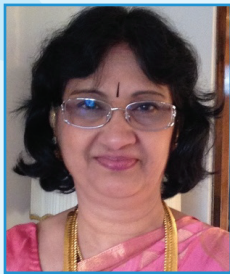




Mrs. Asha Janardhan



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I became a life member of CMANA in the late 1980s and attended the concerts by reputed artists of South India on a regular basis. I got acquainted with the committee of CMANA and enjoyed reading SANGEETHAM, the magazine which brought in lot of interesting articles of Carnatic music. In one of the issues, I wrote an article about the origin of Carnatic music which was very much appreciated by the then President, Dr. Uma Roy. Subsequently, I became a trustee in 1993 under Mr. G. Subbiah as President of CMANA. As a trustee, I helped the committee in various ways such as hosting the artists, arranging annual Great composers' day music competitions, food arrangements, hall bookings, printing and mailing etc. I undertook the responsibility of arranging Music-Marathon, which was an all-day program to promote and encourage local teachers and their talented students. I also represented CMANA at the North Jersey Music Lovers organization which celebrates Thyagaraja Aradhana annually. As the years rolled by, my interests also escalated and I enjoyed working for the community and enjoyed the company of visiting artists.

In the year 1999 I opted to continue as Vice President and in May 2001, we celebrated a three day Silver Jubilee of CMANA. Since I was the sole female representative, I undertook lot of responsibilities of arranging the routine meetings/discussions prior to the event. Silver Jubilee of CMANA was a turning point of the Organization. It was very well organized and brought in enthusiasts around USA. It featured various Artists who had toured earlier under CMANA.

In the fall of 2001, I was nominated to be the president of CMANA and I gladly undertook the responsibility. The first concert was by (late) Smt. Suguna Purushothaman, an artist of high caliber. Within few weeks after I took over, came the deadliest World Trade Center disaster which changed the visa formalities for the visiting artists and there were few cancellations of concerts. This was followed by the sudden demise of Mr. Thanabalasingham, Vice President of CMANA. Since my goal was to have more concerts I worked diligently to attain that goal with the utmost assistance and support from members of the committee, some of whom subsequently became Presidents themselves. Life membership went up considerably and so did the sale of CD's. Smt. Sudha Raghunathan set a record by singing for six and half hours. Her concert CD sales were sold at a record high which brought in lot of revenue to the organization. The series of concerts were very well attended. During my tenure, we arranged two successful tours by Mr. T. M. Krishna and Smt. Rama Ravi, and reached another milestone of significance when CMANA instituted the 'best percussionist award', which is given annually by The Percussive Arts Center, Bangalore.



CMANA



a thriving institution and a continuing journey

To sum up, I enjoyed working for CMANA and am pleased to see the progress of this esteemed organization in continuing its services to the music community. I am happy to note and confident that the current Board of CMANA is sure to enlighten us all in the years to come. I wish them success in all their future events. I have continued my passion for learning since childhood under well-known teachers and artists, such as (late) Padmabhushana Dr. R. K. Srikantan and (late) Smt. Padma Srinivasan for a number of years. I have continued as a teacher of Carnatic music in New Jersey for over 20 years. Thus my passion for music has been a continuous journey.

