

04 citizen's pride

>> Musical Notes

DWARKALAYA'S ANNUAL MUSIC FESTIVAL 2010

The annual music festival was marked by concerts, distribution of books to needy students and felicitation of four veterans of the world of music, arts and social work

by G. JAISHANKAR

As a part of the annual feature of the Cultural Wing of Dwarkalaya, a music festival was organised on May 15-16 for the fifth consecutive year to pay tribute to the great musician of yesteryears Papanasam Sivan at the auditorium of Delhi Tamil Sangam in R.K. Puram. This year's festival was also dedicated to the musical maestros of yesteryears G.N. Balasubramanian and D.K. Pattamal. The music festival saw performances by some top notch artistes from the city. As a mark of respect and recognition of the contribution towards music, art and social services, Dwarkalaya



started a program this year to honour stalwarts in these areas. It picked up four veterans. P.N. Krishnan, 76, who has composed, translated and written various verses over the years and has been an unassuming performer having imparted his knowledge in music to so many people over the years; Akhila Krishnan, 73, a doyen in vocal and instrumental music who has imparted knowledge to various pupil of hers over years; Kalaimamani V.S.K. Chakrapani, 63, an 'A' grade staff artist with AIR who has been instrumental in spreading the music of violin in Delhi and NCR; and Rajam Devarajan, 75, a selfless social worker whose

contribution to the upkeep of our culture and tradition has been immense were the chosen ones. Dwarkalaya took the opportunity to honour these selfless people on May 15 and 16, before the start of the concert.

The program began on May 15 by lighting of the traditional lamp by Malay Mukherjee, GM,

Indian Bank and Ashwani Kumar, DGM, PNB, New Delhi. P.N. Krishnan Akhila Krishnan were felicitated on this occasion. This followed with the president of Dwarkalaya, K. Subramanian, giving the key note address, followed with the felicitation ceremony and then the beginning of the concert. The day was started by one of the top most vocalists from Delhi, Sudha Raghuraman, giving her performance. She kept the audience spell-bound by her vocal rendition. This was followed by G. Raghuraman, the flutist who kept the audience mesmerised by his magical touch. The last of the performers was none other than G. Elangovan, the master of bhajans from Delhi whose delivery is effortless. Their accompaniments were R. Saravanan on violin, M.V. Chandershekar on mridangam and Jeetender Swain on tabla.

On May 16, the show saw a rare combination between Hindustani music and Carnatic. The start was given by Krishnan Natarajan, of Rampur Sahaswan Gharana. Krishnan, an alumni of IIM (Kozhikode) has been into music for a decade now and gives regular



performances in and around Delhi. Accompanied by Satish Kumar on tabla and Padmashri Ustad Mehmood Dhaulpuri on harmonium, he was excellent in his rendition of the Hindustani vocal. He was followed by Nagalakshmi Srinivas who is a 'A' grade artist of AIR. She has been performing in various states under the name of Vijayanagaram sisters and is now based at Delhi giving performances regularly. She was accompanied by R. Sridhar on violin, Kumbakonam Padmanabhan on mridangam and K. Ramamurthy on ghatam.

Besides the musical program a major addition for a few minutes to the agenda during the second day of the festival was the giving away of books to some deserving children identified under the "Vidya Vriksham" scheme of Dwarkalaya for this year. Dwarkalaya had started this scheme two years back and this was the third year when deserving

students from Delhi administration run schools had been identified and help was been given to them in the form of books, uniforms, school bags and the like. It started with around 10 students in the initial year and has now reached a level of 171 such students who would be benefiting under this scheme during this year. Dwarkalaya intends to increase the number of students further, considering the overwhelming response and support received from its well wishers. The vote of thanks was delivered by the secretary of Dwarkalaya, M. Vishwanathan to all artistes, the organisers, the media representatives, officers of Delhi Tamil Sangam and all other supporters and members who had come in large numbers to make this event a grand success.

(The writer is a resident of Seema Apartments, Dwarka.)