



## The 10<sup>th</sup> Indira Sivasailam Endowment Medal to be conferred on Dr. Pantula Rama

**September 5, 2019 | Chennai:** The Indira Sivasailam Endowment fund, established in association with The Music Academy, Madras, aims to recognize and promote Carnatic musicians of distinction. Each year a winner is chosen by a panel comprising of members from the Endowments Committee of the Academy and Ms. Mallika Srinivasan, Chairman, TAFE. The **Indira Sivasailam Foundation** was established by Ms. Mallika Srinivasan as a tribute to her mother Smt. Indira Sivasailam – an avid follower and patron of the traditional art forms, especially Carnatic music. This year the foundation enters its 10<sup>th</sup> Year existence.

The recipient of The Indira Sivasailam Endowment Medal for the year 2019 is **Dr. Pantula Rama**, a leading exponent of Carnatic music. Dr. Rama hails from a family of musicians and scholars. Her father, *Sri*. Pantula Gopala Rao is a well-known violinist and her mother *Smt.* Padmavathi is an accomplished *Veena* artist. Dr. Rama had her initial musical training under her father, and completed her advanced training under '*Sangeeta Kalasagara*' *Sri*. Ivaturi Vijayeswara Rao. She is one of the youngest vocalists to have been awarded the prestigious 'Top grade' by the All India Radio.

She is equipped with a vast repertoire and highly imaginative approach, and is renowned for her interpretation of the works of old and new composers. Her unique style distinctive for brilliant artistry, clarity of diction, an ever-fresh approach and a perfect balance of the different elements of Carnatic music, enralls audiences around the world. She holds a Doctorate in Carnatic music and has authored the book, 'Shaping of an ideal Carnatic musician through Sadhana'. She has been honored with a multitude of titles from reputable *sabhas* and music organizations in India and abroad including the 'Senior Outstanding Vocalist', 'Outstanding Lady Vocalist' & 'Best Pallavi Award' from The Music Academy, Madras, 'Asthana Vidushi of Avani Sringeri Sarada Peetham' and the 'Ragam Tanam Pallavi Award' from the Cleveland Tyagaraja Aradhana Festival.

As a teacher and arts advocate, Dr. Rama believes in inspiring and shaping the next generation of music aspirants to pursue arts as a lifestyle and career. Through her socio-cultural movement, "PaRa – the Supreme", she aims to create and heighten the awareness of Classical music with openness towards other genres of music.

The selection was made on the basis of specific criteria which include excellence in performance, audience appeal, adherence to classical tradition while innovating within its framework, depth of knowledge and demonstrated efforts to disseminate knowledge and the ability to bring about a greater and deeper public appreciation of Carnatic Music.

To mark the 10<sup>th</sup> year Celebrations, *Vidwan* Sri. R.K. Shriramkumar (Violin), *Vidwan* Sri. J. Vaidyanathan (Mridangam) and *Vidushi* Smt. Bhagyalakshmi M. Krishna (Morsing) will be awarded The Indira Sivasailam Foundation 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Special Award for their exceptional performance as accompanying artistes.

The Award ceremony and The Indira Sivasailam Endowment Concert will be held at the **Music Academy, Madras**, on the **October 4, 2019** at **6:00 pm**.



### **Anweshā – ‘Quest for the Best’**

Over the past nine years The Indira Sivasailam Foundation has brought *rasikas* and artists together to celebrate our rich Carnatic music tradition. As a pre-event to the 10th Indira Sivasailam Endowment Concert, the Foundation will be hosting **Anweshā – ‘Quest for the Best’** and the **‘Bala Vidwan’ Contest** on **September 25, 2019** at The Music Academy, Madras.

The Foundation invites participants of the Bala Vidwan Contest to send in the entries in the form of a video of their renditions, vocal or instrumental (Violin and Flute) of any song related to Classical Carnatic music through The Indira Sivasailam Foundation Facebook page ([facebook.com/theISfoundation](https://facebook.com/theISfoundation)). The questions for Anweshā – ‘Quest for the best’ can be sent to the Facebook page inbox or emailed to [info@isfoundation.in](mailto:info@isfoundation.in). Both contests are open till September 17, 2019.

### **About The Indira Sivasailam Foundation**

The Indira Sivasailam Foundation has been contributing towards perpetuating and promoting our rich culture and tradition, preserving and propagating various art forms. The foundation was established by Ms. Mallika Srinivasan, Chairman, TAFE – Tractors and Farm Equipment Limited, in the year 2010, in memory of her mother, the Late Smt. Indira Sivasailam. The foundation is constantly involved in activities such as care and welfare of senior citizens, women’s empowerment, Hindu philosophy, and Sanskrit literature.

Through the Indira Sivasailam Endowment Fund, under the auspices of The Music Academy, Madras, the foundation organizes The Indira Sivasailam Endowment Concert during the Navaratri season every year, recognizing an outstanding Carnatic musician with The Indira Sivasailam Endowment Medal and citation. Since 2010, renowned and coveted Carnatic musicians like Smt. Sudha Ragunathan, Sri. Sanjay Subrahmanyam, Smt. Aruna Sairam, Smt. Bombay Jayashri Ramnath, Sri. T. M. Krishna, the Malladi Brothers – Sri. Malladi Sreeramprasad and Sri. Malladi Ravikumar, the Violin duo Sri. Lalgudi Krishnan and Smt. Lalgudi Vijayalakshmi, the RaGa Sisters – Smt. Ranjani and Smt. Gayatri and Dr. Jayanthi Kumaresh have been conferred this honor. With the noble aim of promulgating South Indian classical music, the foundation ensures that the concert is open to all, without any fee.

### **About Anweshā – ‘Quest for the Best’**

The word ‘Anweshā’ in Sanskrit - means ‘search or pursuit of something’. Introduced in the year 2013, Anweshā – ‘Quest for the Best’ is a unique initiative by the Indira Sivasailam Foundation that aims to bridge the gap between Carnatic artistes and *rasikas*, who are in an eternal pursuit to understand the nuances of music by delving into the art’s finer knowledge. This is an interactive platform, where Carnatic music enthusiasts can send in their questions related to Carnatic music. The best questions will be shortlisted by the contest jury and will be invited for an interactive Q&A session with that year’s Indira Sivasailam Endowment Medal.



### **About Anweshā – Bala Vidwan Contest**

Owing to the multiple requests by the *rasikas*, over the years, the Indira Sivasailam Foundation introduced Anweshā – 'Bala Vidwan' Contest in the year 2018 to provide a platform to budding artistes to showcase their talent. It provides a stage to exceptionally talented Carnatic music students of vocal or instrumental in the age group of 10-15. An empanelled jury from The Music Academy, Madras, evaluate their performances and shortlisted participants get invited to perform in the presence of the winner of that year's Indira Sivasailam Endowment Medal.

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