



Isai Vizha 04

Rasika's Rasika

News



Rasika Viswanath's vocal concert at the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan's mini hall, under the aegis of Kartik Fine Arts, on Thursday afternoon, accompanied by Rupa Rajagopal on violin and R S R Srikanth's percussion support evidenced scholarship of a high order.

She has a resilient, melodious voice which she uses to good advantage to bring forth subtle grace in raga-bhava elaborations and lyrical excellence. The Tyagaraja kriti 'Rama Ninne Namminanu Nijamuga Sitha' (Husseini-Adi-neraval at 'Kamajanaka...' anupallavi) was exquisitely rendered. Syama Sastri's very first composition of his illustrious lifetime 'Janani Natajana Paripalini Paahi Maam Bhavani' in 'Saveri' was the main piece of her recital which she rendered with dedicated care and moving bhava. The cultured articulations in this compositions were noteworthy. The raga svaroop was presented praiseworthy in the alapana, later neravals and manodharmic svara passages.

Rasika's Shanmukhapriya RTP (Saravana Bhava Siva Guruparane Orarumugane Arumugane) must have pleased even an exacting critic. Percussionist Srikanth, disciple of Srimushnam Raja Rao, showed his class in the brief 'Saveri' thani. Rupa supported Rasika in the raga alapanas and sancharas quite well.

One particular point about Rasika's concert that deserves special mention is that she did not pack her recital with too many compositions as many do. She selected only seven numbers with judicious care, and embellished these with her well-cultivated expertise and experience. Sankari Neevani of Subbaraya Sastri in Begada illustrated this quality. However, her renditions would have been far more satisfying but for her throat problem which handicapped her, particularly in the lower octaves.

This disciple of Savithri Sathyamurthy, eminent violinist, and T R Balamani of Bombay, a renowned Carnatic music guru, has been singing for close to 15 years now and has won several noteworthy prizes and awards from leading Sabhas and AIR as well. She was the recipient of the National Talent Search scholarship for classical music (vocal) for ten years, and the National Cultural Scholarship (senior level) from the GOI for two years.

Rasika will sing at Bharath Kalachar (Dec.24), Narada Gana Sabha (Dec.28) and Mylapore Fine Arts Club (Dec.31). All are afternoon concerts.

R Srinivasan