

Golden moments aplenty

Veteran vidwans came together to celebrate Kalasagaram's golden jubilee

GUDIPOODI SRIHARI

N Ravikiran popularly known as Chitraveena Ravikiran was presented with the title of 'Sangeetha Kalasagara' at a grand inaugural function held at Keyes High School, Secunderabad. Later he mesmerised the audience with a chitraveena concert to celebrate Kalasagaram's golden jubilee celebrations. Ravikiran was in the company of Akkirai Subbulakshmi on violin, K V Prasad on mridangam and P V Ramnamurthy on ghatam.

Ravikiran played Hamsanandi varnam in two speeds as his first piece.

He then went for Thyagararaja's composition *Manaviyalakimpa* in Nalinakanthi. *Needu Charanamule* in Simhendra Madhyamam that laid path for the main number of the concert *Vasudevaya Namaste* of Oothukadu Venkata Kavi in Sahana. He played the raga impressively in myriad colours with command on his instrument. The swarakalpna part was presented in ragamalika comprised of Keeravani, Behag, Sindhubhairavi, so on. He concluded his concert with Dhanasri tillana of Swati Tirunal.

Kadri Gopalnath

Saxophone maestro Kadri Gopalnath figured on the following day in the company of A Kanyakumari on violin, K Sekhar on tavil, B Rajasekar on morsing and Rajendra Nodak on tabla.

Kadri opened his concert with *Pranamanyaham* in Gowla and presented a brief swaram in the end. He played *Manaviyalakimpa* in Nalinakanthi of Thyagaraja impressively and moved to *Maravairi Ramani* in Nasikabhushani of Thyagaraja. His play was almost closer to vocal appeal.

After this he went to play Pancharatna kirtana of Thyagaraja's *Endaro Mahanbhavulu* in Sriragam, followed by Annamacharya kirtanas *Brahmamokkate* and *Bhavamulona* in Suddha Dhanyasi. The lighter numbers played in the end were *Bho Sambho* in Revathi, *Venkatachala Nilayam* in Sindhubhairavi and *Bhagada Lakshmi Baramma*.

Abhishek Raghuram

Young Abhishek Raghuram with H N Bhaskar on violin, Arjun Kumar on mridangam and S Kartik on ghatam gave a scintillating perfor-

mance. He opened with Saveri varnam and moved to *Sri Narada* in Kanada of Thyagaraja. He presented swarakalpna too in this number that was a class by itself. Later he sang a major number *Gnanamosagarada* of Thyagaraja in Poorvikalyani. He presented ragam, neraval and swarakalpna treating it as his main item of the concert. This was followed by tani avartanam by percussionists.

Annamacharya's *Navaneetha Chora* in Jenjuthi was well presented with explicit expression. After *Jagadodharana* in Kapi, he ended his show with a tillana in Khamas.

T M Krishna

Accompanied by Akkarai Subblaksmi on violin, Praveen Sparsh on mridangam and Anirudh Atreya on kanjira, renowned vocalist T M Krishna gave a scintillating vocal recital. He made an unusual opening with a Javali *Vanitharo* in Ananda Bhairavi, penned by noted poet of the past Dasu Sreeramulu. Then he went for *Durusuga* of Syama Sastri in Saveri in which he presented ragam and swarakalpna. This was followed by Dikshitar's *Sree Vishwanatham Bhajeham* in Chaturdasa Ragamalika and then tanam. *Marubariki*, a javali in Kamas of Patnam Subramanya Iyer was a treat by itself. The final numbers he sang were *Krishna nee begane baro* in Yamuna-kalyani of Vyasara, *Sarasa Sama Dana* in Kapinarayani of Thyagaraja, *Venkata Saila Vihare* in Hamir Kalyani and then varnam in Begada, with a bit of tanam.

Raghavachari - Seshachari

One of the delightful concerts in the festival was that of Hyderabad Bothers D Raghavachari and Seshachari. They were accompanied by two other stalwarts - Dwaram Sa-

tyanarayana Rao on violin, Mannargudi Eswaran on mridangam and Shyam Kumar on kanjira.

The concert was opened with Kambhoji Ata tala varnam rendering it in two speeds. This was followed by Thyagaraja's composition *Koluvaivunnade* in Deva Gandhari. Later they rendered another impressive number Syama Sastri's composition *Daya Choodave* in Jagannamohini. *Ranganathude* in Sowrashtia of Ponnaiah Pillai, *Ennallu Ura* in Subhapanthuvrali, *Dora-*

kuna Ituvanti Seva in Bilahari followed by tani avartanam. The tani avartanam by the mridangam maestro Mannargudi Eswaran and kanjira by Vidwan Shyamkumar were thrilling. A padam in Bhairavi *Mundati Vale*, Javali, *Upacharamu* in Charumati, a couple of Annamacharya kirtanas - *Garuda Gamana* in Hindolam and *Telisina variki* in Vagadeeswari decorated the concert further.

This being part of Kalasagaram's golden jubilee, the sabha felicitated



Melody in motion (clockwise) Ravikiran being honoured with 'Sangeetha Kalasagara', T M Krishna, Hyderabad Brothers, Ranjani and Gayatri, Abhishek Raghuram and Kadri Gopalnath in concert



its vice president Krishnamurthy and committee members Gowrinatham and Ramaswamy for their service in all these 50 years.

Ranjani and Gayatri

Sisters Ranjani and Gayatri are considered to be the conservators of their genre's unique beauty and preserve ancient tradition as they continue to innovate within it. At their performance, they were accompanied by L Ramakrishnan on violin and N Manoj Siva on mridangam.

They opened their concert with Sahana varnam and then went for unusual Annamacharya composition *Purushothama* in Revagupti ragam. *Rangapura vihara* in Brindavana Saranga, *Kaligiyunte* in Keeravani were well sung and then they went to present RTP in Mohanakalyani. *Maatha kali*, a bhajan, a viruttam in ragamalika, *Nambi Kettavar* in Hindolam and an Abhang concluded their show.