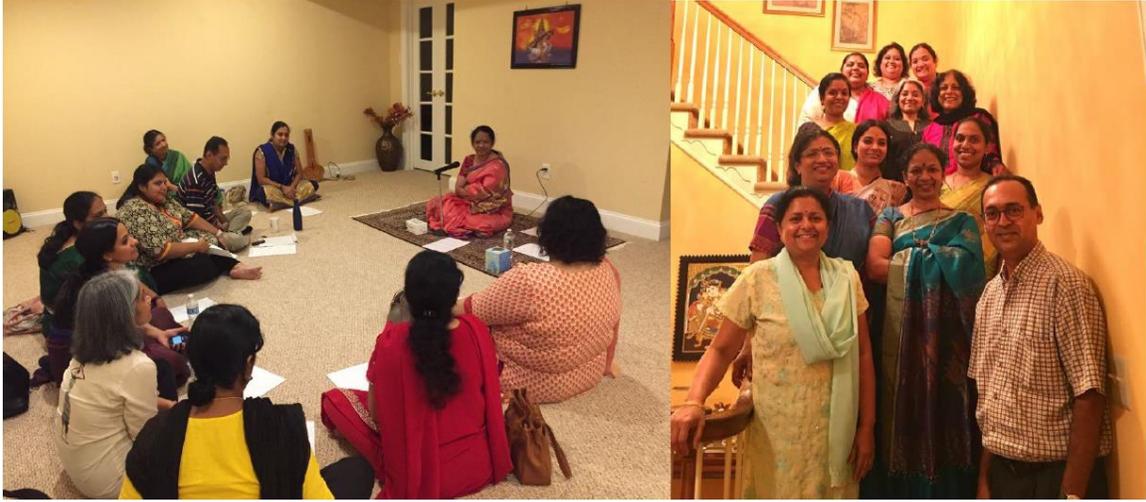


Dr Sathyavathi Music Workshop

(October 1, 2018)

A Review by Kamakshi Mallikarjun

I was also fortunate to attend the fantastic workshop by Dr T S Sathyavathi on the compositions of Mysore composers. Every successive day of class brought more joyful anticipation for when it would be time for the workshop; what the new composition and related gems of musical, lyrical, linguistic insight would be; the joy of singing together harmoniously. And it all happened because of Dr T S Sathyavathi's passion for teaching and her evident joy in our sincerity and enthusiasm to learn. Dr T S Sathyavathi had meticulously planned for the 4 classes from the selection of the songs, to the allotment of time for new songs and the revision of what was taught the prior days to the punctuality of the start time each day. She gave us clear beautifully handwritten notation for each song.



Dr T S Sathyavathi's ethos of respecting the composers and staying true to their vision was anchored in every aspect of her teaching. She first read each line of the lyric clearly and explained the meaning and mood of the song. At the outset, she pointed out where the words must be split and where they must not be split. She ensured that this would manifest in our singing, by pointing out when to take the breadth so that the words would not be split incorrectly in that line. She had the rare patience to make us repeat multiple times until we got it clearly - the variations in each sangati, the gamakas, and the eduppus. And Dr T S Sathyavathi went a step further and also showed us multiple variations for the line or song endings, to spur our own creativity.

Here are the eclectic and melodic songs we learnt – 4 Devarnamas and 4 kritis, all by Mysore composers.

- Varalakshmi in ragam Gowri Manohari , talam rupakam composed by Mysore Vasudevacharya
- Ratna Kanchuka Dharini in ragam Kambodhi, talam michra chapu composed by Muthiah Bhagavathar
- Shri Rajarajeswari in ragam Lalita, talam rupakam composed by Mysore Maharaja
- Madhava Nannu Brova va javali in ragam khamas, talam Adi composed by Mysore Sadashiva Rao
- Nambadiru Ee Deha tuned by Dr T S Sathyavathi in hauntingly beautiful Tanaroopi (Vivaadi mela 6) talam Khanda Chapu composed by Purandaradasa
- Kagada bandide in ragam kaapi, tisra nadai eka , composed by Purandaradasa
- Marulu madikondyalle in ragam neelambari, talam adi composed by Purandaradasa
- Rangana nodire, ragamalika Brindavana Saranga, Sivaranjani, Amrithavarshini tuned by Dr T S Sathyavathi, Mishra Gathi composed by Purandaradasa

As you can see in just 4 days, we covered a kaleidoscope of ragas, talas, languages and elevated our understanding and fidelity to the swara, raga, laya, kalapramana and the underlying lyrics of these compositions. Of course, we have to build on this strong foundation and assiduously practice each of these kritis hundreds of times to fully assimilate them.

Please read the feedback from some of the participants in the workshop as part of the Survey Feedback section towards the end of this report.

We unanimously look forward to our next workshop with Dr T S Sathyavathi!

A Big THANK YOU to Revathi for hosting the workshop, and of course to Sruti for making it all happen!

Kamakshi Mallikarjun is a classical music enthusiast, a member of Sruti and local contributor to Sruti Ranjani.

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Other feedbacks

“It was a one of a kind experience to learn from a Guru like Dr TS Sathyavathi who is not only well versed in music but also a master of sahitya. She is able to look at a composition through the eyes of the composer and make meaningful interpretations, which is no easy task. She is then able to convey that to her students in simple terms to help them appreciate the lyrical beauty in the Krithi- a very unique gift that she possesses! The most important take away for me was and I quote Dr Sathyavathi-“appreciate each and every composer for their creativity without trying to compare them!” – Revathi Subramony

“It was an honor and privilege to attend Dr. Sathyavathi’s workshop. She made sure we understood the Ragam, Bhavam and Laya of every song she taught us. Understanding the meaning of sahityam made singing the song that much more enjoyable. It was truly a great experience. Thanks to Sruti for arranging the workshop.” – Chitra Sundararajan

“Dr T S Sathyavathi is a renaissance woman - a musician, musicologist, Sanskritist! And along with that immense scholarship, the values of humility, utter immersion and laser sharp focus on the Bhava of the composer and the composition, the raga and the Laya, the sahitya and the kavya in the sahitya! We are incredibly fortunate for this experience.” – Raji Padmanabhan