



## The Indra Sivasailam Foundation hosts 'Anweshā', bringing Carnatic musicians and *rasikas* together for a day celebrating music

**Chennai, October 1, 2016:** Organized in the lead-up to the annual Indra Sivasailam Endowment Concert, The Indra Sivasailam Foundation hosted 'Anweshā – Quest for the best,' for Carnatic music lovers on September 16, 2016. It provided a platform for *rasikas* to interact with the winner of this year's Indra Sivasailam Endowment Medal, the Ra Ga sisters, Ranjani-Gayathri, through an interactive questions and answers session on Carnatic music.

'Anweshā' in a contest format invited fans to send questions on Carnatic music, of which the top 30 questions were selected and these participants were invited for the event. The contest saw participation from people of all ages and from different parts of the country. The questions dealt with different aspects of Carnatic music like concert formats, the underlying relationship between *bhaavas* and *ragas*, usage of instruments, the impact of language on a song and the evolution of Carnatic music, like this question from a contestant, "In a Carnatic music concert, what is the difference between *Pallavi* singing format under *Raagam-Tanam-Pallavi* and *Niraval* playing in *Krithi*."

Ranjani and Gayatri answered the top 30 questions with some inputs from Dr. R. S. Jayalakshmi, faculty at the Advanced School of Carnatic Music, The Music Academy. One participant's question, "What is the scope and extent of *Graha bhedom* in Hindustani ragas?" had everyone on the panel contribute to a comprehensive answer. The event was packed with ecstatic Carnatic music aficionados and *rasikas* of all ages, who thrived in the atmosphere of mutual learning and unique in-depth discussions with the artists. A lot of the entries received were also curious about Ranjani-Gayatri's journey from being violinists to vocalists; as per one participant asked, "How has your experience and the knowledge that you have attained as violinists specifically contributed to you both as vocalists? What aspects and qualities of the instrument have you adapted to your singing?" The contestants also quizzed them on the dynamics of performing as a duo and the impact it has on improvisation in a concert.



Ms. Sunitha Subramaniyan from The Indira Sivasailam Foundation welcomed the gathering. Smt. Ritha Rajan and Dr. R. S. Jayalakshmi, from the Advanced School of Music, as the Anwesa jury members appreciated The Indira Sivasailam Foundation's initiative of creating a unique platform for *rasikas* to interact with the artiste bridging the gap and help perpetuate and preserve the ancient art form. The jury shared that objective questions with more focus on traditional and technical aspects of Carnatic music along with other parameters, were considered in the evaluation process.

Each participant was given an audio CD autographed by Ranjani-Gayatri after their question was deliberated by the panel. The efforts of The Indira Sivasailam Foundation were greatly appreciated by all those attending the event for the opportunity to interact with Ranjani and Gayatri and gaining new insights into Carnatic music.

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

The Indira Sivasailam Foundation has been contributing towards perpetuating and promoting our rich culture and tradition and preserving and propagating various art forms. The foundation was established by Smt. Mallika Srinivasan, Chairman & CEO, TAFE 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, Sanskrit literature and *annadana*. 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. The artist is selected by a panel comprising of members from the Endowments Committee of The Music Academy and Smt. Mallika Srinivasan, daughter of Late Shri. A. Sivasailam (Former Chairman - Amalgamations Limited) and the Late Smt. Indira Sivasailam.

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

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