

**ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR
OF TAMIL NADU AT ANNUAL MUSIC FESTIVAL 2018 ORGANISED BY
CHENNAI FINE ARTS AT SRINIVASA SASTRI HALL, MYLAPORE,
CHENNAI ON 21.12.2018 AT 10.30 A,M**

Anaivarukkum Kaalai Vanakkam

Prof. Thiru. TN. Krishnan

Thiru. AK. Palanivel

Thiru. PN. Muralidharan,

Dr. S. Nithyasree

Distinguished Invitees

Ladies & Gentlemen

It gives me great pleasure to be here today at the inauguration of the December Festival of the Chennai Fine Arts Sabha. The month of December brings with it festivity and joy to the residents of the city in the form of festivals of music and dance being conducted by different organizations. It is therefore no wonder that music lovers come flocking back to renew their roots with the city, from all parts of the globe. The UNESCO has recognized this speciality of Chennai's Carnatic music tradition by including it in the list of Creative Cities Network.

As you are all aware Chennai is a modern city which started getting developed from the 17th century. As the city became more and more prosperous it attracted artists from other parts of South India. Among the early patrons of the fine arts one can mention the names of Thiru. Manali Muthukrishna Mudaliar and Thiru Linghi Chetty. Artists such as Marimuthu Pillai, Arunachala Kavi and the legendary Muthuswamy Dikshitar were also patronized by the city in its early years.

Long time Mylapore residents may fondly recall that several front ranking artists of those days like Prof Ramanathan, D.K.Jayaraman used to accompany Papanasam Sivam on the bhajans around the four Mada Veedhis of Kapaleeswar temple in the month of December every year.

Though Sivan did not have many direct disciples doing 'gurukulavasam' under him, musical wizards like Madurai Mani Iyer, Musiri Subramania Iyer, Dr.Ramanathan, Lalgudi Jayaraman, D.K. Jayaraman, M.S.Subbulakshmi and D.K. Patammal learnt music at one time or the other under this great master.

The city also has a proud record for its musical endowments. Juttur Subrahmanya Chetty had created a handsome endowment and gave a decent honorarium to an eminent Nadaswaram player every year. He would invite a Nadaswara vidwan and make him perform for ten days in the Chenna Kesava Perumal temple during the Periyalwar festival in the month of June. Sri Kanyaka Parameswari Devasthanam maintained a concert party whose music recitals in the temple every Fridays used to be a source of delight for lovers of fine arts. The Pachaiyappa's trust maintained a Bhajana Ghosti which performed daily bhajans in their temple in Mint Street.

One of the earliest composers to settle down in Chennai was Paidala Gurumurthy Sastri (18th Century). He is credited with having composed a 1000 Gitams and is said to have had knowledge of 40000 ragas.

Vina Kuppayyar, the samasthana vidwan of Kovur during the time of Sundara Mudaliar was the central figure in the musical life of Chennai during the first half of 19th Century. He was a direct disciple of Tyagaraja. He was a violinist and a vocalist who was hailed as Gaana Chakravarti. He had a number of disciples and following his master's ways gave them free food and lessons in music. It was on his request that Tyagaraja visited Chennai. Kuppayyar celebrated Chitra Poornima and Vinayaka Chaturti festivals in his house and leading musicians from all over South India came to his house and gave concerts.

The versatile musical genius Tachur Singaracharlu took up residence in Chennai in the later part of 19th Century. Assisted by his younger brother, he published graded text books on music in Telugu. They lived in George Town. They organized concerts in connection with Rama Navami festival every year and it was attended by thousands of people.

The various sources of patronage for Carnatic Music in different parts of Chennai crystallized into a bigger phenomenon in the 20th century.

The history of the Madras Music Season is interesting. The Music Festival was begun in the year 1927 when The All India Music Conference was held concurrently with the annual session of Indian National Congress in Madras. A resolution was passed at the conference to formally establish the Madras Music Academy. From 1928,

the academy started organizing the Music season every year during the month of December.

Today there are about 1500 individual performances by various renowned and amateur artists during the music season which is recognized as the largest of its kind in the world.

Music is the complete expression of the soul reflecting the inner beauty within us.

As Dr. Rukmani Devi Arundale said and I quote

“When you hear the sound of music or see the colours in a beautiful picture, you not only hear the music or see the picture; you see into the very soul of the artists and even more you see the soul of art itself.” This is the beauty of real art and artists.

I am happy that a veteran artiste such as Thiru A.K. Palanivel is being honoured today.

Padma Sri A. K. Palanivel is a master of the percussion instrument Taval with a performance career spanning over five decades. Palanivel has had the honour of serving as the Secretary of the Thyagaraja Aradhana Committee at Thiruvaiyaru for over thirty years. I was there at Thiruvaiyuru to inaugurate the festival in January 2018 and I could see the bonds of culture and heritage that had brought the artistes and the audience together

We are proud of our heritage and our culture. We should also cultivate in the younger generation a flair for music and dance. Art foundations and Sabhas should act as a catalyst in creating a bridge between tradition and modernity.

I congratulate the Chennai Fine Arts for its contribution towards promotion of Art and Culture.

Its initiatives to conduct Vaggeyakkara Vaibhavams and workshops on music deserve appreciation. I am happy to learn that most of the leading South Indian Musicians have performed under their Banner. The efforts taken by them to organize the Music festival this year deserve a special appreciation from all of us. May the cultural institutions of India grow stronger with time and cement the foundations of our nation to make our people great.

Nandri Vanakkam...

Jai Hind....