NUTSHELL

Oothukkadu aradhana

The International Foundation for Carnatic Music will conduct Oothukkadu Venkata Kavi Aradhana, a non-stop musical tribute on Saturday, August 18, at the Narada Gana Sabha. The festival will begin with a concert by Mahathi Sekar, followed by group rendition of the 'Saptaratnas' of Venkata Kavi, (similar to the Pancharatna krtis of Tyagaraja). The participants include Rudrapatnam Brothers, Chitravina N Ravikiran, Guruvayur Dorai, Gayathri Venkataraghavan, B.S.Purshottaman, Nisha Rajagopalan and Sriram Parthasarathy. Most of them will also be presenting individual concerts as also Carnatica Brothers, Anahita Apoorva, Ashwin Sridhar and B. Bhargavi.

'Oothukkadu Venkata Kavi – Life and Contributions,' a book authored by Ravikiran, will be released by N. Murali, Managing director, *The Hindu* and president, The Music Academy. Mrs. Y.G.Parthasarathy, will preside over the function and also release a CD album, 'Murali – the bamboo flute.' Dancer Alarmel Valli and R. Krishnaswamy, secretary, Narada Gana Sabha, will be the guests of honour who will receive the copies of the book and CD respectively. The entire event will be telecast by Shakti Extratainment Global Television www.shaktiextratainment.com.

Book release

Dr. V. Raghavan Centre for Performing Arts has organised a function at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, on August 22, 6 p.m. to commemorate the 99th birth anniversary of V.Raghavan. Minister for Education and Culture, Kerala, M.A.Baby presides and releases a book, 'Collected writings on Indian Music' by the nonagenarian

Soaked in melody and

The Maharajapuram Legacy

Dr. R. Ganesh
Carnatic classical vocal
Jass Visions – Rs. 200.

Dr. R. Ganesh belongs to quite a special musical lineage of renowned composers Kavikunjara Bharati and Koteeswara Iyer. He has trained under several gurus including the inimitable Maharajapuram Santhanam who honed and polished his skills to appreciable levels. His programme begins on an even keel with Lalgudi Jayaraman's beautiful varnam on Lord Krishna in Charukesi

'Gajavadana Beduve' wrapped in melodic Hamsadhwani has a supple, easy grace, not too much bound by lakshana parameters. The kalpanaswaras and soft swara lagu sequences are pleasing, without aggressiveness and excess calculations. The violinist is V.V. Srinivasa Rao extends his full support in the shadja kuraippu and also scores in his reply.

Vellore Ramabhadran, a past master in sarvalagu, makes his own positive contribution.

Maharajapuram Santhanam was a shrewd musician who knew exactly how to woo his audience. His concerts were interspersed with heavy and light classical melodies to sustain interest. His Brindavana Saranga was an aural treat, and Ganesh faithfully toeing the line emerges with credit in his rendition of 'Swaminathena' of Dikshitar.

A Santhanam composition on the Mahaperiyavar of Kanchi in Saramati is rendered with considerable feeling and emotion. The words ending with 'm' would sound more pleasing if articulated with the lips closed.

Satisfying essay

The artiste is quite strong in the melody department and his Arabhi, in the footsteps of his guru, is a satisfying essay even with the occasional ifs and buts. The tuneful response on the violin is woven with incisive understanding of dos and donts of the raga.

Tyagaraja's 'Choothamu Rare' is a version sung in the customary Maharajapuram style. Varali is rather of-the-ordinary ran gas, since its gandl neither a plain sudd haram nor the high arana gandharam, always gentle oscilla and the trace of c rishabam have to b with kid gloves.

The singer as w violinist have in th done commendable the inherent sopl of Varali. Syama Sa makshi' that is pe

In the footsteps of guru.

A smooth blend

HARMONY The focus was on highlighting melody and rhythm.

LALITHAA KRISHNAN

Mandolin artiste U. Rajesh presented a recital during the re-release function of his CD titled 'Into

SOOTHING: *Rajesh and Vikku Vinayakram*
PHOTO: S. THANTHONI