

Music fest reviews / by Subbudu



ARUNA SAYEERAM

I ALWAYS make it a point to attend the vocal recital by Aruna Sayeeram who is more busy abroad. Her concerts relieve me of all tension accumulated during the season. She not only resembles Parveen Sultana but also sings like her. She has an edge over Parveen in that her voice does not sport as high a pitch.

Her concert at the Bharataya Vidya Bhavan in the Festival of Music and Dance organised by the Kapali Fine Arts was an ennobling one. Her liquid and golden voice almost tranquilized the audience so much so that on audience request, her concert was given an extra half hour. While on the subject, I must congratulate the Bhavan authorities for not only having a fine public address system but operating it intelligently.

Her Karaharapriya was an essay in aesthetics. The alapana was entirely original modelled on the Dhanammal School where the emphasis is on melody rather than technique. There was not a single abrasive phrase and everything was well oiled. Traversing there octaves or indulging in flashy brugas are not unheard of, but striking phrases at tangent in the three bars was something new, and one found this in Aruna's alapana.

Tyagaraja's kriti 'Rama Ni Samanam Evaru'. I do not know why this beautiful composition has been vivisected by artistes. It becomes Ramaneesa, mana, mevaru. How cruel! Her swaraprastharas were unique in concept and brilliant in execution. It was not just mathematics, it was coated with melody and had raga bhava.