



Ask a question to a musician

The Indira Sivasailam foundation is hosting a music contest titled 'Anwesha - Quest for the Best' on September 20, in the lead up to the Indira Sivasailam endowment concert - 2017, to be held on September 22. Carnatic music enthusiasts can send in questions related to the genre, of which the best ones will be shortlisted, and invited for an interactive Q&A session with Lalgudi Krishnan and Lalgudi Vijayalakshmi, who are the winners of the Indira Sivasailam endowment medal this year. Questions can be sent via the Facebook page www.facebook.com/theISfoundation or by e-mail to info@isfoundation.in. Contest is open till September 13. The concert will be held at the Music Academy.

The Times of India - 4th September 2017



Meet the musicians

Violin duo Lalgudi Krishnan and Lalgudi Vijayalakshmi have been selected this year for the Indira Sivasailam Endowment Medal, by the Indira Sivasailam Foundation.

In the lead-up to the Indira Sivasailam Endowment Concert 2017, the Foundation conducts a contest 'Anwe-sha – Quest for the Best', where Carnatic music enthusiasts can send in their questions related to Carnatic music.

The best 30 entries will be shortlisted by the jury, and the 30 finalists will be invited for an interactive Q&A session with Lalgudi Krishnan and Lalgudi Vijayalakshmi on September 20.

One can participate by emailing the questions to info@isfoundation.in. The last date is September 13.

The Indira Sivasailam Endowment Award ceremony and concert will be held on September 22, at The Music Academy.

The Hindu - 4th September 2017



■ **Music contest:** In the lead-up to the Indira Sivasailam Endowment Concert 2017, a music contest, Anwesa — Quest for the Best, will be held where interested people can send in questions related to Carnatic music, of which the top 30 finalists shortlisted by the contest jury will be invited for an interactive Q&A session with Lalgudi Krishnan and Lalgudi Vijayalakshmi, the winners of this year's Indira Sivasailam Endowment Medal.

Date and time: Open till September 13

Contact: info@isfoundation.in

DT Next - 5th September 2017



Send questions, interact with noted violinists

NT Bureau

Chennai, Sept 5:

As a pre-event to the Indira Sivasailam Endowment Concert, The Indira Sivasailam Foundation is hosting 'Anweshha - Quest for the best' on 20 September.

'Anweshha' is an interactive platform for Carnatic music enthusiasts to interact with the winners of the year's Indira Sivasailam Endowment Medal through a question and answer ses-



**Lalgudi Krishnan and
Lalgudi Vijayalakshmi**

sion. 'Anweshha' invites questions related to Carnatic music, of which the best ones will be shortlisted by the contest jury - from The Music Academy, Madras, a press release said. The top 30 finalists will be invited for an interactive Q&A session with Carnatic violinists Lalgudi Krishnan and Lalgudi Vijayalakshmi, the winners of this year's Indira Sivasailam Endowment Medal.

One can participate by posting the questions to The Indira Sivasailam Foundation Facebook page (facebook.com/theISfoundation) inbox or by emailing them to info@isfoundation.in. The contest is open till 13 September. Lalgudi Krishnan and Lalgudi Vijayalakshmi will perform at The Indira Sivasailam Endowment Concert 2017, on 22 September at the Music Academy.

. News Today - 5th September 2017



Indira Sivasailam Foundation conducts 'Anweshha - Quest for the best' contest for rasikasto

Chennai, Sept 5:

Over the past eight years The Indira Sivasailam Foundation has brought

musicians and artists together to celebrate our rich Carnatic music tradition.

As a pre-event to the Indira Sivasailam Endowment Concert, the Foundation is hosting.

The Indira Sivasailam Foundation was established by Mallika Srinivasan, Chairman & CEO, TAFE, in the year 2010, in memory of her mother, the Late Smt. Indira Sivasailam.

'Anweshha - Quest for the best' on September 20. 'Anweshha' is an interactive platform for Carnatic music enthusiasts to interact with the winners of the year's Indira Sivasailam Endowment Medal through a question and answer session.



Indira Sivasailam

'Anweshha' invites Carnatic music enthusiasts to send in questions related to Carnatic music, of which the best ones will be shortlisted by the contest jury - from The Music Academy,

Madras. The top 30 finalists will be invited for an interactive Q&A session with Lalgudi Krishnan and Lalgudi Vijayalakshmi, the winners of this year's Indira Sivasailam Endowment Medal.

One can participate by posting the questions to The Indira Sivasailam Foundation Facebook page (facebook.com/theISfoundation) inbox or by emailing them to info@isfoundation.in. This is a unique opportunity for Carnatic music enthusiasts to meet and interact with one of the leading artists of this generation. The contest is open till 13th September 2017.

Lalgudi Krishnan and Lalgudi Vijayalakshmi will perform at The Indira Sivasailam Endowment Concert 2017, on September 22 at the Music Academy, Madras.

