



Saraswathi Veena Maestro Dr. Jayanthi Kumaresh awarded the ninth Indira Sivasailam Endowment Medal 2018

October 12, 2018 | Chennai: The ninth Indira Sivasailam Endowment Medal was bestowed upon the legendary *Saraswathi Veena* artiste Dr. Jayanthi Kumaresh at the annual Indira Sivasailam Endowment Concert. The Indira Sivasailam Foundation was instituted by Smt. Mallika Srinivasan in memory of her mother, the Late Smt. Indira Sivasailam. Held in collaboration with The Music Academy, Madras, Dr. Jayanthi Kumaresh enthralled the audience with her flawless musical performance in the Academy at the Indira Sivasailam Endowment Concert 2018.

The Indira Sivasailam Endowment Medal aims to recognize the outstanding contribution made in the field of Carnatic music thereby preserving and propagating the art form. The recipient of the award is selected on the basis of specific criteria as defined by the eminent jury of The Music Academy, Madras, and Smt. Mallika Srinivasan. Dr. Jayanthi Kumaresh, the legendary *Saraswathi Veena* player has been selected as this year's awardee for her depth of knowledge and virtuosity, originality in content, demonstrated efforts in fostering and propagating the art form and her ability to connect with the audience that transcends the boundaries of region and language.

Sri. N. Murali – President of The Music Academy, Madras, welcomed the gathering and spoke about the long-standing association between The Indira Sivasailam Foundation and the Music Academy. He added "The Indira Sivasailam Endowment Concert has become synonymous with *Navaratri* at The Music Academy and is in its ninth year now."

Smt. Mallika Srinivasan felicitated Dr. Jayanthi Kumaresh and said "Dr. Jayanthi Kumaresh is a *vainika* par excellence who soulfully unfolds the versatility of the *Saraswathi Veena*, the "Queen of Instruments". Blending tradition with innovation in terms of content, technique and expression, Dr. Jayanthi seeks to relentlessly foreground the essence of the *Saraswathi Veena*, transcending boundaries of language, region, ethos and ethnicity; indeed of space and time. The Indira Sivasailam Foundation in association with The Music Academy, Madras, is privileged to honour this outstanding maestro."

Expressing her thoughts on receiving the prestigious award, Dr. Jayanthi Kumaresh said, "I express my gratitude to the Indira Sivasailam Foundation and The Music Academy for recognizing and felicitating me with this award. Such form of recognition inspires me to make even more determined efforts in my pursuit of excellence in Carnatic music."

The concert that followed the award ceremony was well received by one and all, with praises coming in from every corner appreciating the arrangements made by the Foundation for setting the right tone for a splendid musical evening.



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 & CEO, 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, 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 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 RaGa Sisters – Smt. Ranjani and Smt. Gayatri and the Lalgudi duo – Sri. Lalgudi Krishnan and Smt. Lalgudi Vijayalakshmi 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 The Music Academy, Madras

The Music Academy's roots can be traced back to the 1920s, when a group of music lovers united to propagate and promote classical music by establishing an academy in Madras city, marking the inception of The Music Academy, Madras. Over the years the academy thrived to become a venerable center for artists, musicians and *rasikas* of the world to nurture the art and music. The Music Academy's sole aim of promoting and perpetuating music and culture has played a key role in fostering Carnatic music in the country and abroad. The Academy's burgeoning library houses new books, apart from preservation of rare books and manuscripts. The Academy's awards and recognitions are regarded as an honor to artistes at every stage of their musical journey, as to them, an Academy performance in itself is a sublime dream and a sense of high achievement.

N. Murali
President, The Music Academy, Madras

Mallika Srinivasan
The Indira Sivasailam Foundation