

# Swami Dayananda College of Arts & Science, Manjakkudi

## 9<sup>th</sup> MUSIC & DANCE FESTIVAL 2014



By the gracious blessings of Pujyasri Swamiji, the Music & Dance Festival 2014 was a grand success.

The whole event was an expression of our Madam Secretary Srimati Sheela Balaji's passion and magnanimity, that our students received the best healthy exposure of Bharatiya Culture & Tradition.

### MORNING SESSIONS

From 12<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> of February 2014, Pujyasri Swamiji's senior disciples Swamini Brahmaleenanandaji and Swamini Brahmaprakashanandaji addressed the students. They spent nearly (two hours a day) eight hours to explain the basic

principles of Sanatana Dharma and made the students understand the all-pervasive nature of God.

They were kind enough to clear the doubts of the students. Students were extremely thrilled to have someone answering all their basic questions of life. They posed so many questions and received answers for them, that we felt the need to start a Vedanta Study Circle, with the guidance of Pujyasri Swamiji's students.

In the afternoon sessions, Sri Kudavayil Balasubramaniam, the great archeologist researcher, with his brilliant slide shows educated our students on various topics like "Temples in Cambodia", "Temples in



Indonesia and Ramayana Ballet”, “Bali Hindu Temples and Ramayana Folk Dance”, “The History of Tamil Epigraphy and Historical Evidences”.

Students were awe struck to witness the monuments of Bharatiya Culture all over the world. It was a great opportunity to understand the richness of our culture and tradition.

The bhajan session by students of Swami Dayananda Nursery & Primary School, Manjakkudi was outstanding.

## WORKSHOPS

Padma Sri Ghanakanta Bora and his students conducted a two day workshop on Sattriya Dance – the Classical Dance of Assam. It was indeed a life time opportunity for our students to get initiated into the basic steps of Sattriya dance from a recipient of Padma Sri.

Yuvakala Bharati, Kalaimamani Bombay Jayashri’s students Ms Abinaya and Ms

Chitra Purnima conducted the Music Workshop.

Our school students from Manjakkudi and Semmangudi and our college students were blessed to learn a beautiful composition of Mahakavi Bharatiyar and the various Tala Nadais like Tisra, Catusra, Misra, Kanta and Sankeerana. They also learnt about Tambura.

Students were longing to see the musical genius Bombay Jayashri who visited our college on the evening of the 13<sup>th</sup> of Feb 2014. Students of Swami Dayananda Higher Secondary School sung a beautiful welcome song specially written on Smt. Jayashri. The artist was extremely pleased and she recalled how she met Pujyasri Swamiji when she was a school student. She taught the students a song, “Pujita Madhavane Gopala” which she learnt from Pujya Swamiji.

Nothing can be more inspiring to ignite and kindle the fire of music in these young minds.

## **WORKSHOP ON RELIGION, CULTURE & HUMAN VALUES**

Swami Aishwaryananda and Acharya Navneetji conducted workshops (three hours a day) for four days for our II and III year students.

Swami Aishwaryananda addressed the students on the basic concepts of Religion, Dharma and Values.

He encouraged the students to be honest, courageous and confident in their pursuits.

Acharya Navneetji spoke on Religion and Culture. He classified the religions of the world, based on their belief/non belief of life after death and rebirth. The sessions were very thought provoking and informative.

Acharyaji also spoke on Human Values, their importance and the need to follow them. He enumerated the values of honesty or truthfulness and non-violence. He was kind enough to tell our students on how to prepare themselves to face interviews. Deep knowledge of the subject and clarity of speech will help one to fair well in the interview.

He also gave the probable questions and gave them ideas to answer them in different ways.

### **EVENING PERFORMANCES**

Sri Sanjay Subramaniam, the great exponent of Carnatic music presented a musical feast. His pallandu, Akhilandeswari rakshamam in Dvijavanti and elaborate rendition of Kalyani were unforgettable.

His Adum Chidambaramo in the raga Behag, made many of the Pujya Swamiji's

disciples remember Pujya Swamiji – whose premonastic name was Natarajan, because of whom we were all at Manjakkudi on that day.

Srimati Bombay Jayashri gave a beautiful concert in her own style. Listening to this great artist is not just a concert experience; it is a form a meditation. Her Amrtuvarshini, Muruga muruga in Saveri and her brilliant Bhajare re manasa in Kalyani filled the audience with divinity.

Padma Sri Ghanakanta Bora and his disciples presented an amazing Sattriya Dance Performance. Their Vandana performance for the sloka “Santakaram Bhujagasayam” was so beautiful. Their Rajaghariya Chali (the dance in the royal court), Sita Swayamvaram and Gopi Vastrapaharanam were so brilliant. Their colorful dresses, mesmerizing female vocalist and flute will be fresh in our memories for a longtime.

Sri Jaikishore Mosali Kanti and his disciples presented an enchanting Kuchipudi performance named - Sphoorti.

Sri Jaikishore dedicated his performance to his Guru Dr. Vempatti Chinna Satyam and Our beloved Pujya Swamiji.

Jaikishore's Guru Vandanam and his solo performance for Sri Tyagaraja's composition, Ksheera Sagara Sayana was mind blowing and beyond description. The disciples performed for Dr. Balamurali Krishna's Varnam – Akara Ukara Makara Rupini – Ananda Dayini made us immerse in the grace of Sri Lalitambika of Tirumeeyachur, from whom our institution draws divine strength.