



The Indira Sivasailam Endowment Medal to be conferred on sisters, Ranjani-Gayatri on October 7, 2016

Chennai, September 05, 2016: The unequivocal choice for the Indira Sivasailam Endowment Medal and Concert 2016 are sisters, Ranjani and Gayatri, popularly known as RaGa. For the last seven years, the Indira Sivasailam Foundation has recognized an outstanding Carnatic musician based on an established set of criteria, which includes excellence in performance, audience appeal, adherence to classical tradition while innovating within its framework, depth of knowledge, demonstrated efforts to disseminate knowledge and the ability to bring about a greater and deeper public appreciation of Carnatic music.

The artist is selected by a panel comprising of members from the Endowments Committee of The Music Academy, Madras, and Ms. Mallika Srinivasan (Chairman – Tractors and Farm Equipment Limited), daughter of Late *Sri*. A. Sivasailam (Former Chairman – Amalgamations Group) and the Late *Smt*. Indira Sivasailam.

The Indira Sivasailam Endowment Fund was established by Ms. Mallika Srinivasan in 2010 under the auspices of The Music Academy, Madras as a tribute to her mother *Smt*. Indira Sivasailam – a lifelong disciple and patron of Carnatic music, who was also an exceptional practitioner. The endowment fund is a realization of *Smt*. Indira Sivasailam's strong conviction that south Indian classical musicians *par excellence* should be encouraged and recognized.

Ranjani and Gayatri are world renowned Indian classical musicians with professional experience of twenty five years. Known for their versatility and multi-faceted capabilities as artists, Ranjani-Gayathri forayed into the world of Carnatic music as children learning to play the violin. Training under Sangita Bhooshanam Prof. T. S. Krishnaswami in Mumbai, they made a name for themselves as gifted violinists, performing in leading sabhas all over the country and overseas. Their musical journey can be traced back to their family; having received their initial vocal training from their mother *Smt*. Meenakshi Balasubramanian – a Carnatic vocalist, and their father, *Sri*. N. Balasubramanian, who was instrumental in shaping their musical values.

Ranjani-Gayatri made the transition from violin to vocals under the tutelage of Padma Bhushan Sangeeta Kala Acharya *Sri*. P. S. Narayanaswamy and commenced giving vocal concerts since 1997. Their music honed over the years is unique, as their two voices blend and contrast to strike a fine balance between tradition and innovation. Their concerts resound with energy, ingenuity and emotional fervor.

The Indira Sivasailam Endowment Concert will be held, at The Music Academy, Madras, on October 7, 2016, marking the beginning of the *Navaratri* season.



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. 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* and the MalladiBrothers 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.

The Indira Sivasailam Foundation

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