



**“Anwasha” – Quest for the Best organized by  
The Indira Sivasailam Foundation gives an opportunity to rasikas to delve  
deeper into Carnatic Music with the Malladi Brothers**

**Chennai, October 1, 2015:** Organized as a pre-cursor to the annual Indira Sivasailam Endowment Concert, The Indira Sivasailam Foundation hosted ‘*Anwasha – Quest for the best,*’ for Carnatic music lovers on October 1, 2015. *Anwasha* is a one of a kind event which aims to bridge the gap between the artists and rasikas. It’s a platform for avid *rasikas* to interact with the winner of this year’s Indira Sivasailam Endowment Medal, The Malladi Brothers - Sri. Malladi Sreerama Prasad and Sri. Malladi Ravikumar, through an interactive questions and answers session on Carnatic music.

‘*Anwasha*’ was run as an online contest where fans were invited 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 rasikas of all ages and from different parts of the country. The questions dealt with different aspects of Carnatic music like revival of rare ragas, the evolution of Carnatic music, usage of instruments, concert experience and the changing dynamics of the *guru–shishya* relationship. An example would be the following, "The traditional *guru - shishya* system was more of one-sided learning with the *guru* imbibing knowledge and *shishya* receiving it. However in the present day, the *guru - shishya* relationship itself is short lived and each singer has multiple *gurus*, wherein they go to different *gurus* for different styles. For example, a singer goes to a *guru* exclusively for *pallavi* singing. Also the *shishyas* these days introspect and try to innovate. What are your views on these two approaches?"

The Malladi Brothers answered the top questions with inputs from the other panelists Smt. Ritha Rajan and Dr. R. S. Jayalakshmi, faculty members at the Advanced School of Carnatic Music, The Music Academy. The event was packed with Carnatic music aficionados and *rasikas*, whose enthusiasm buoyed the spirit of the initiative. The efforts of The Indira Sivasailam Foundation were greatly appreciated by all those attending the event for the opportunity to interact with the Malladi Brothers and gaining new insights into Carnatic music. Another question by a participant referred to the Malladi Brothers’ statement on how training in *manodharma* should be the first lesson in learning music. The questions also explored different aspects of the Brothers performing as a duo and their rich musical heritage.



Professor Ritha Rajan and Dr. R. S. Jayalakshmi, from the Advanced School of Music, as the Anwesha jury members appreciated The Indira Sivasailam Foundation's initiative of facilitating a conversation between renowned artists and music enthusiasts, as it helps the cause Carnatic music. The jury shared that in its third year the questions received covered a wide range of topics and the evaluation process focused on questions dealing with traditional and technical aspects of Carnatic music along with other parameters. The sense of joy, having met their musical icons was palpable in the audience.

### **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 *Navarathri* 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.

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