



Highlights of my two stints as President of CMANA



Dr. P. Rajagopalan

Fifty five friends sending in their cheques each for \$100 drawn in my favour with absolute trust in me in response to my letter outlining the proposal for the need for an organization for perpetuation and propagation of Carnatic Music in North America. I was deeply moved by the trust they had reposed in me which led to the birth of CMANA.

- ▶ Inauguration of CMANA by Mr. C.V. Narasimhan, Under Secretary General, United Nations, New York, in April 1976. A momentous occasion indeed! A dream realized!!
- ▶ Getting elected unanimously as the first President of CMANA. A tremendous and humbling responsibility. Organizing the first Board of Trustees with Mr. L. Ramachandran as Vice President, Dr. Ragupathy Sarma as Secretary and Mr. R. Jagannathan as Treasurer.
- ▶ Trials, tribulations and excitement encountered in organizing the first nation-wide concert tour of Dr. M.L. Vasanthakumari and party with the co-sponsorship of Bharathi Society of Montreal. The tour was a phenomenal success which provided the proper exposure for CMANA in becoming a household name in a short period of time.
- ▶ Organizing two chamber concerts, one by Dr. M.L. Vasanthakumari in 1976 and the other by Tanjore S. Kalyanaraman in 1978, comprising GNB's compositions only at my residence in Garden City, NY. Persuading Sri. T.R. Mahalingam (Mali) to present his only concert in the Western Hemisphere in 1988 with T. Rukmini (Violin), Trichy Sankaran (Mrudangam) and Srimushnam Raja Rao (Kanjira).
- ▶ Getting elected for a second tenure as President in 1983 with the arduous task of strengthening CMANA with a loyal and selfless group of Officers and Trustees beginning with the first ever concert tour of the States and Canada by Sri. Lalgudi J. Jayaraman, G.J.R. Krishnan and Trichy Sankaran. Bowing to pressure from the Trustees and members to stay on for two more terms aimed at increasing the membership and putting the organization on a firm financial footing.
- ▶ Organizing the 500th anniversary of birth Saint Purandara Dasa to be celebrated on a grand scale with the unique concert of his compositions by Dr. M.L. Vasanthakumari and party.
- ▶ Honorary Patronship of CMANA. Deeply moved by this extraordinary honour conferred on me by the Trustees and members toward the end of my second tenure as President. Although I was one of the earliest of the paid Patron Members, this unique display of affection and recognition is something I have always cherished.