Trinity Mirror - 5th September 2017



Lalgudi vijayalakshmi performing at a concert

A LEGACY THAT'S CALLED LALGUDI

- Violinist duo Lalgudi Vijayalakshmi and Lalgudi GJR Krishnan will be conferred the Indira Sivasailam Endowment Award this month
- Vijayalakshmi is ecstatic and grateful because this is the first time that instrumentalists are being given this award

● Anushree Madhavan

She is known for her duets with her brother, and is as much a veteran in carnatic music as her sibling and father. Along with her brother Lalgudi GJR Krishnan, Vijayalakshmi is keeping the legacy of their father violin maestro Lalgudi G Jayaraman alive. They will be conferred with the Indira Sivasailam Endowment Award in the city on September 22. "I enjoy playing duets with my brother. For the past eight years, this award was given only to vocalists and this is the first time that instrumentalists are getting the award. It is a great honour," she says. For now, Lalgudi Vijayalakshmi is in Dallas gearing up for a performance with the Dallas-based orchestra Raag Rythm. In a telephonic chat, she talks about growing under her father's wing, her camaraderie with her brother, and performing with orchestras abroad. Excerpts follow. **You belong to an illustrious family.**

How was it growing up in a family of musicians?

I began playing violin when I was six. The whole atmosphere in our home was filled with music. We had no other distractions like TV; our full concentration was on music. More than anything, I had a lot of exposure as my father used to practice every day and he also had his students. That apart, every conversation in our house was about music. We had prominent musicians coming to our house and my father will be discussing something on concerts, compositions and such. I was like a fish in the ocean; music came naturally to me.

Was there any pressure on you?

I never had any pressure. As I said, it was just destined that I had to learn music. It was a pressure for my brother. My father used to perform with his sisters. After they got married and domestic situations didn't allow them to pursue, my brother had to fill in that spot. He was 13 then. Though I started learning at a young age, I only started performing at 16 and

that too with my brother.

What was it like... Learning from Lalgudi G Jayaraman?

He was a very passionate teacher and thoroughly enjoyed it. There was no difference in his teaching when it came to us or his students; all of us were equal. Yes, we did have private sessions with him, but in a class we were one among the many students who came to learn from him. His motto was that if you are ready to receive knowledge he was there to share it. He was a perfectionist too. He would not be impressed easily by your rendition and would ask you to keep going. He would make us see the beauty in music and painstakingly explain even the abstract concepts. He would draw examples from nature. This made us realise that music is not just theory; there is an aesthetic sense too.

Though you do solo performances, most of it are with your brother. Tell us more about that.

My first concert was with him. I started taking music seriously when I began performing with him. It just happened. I have also performed with other musicians but obviously I share a comfort level with him. We perform the same bani and it is easier for us to get in sync. I do jugalbandis with other musicians and my role there differs. Each performance has a different aspect.

Not many classical musicians want to mix two different genres, that's why they keep away from jugalbandis. Comment

Jugalbandi does not mean that a certain genre of music is moving away from its territory. There are restrictions, yes, but it is a different platform. In a jugalbandi, carnatic music is not full-fledged like a solo concert. We don't perform and *kriti* or *neraval*. But we come midway and strike a balance. When the two genres have the same raagam, the magic is different; when you interact with that raagam its identity is not lost. Personally, I don't wish to

do jugalbandi is often.

What inspires you to compose?

I believe innovation is not the end result of something and it is also not something that is planned. My father has made innovations that are musically rich. I also aim to make innovations that embellish the quality of music. One of my recent innovations was based on the *Panchabootas*. I had come up with this for a performance as a part of July Fest at Krishna Gana Sabha. I stepped out of the carnatic realm and brought in string instruments and an orchestra. There are two belief systems — music is all about lyrics and lyrics doesn't define music. I wanted to find a middle ground.

I used the instruments to create sounds of the five elements and the ragams were chosen accordingly. It was appreciated by the audience. This is what I will be performing with the Raag Rhythm team in Dallas.

How did this collaboration come to be?

Raag Rhythm was started by two women — Sumana Hegde and Jaishree Shankar, to make NRI kids learn more about carnatic music because it so happens that kids abroad usually take to western music. They invited students to be a part of it and last year, they paid a tribute to MS amma. This year, it's a fundraising event where I will be performing with over 50 students. I have been sending them notes and practicing for over eight months. I am overwhelmed by the children's enthusiasm.

What's the level of awareness on violin today?

I have always felt that audiences prefer vocal concerts than instrumental concerts. Here's where the debate comes in to play. I believe music cannot be appreciated without the school's support. Every school should include music in its curriculum and let the child choose. Most instruments are not preferred these days. I wish for equal appreciation for instrumental concerts as well.



Lalgudi vijayalakshmi with her brother Lalgudi GJR Krishnan

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The New Indian Express - 6th September 2017