavi, PO Box 1732, Latham, NY 12110.
www.cs.rpi.edu/~moorthy/pallavi2007
PallaviCapital@gmail.com

G. Ramanath, President, Ramanath@rpi.edu, 518 522 2720
M. Krishnamoorthy, VP, mismoorthy@gmail.com, 518 281 9917
Lakshmi Ravichandran, Treasurer,
Ravichandran_lakshmi@yahoo.com, 518 373 9123
N. Sukumar, Secretary, Sukumar@sukumarfineartphoto.com

Dear Music Lover,

Wish you a very Happy and prosperous New Year 2009! Taking a quick look back, we had a very good 2008. We had six major Carnatic concerts and one Hindustani concert, all of which were well attended and well received. These concerts were made possible due to your membership and generous patronage. In particular, we would like to acknowledge the contributions of the following long-standing patrons who have generously contributed to Pallavi to help us organize high quality concerts on a sustained basis: Arula and N. Bala, Ramani and Mrinalini Mani, Nalini Madivale, Janaki and M.S. Krishnamoorthy, and Lakshmi and T. Ravichandran, Mangala Puranik, Thiagarajan and Meena Subramanian. I would also like to thank all the members who helped out in various ways throughout the year.

We continue to look for ways to attract more people to attend and appreciate Indian classical music. In 2008 we featured Geetha Bennett's workshop and veena concert with a Community Arts Grant

of \$1,944. Many children and adults new to Indian classical music benefitted from the workshop that elucidated the rudiments of Indian classical music. We have applied for the grant this year also, and have embarked on new initiatives to inspire children in the Albany area to pursue Indian classical music. Our initiatives are reflected in the snapshot of upcoming pre-summer concerts in provided by this newsletter. We also feature an abridged article on Tiruppavai tradition by Vidya Subramanian.

This is a good time for all Pallavi members to renew memberships, and those of you that are not members to become members. If you know someone interested in Indian classical music, we urge you to inform them of Pallavi to support it, enrich it, and enjoy the benefits. This newsletter contains a membership form as well as a synopsis of membership categories and benefits.

We are also constantly looking for volunteers to serve on the board and to help us with key activities such as concert logistics, artist hospitality, publicity, fund-raising, sound, ticket sales and transportation. Please contact any board member if you are interested in contributing to Pallavi's activities or providing suggestions.

Finally, Pallavi is a not for profit organization with a mission to promote Indian classical music and related art forms. Our activities are supported primarily by membership dues and donations. Besides renewing your membership or becoming a new member, we request you to consider making donations —these are tax exempt— to Pallavi to enable us to continue bringing in top class artistes that showcase the best of Indian classical music.

We anticipate your continued support and patronage as we embark on another year filled with exciting Indian classical treats.

Warm regards,



G. Ramanath, President
Pallavi of the Capital district

UPCOMING CONCERTS

Vocal concert—US-based artists

Saturday, January 24, 2009 3-6 PM

Hindu Temple, Albany Shaker Rd, Loudonville, NY

This concert is being organized as a part of Pallavi's initiative to bring in high quality artists based in the US.

Vocal: Ragavan Manian (Balamuralikrishna's disciple)

Violin: Shashidhar Nagaraja (Lalgudi Jayaraman's disciple)

Mridangam: Mali Santhanakrishnan (P. Srinivasa Iyer's disciple)

All-women Violin-Veena-Venu ensemble

Friday, March 20, 2009 6-9 PM

Hindu Temple, Albany Shaker Rd, Loudonville, NY

Violin: Lalgudi Vijayalakshmi

Venu (flute): Sikkil Mala Chandrasekhar

Veena: Jayashree Jairaj

Mridangam: Rajna Swaminathan

Morching: Bhagyalakshmi Muralikrishna

US-trained prodigies and budding stars

April, 2009 *Date and venue to be finalized*

To inspire kids in our area, we are organizing an all-kids concert performed by US-trained prodigies. Details follow shortly.

Vocal concert—local talent

Saturday, April 25, 2009 2 PM

Halfmoon Public Library Clifton Park

Vidya Subramanian and party.

Thyagaraja Aaradana

May, 2009

Date and venue to be finalized

This annual event will be held in the Hindu Temple, Albany Shaker Rd, Loudonville, NY. This will include group rendition of Pancharatna krithis and individual presentations of Thyagaraja krithis besides a major concert either late in the afternoon or early evening.

