

## Arsha Kala Bhushanam Awards 2012



In 2007, Pujya Swami Dayananda Saraswathi founded Arsha Kalarangam as a cultural wing of Arsha Vidya Gurukulam to encourage classical musicians and dancers. Pujya Swamiji has also instituted the award titled 'ARSHA KALA BHUSHANAM' , which is awarded to musicians and dancers in recognition of their outstanding service to classical music or dance. Upto the year 2001, 23 performing artists have been given this award.

Sarojini Nataraj Auditorium, Kikani Higher Secondary School, Coimbatore witnessed this solemn function on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2012. The function was planned

and executed by Sri M. Krishnan of Sree Krishna Sweets. The names of awardees were suggested by Maharajapuram Sri Ramachandran and Nagai Sri Muraleedaran. The final selections of the awardees were made by Pujya Swamiji. There was live telecast of the function in Sankara TV. It was also webcast.

The awardees were ceremonially welcomed to the stage with auspicious music, Vedic chant, traditional dance and royal canopy.

Sri K. Vaidyanathan, Editor, Dinamani was the Chief Guest. He said that when



music is alive, our culture is alive. When our culture is alive, our identity is alive. He said that Hindu society is the only one that is associated with music daily.

Pujya Swamiji conferred the title “Arsha Kala Bhushanam” on:

Prof. S.R. Janakiraman for his dedicated seva at the altar of Carnatic music and admirable contribution to musicology through his books on different topics, especially on the laksanas of ragas.

Smt Sudha Raghunathan for her enthralling musical talent, classicism, conformity to traditions, love and devotion to her gurus.

Smt E. Gayathri for her contribution to Carnatic music through the divine instrument, Veena all through her life with

her in-born talent, dedication to clarity backed by creative freedom born of profound scholarship.

Sri M.S. Anantharaman for his life-long seva to Carnatic music by performance and teaching to create hundreds of accomplished artists through the instrument violin.

Mannargudi Sri A. Easwaran for his remarkable contribution to Carnatic music through the mrdangam, occupying an enviable place of admiration among the accompanying artists, by his brilliance in not only following but also expecting the next step of the main artist.

Smt. Chitra Visweswaran for her admirable accomplishments as a performing dancer, choreographer and











teacher of the classical Bharata-natyam with her innovative interpretations.

Pujya Swamiji presented a citation and a purse of Rs.1 lakh.

The awardees thanked Pujya Swamiji for selecting them for the award. They felt that this award was special because it was a divine award. They dedicated the award to their respective Gurus. They were motivated to contribute more to fine arts.

Pujya Swamiji gave his anugraha bhasanam. He said that the awardees dedicated their whole life to fine arts, which they chose to master. They had put

many years of efforts under their Gurus. Each one of them had created a style of their own without compromising with the classicism. Our fine arts is Gandharva Veda from Rishis with a tradition of more than 2000 years. Every thing in this creation is manifestation of Iswara. Each melody is a Devata. Human voice is the greatest musical instrument. Music is not directly manifest. It requires talent, effort, dedication and commitment for the possibility of music to be actualised. He felt that he was honoured, when he honoured the awardees.

*Report by N. Avinashilingam*

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