



Violin Duo – Lalgudi Krishnan and Lalgudi Vijayalakshmi awarded the eighth Indira Sivasailam Endowment Medal 2017

September 22, 2017, Chennai: The eighth Indira Sivasailam Endowment Medal was conferred on the violin duo – Lalgudi Krishnan and Lalgudi Vijayalakshmi at the annual Indira Sivasailam Endowment Concert. The Indira Sivasailam Foundation was instituted by *Smt.* Mallika Srinivasan in memory of her mother *Smt.* Indira Sivasailam. Held at and in association with The Music Academy, Madras, Lalgudi Krishnan and Lalgudi Vijayalakshmi rendered the concert to a packed house of ardent Carnatic music enthusiasts.

The Indira Sivasailam Endowment medal aims to recognize Carnatic musicians in their prime, thereby encouraging their growth. The recipient is chosen on the basis of clearly defined parameters by an eminent jury constituted by The Music Academy, Madras, and *Smt.* Mallika Srinivasan. This year, Lalgudi Krishnan and Lalgudi Vijayalakshmi were conferred with the award for their immaculate performances, demonstrated efforts to disseminate knowledge on the Lalgudi Bani, and their unique ability to innovate within the Carnatic music framework.

Sri. N. Murali - President of The Music Academy, Madras, welcomed the gathering and spoke about the long standing association between *Smt.* Indira Sivasailam and The Music Academy. He added, "In its eighth edition now, the Indira Sivasailam Endowment concert has captured the imagination of *rasikas* as an integral part of the annual Navaratri festivities."

Smt. Mallika Srinivasan paid tribute to *Smt.* Indira Sivasailam and felicitated the Lalgudi duo on being conferred the Indira Sivasailam Endowment Medal. She said, "The Indira Sivasailam Endowment Concert has been growing from strength to strength, thanks to the unstinted support of The Music Academy, the artistes and the *rasikas*. This is the first time instrumentalists have been conferred The Indira Sivasailam Endowment Medal. Chosen unanimously by the endowments committee, the Lalgudi duo are truly deserving of this award and excel against all laid down criteria. As fifth-generation musicians and torchbearers of the venerable Lalgudi Bani, their nuanced understanding and appreciation of music and the violin's varied and complex aspects have made them true maestros. They are the perfect bridge between two generations - the purists and the millennials who are eager to trace their roots to this great Indian heritage. With deep immersion into their art, their *manodharma* and uncompromising adherence to tradition, they are adept in capturing the mood of the compositions they present."



Expressing their thoughts on receiving this prestigious award, the Lalgudi duo said, “Our grateful thanks to The Indira Sivasailam Foundation and The Music Academy for selecting us as the first instrumentalists for this coveted award. We place this honour at the feet of our beloved Guru and our mother. This recognition is an inspiration to rededicate ourselves to the pursuit of excellence in music”. The award ceremony was followed by a much awaited concert by the Lalgudi duo that brought the violin to life and gave it a voice befitting the Lalgudi bani.

The concert was well received by the audience and everyone appreciated the arrangements by the foundation, especially the vibrant flowers and aesthetic set design that set the right mood for the evening.

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 and 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*, the Malladi Brothers, and Ranjini-Gayathri have been conferred this honor. With the noble aim of preserving and promoting South Indian classical music, the foundation ensures that the concert is open to all, without any fee.

About The Music Academy:

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 of 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 artists 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.