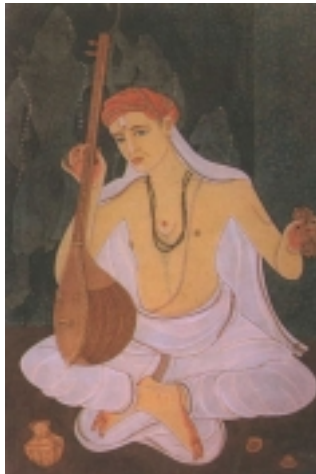
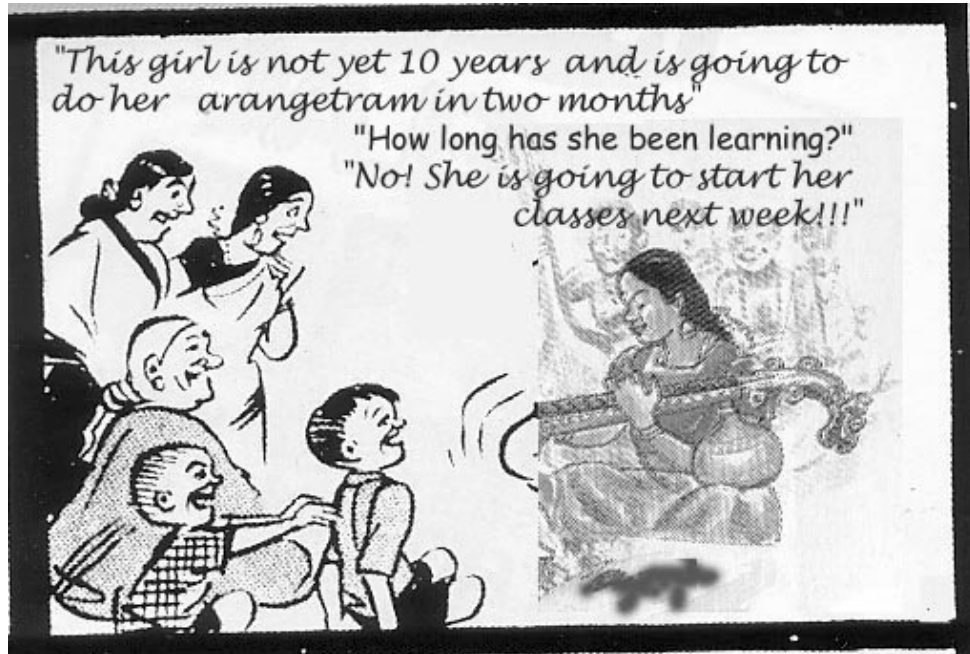


alapana newsletter



St. Thyagaraja - 1767-1847
alapana pays musical
homage to the saint
composer on 24Jan'04 at
Glass Hall, SAM.

alapana arts, alapana, in short is your home of music & dance. Carnatic music & Bharatanatyam are the main focus areas of alapana. alapana inherits a strong base in both performance & theory of music from the musical lineage of Sangita Kalanidhi Dr S.Ramanathan. Currently offering courses in Vocal music, Veena, Violin, Mridangam & Bharatanatyam, alapana student-strength is steadily growing in number & in quality. More information on alapana is available at <http://alapana.netfirms.com>

alapana hopes to bring out a Newsletter for every quarter of this year for its members, this being the first issue. Members are welcome to contribute their inputs and also offer their valuable suggestions. Please send your suggestions by email to alapana@pacific.net.sg. There is a tamil page too. We thank Mrs Shobha Vadrevu, Mrs Uma Jayaraman & Mrs Shantha Senguttuvan for their contribution in bringing out this newsletter.

As alapana is our home of music & dance, let us make it so for all our friends & music lovers.



Musical Heritage of St Thyagaraja

St. Thyagaraja had a number of worthy disciples, who were instrumental in spreading his compositions down to generations. "Namo Namo Raghavaya" in Desiya Todi was said to be his first composition and "Giripai" in Sahana his last.

Manabuchavadi Venkatasubbier was his cousin (aunt's son) & disciple too. Venkatasubbier was a good Veena player also and he had a few gems among his disciples - Maha Vaidyanatha Iyer & Patnam Subramania Iyer. Patnam Subramania Iyer was a Begada expert. Mysore Vasudevachar was taken as his disciple at the recommendation of the then Mysore Maharaja.

Patnam Subramania Iyer's illustrious disciples have set the trend of Concert music. Ramanathapuram Srinivasa Iyengar (also known as Poochi Iyengar) was Patnam's disciple and in turn, Ariyakudi Ramanuja Iyengar was the prime disciple of Poochi Iyengar.

The famous Tiger Varadachariar was a disciple of Patnam Subramania Iyer. Tiger was one of the undisputed authorities on music. Tiger was teaching at Annamalai University and later at the Kalakshetra at the instance of Smt. Rukmini Devi.

S.Ramanathan, S.V.Parthasarathy, B.V.Raman & B.V.Lakshmanan and M.D.Ramanathan were Tiger's disciples.

Dr.S.Ramanathan was the first to obtain a PhD from Wesleyan University, USA on the basis of a thesis. His PhD was on 'Music in Silappathikaram'. He was acclaimed as a great musician-cum-musicologist. Many leading singers of today happen to be Dr S.Ramanathan's disciples.

Mrs R.Banumathy is the daughter & disciple of Dr S.Ramanathan.

Mrs R.Banumathy holds a double Post-graduation in music with first rank in both. She is the recipient of President's Gold Medal at Delhi University. Being the founder member of alapana, she is also the principal teacher of alapana who teaches Veena & Vocal music.

Mrs R.Banumathy has taught many students. To say that

Ms Lim Huiling who learns Veena from Mrs R.Banumathy can trace her musical heritage to St.Thyagaraja is not an exaggeration in that sense.



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