



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

Chennai, September 20, 2017: The Indira Sivasailam Foundation hosted 'Anweshā – Quest for the best', as a precursor to the annual Indira Sivasailam Endowment Concert at the Music Academy, Madras. In its fifth year, 'Anweshā' provided *rasikas* a unique opportunity to engage with the winners of this year's Indira Sivasailam Endowment Medal, the Lalgudi duo – Lalgudi Krishnan and Lalgudi Vijayalakshmi through an interactive question and answer session on Carnatic music.

'Anweshā' was conducted as an online contest inviting 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 and world. The questions dealt with different aspects of Carnatic music like the importance of *manodharma*, the understanding of *talas*, the underlying relationship between Carnatic violin and vocals, the impact of technology on Carnatic music, the influence of *gurus* and dwelling briefly on *parampara*, like this question from a contestant, "As a layman or *rasika*, one would be able to easily identify popular *ragas* on continuous listening even without having a knowledge or foundation in Carnatic music. Similarly, is it possible to identify the *talas* easily, though they are very few in number when compared to the *ragas*? Only a few *talas* like Adi, Rupakam, Misrachapu, Kandachapu, etc. are common. For example, Kanda Jathi Triputa talam with Misra Nadai; though this is purely technical, how can a listener also easily identify the *tala* so that it enhances the joy of listening?"

Lalgudi Krishnan and Lalgudi Vijayalakshmi answered the top 30 questions with some inputs from the other panelists, Dr. Ritha Rajan and Dr. R. S. Jayalakshmi, faculty members at the Advanced School of Carnatic Music, The Music Academy. The event saw ecstatic Carnatic music aficionados and *rasikas*, revel in the atmosphere of mutual learning and unique in-depth discussions with the artists themselves. The efforts of The Indira Sivasailam Foundation were greatly appreciated by *rasikas* and artists alike for the opportunity to interact and delve into Carnatic music. Many of the entries received delved into Krishnan and Vijayalakshmi's journey as musicians who belong to one of the most prestigious families in Carnatic music. The contestants 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 India Sivasailam Foundation welcomed the gathering. Dr. Ritha Rajan and Dr. R. S. Jayalakshmi - the Anvesha jury members, appreciated The Indira Sivasailam Foundation's initiative for bridging the gap between *rasikas* and artists to promote Carnatic music and help perpetuate and preserve the ancient art form. The jury shared that objective questions with a focus on traditional and technical aspects of Carnatic music along with other parameters, were considered in the evaluation process.

Each participant was given a memento by Lalgudi Krishnan and Lalgudi Vijayalakshmi 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 the Lalgudi duo and gain 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 Ms. Mallika Srinivasan, Chairman & CEO, TAFE, 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. Since 2010, renowned and coveted Carnatic musicians like Smt. Sudha Raganathan, Sri. Sanjay Subrahmanyam, Smt. Aruna Sairam, Smt. Bombay Jayashri Ramnath, Sri. T. M. Krishna and the Malladi Brothers - Malladi Sreeram prasad and Malladi Ravikumar and sisters, Ranjani and Gayatri 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.