MEMBERSHIP

Please renew your Pallavi membership as soon as possible. If you are not a member, please become one and support music activities in the capital district. You can make the check to "Pallavi of the Capital District" and mail it to

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Pallavi has obtained tax exemption status under section 501(c) of the IRS code. Pallavi is striving to bring in top-notch musicians to our area. Paying your membership dues early in the year would greatly help us estimate our financial position and formulate plans for organizing concerts throughout the year. If you are already a member, consider becoming a Family patron or a promoter/sponsor. The membership categories and donations are outlined below.

Annual membership/patronage

- **Individual Member** \$20—1 free concert for 1 person
- **Family Member** \$30—1 free concert for 2 people
- **Individual Patron** \$60—All concerts free for 1 person.
- **Family Patron** \$120—All concerts free for 2 people.
- **Student Member** \$10—All concerts free

Sponsors, promoters and life membership

- **Sponsor** \$250—includes family patron benefits and acknowledgement at every Pallavi event.
- **Patron** \$500—includes family patron benefits and acknowledgement at every Pallavi event.
- **Life Member** \$400—All concerts free for 2 people for 4 years. *Note: Life membership fee can be paid in two consecutive annual installments of \$200 each or in one installment of \$400.*

MARGAZHI AND TIRUPPAVAI TRADITION

Vidya Subramanian, www.vidyasubramanian.com

The collection of 30 verses known as the Tiruppavai is traditionally rendered during the Tamizh month of Margazhi (mid Dec-mid Jan). The Tiruppavai verses were composed by Andal – the only female Azhwar and one of the greatest devotees of Lord Vishnu. The story of Andal describes how the young girl devoted all her energies to the service of the Lord and imagined herself to be his bride. The story culminates in Andal uniting with Lord Vishnu in celestial splendor.

The Tiruppavai verses have been studied by numerous scholars and their exceptional imagery and literary quality continue to captivate us till today. For example, in the 3rd



verse, she describes the Lord as one who measured the three worlds, thereby alluding to the Vamana avataram (one of the 10 incarnations of Lord Vishnu). In the 5th verse, her use of alliterations (Maayanai mannu vada madurai maindhanai) to describe Krishna as the magician who is the heir of the northern city of Mathura is awe inspiring. She also mentions many of the exploits of Krishna such as the destruction of the evil Chakataasura who came in the guise of a wheel. The way Andal has incorporated rhyme in her poetry such as “kappam thavirkum” (remover of fears), ‘seppam udaiyaay” (the embodiment of perfection) and “veppam kodukkum” (one who scorches enemies) in the 20th verse once again establishes the truly outstanding quality of these poems.

The Tiruppavai verses have now become a regular feature in the post-main segment of many Carnatic concerts. The late Sri Ariyakkudi Ramanuja Iyengar tuned these verses to distinct ragams and popularized them on the concert platform. It is interesting to note that Sri Ariyakkudi tuned the first 5 verses in the 5 ghana ragams of Nattai, Gowlai, Arabhi, Varali and Sri, in the same order. The ragams chosen include a mix of heavy ones such as Bhairavi, Shankarabharanam and Dhanyasi as well as lighter ragams like Sindhubhairavi and Behag. The verses have been set to different talams in masterful fashion. The renderings by Smt M L Vasantakumari, Sri K V Narayanaswamy and Smt Sudha Ragunathan are extremely popular. **The full version of this article appeared on www.carnaticdarbar.com**

Tidbits

Our student member Jayanth Krishnamurthy presented a vocal recital on January 2 in Chennai. The concert was broadcast by Jaya TV.

Vidya Subramanian presented a vocal recital at the Arsha Vidya Gurukulam, Saylorsburg, PA in the presence of Swami Dayananda Saraswati on Dec 27, 2008. She was accompanied by Shashidhar Nagaraja (violin) and Lakshmisha (mridangam). The concert was well received.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2009

Last name

First name

Co-member _____

Mailing address:

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Membership category (circle one)

- Individual member
- Family member
- Individual patron
- Family patron
- Sponsor
- Promoter
- Life member

I would like to volunteer for (circle one or more):

- Hosting artists
- Fund raising
- Flyer / brochure preparation / circulation
- Food
- Desk collection / accounting
- Membership development
- Newsletter editing / mailing
- Other _____

Please make checks to "**Pallavi of the Capital District**".
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