

Gayathri Venkataraghavan

Blessed with a sublime, melodious, shruti aligned voice that can traverse different octaves, Gayathri Venkataraghavan has created a niche for herself in the world of Carnatic Music. Her uncanny ability to deliver complex ideas and dwell in creativity, with total ease is an asset. She has honed her skill through the years making her an extremely sought after artist both in India and abroad. She belongs to the Shishya Parampara of Vidwan Sri. A.Sundharesan and Padma Bhushan Awardee Sri.P.S.Narayanaswamy.

GV also believes and performs, keeping in mind the fact that music can calm the mind and remove stress, giving happiness to the listener. As a much traveled artist, she recognizes the universality of music and its amazing ability to unite people around the world. She has held on to the classical idiom even while she enthralled audiences, in festivals like the AdLucem festival in Latvia-Riga, or the Jaffa festival in Israel, Sydney Music Festival, festivals in USA, Canada, Singapore, Newzealand, Australia, UAE etc.

She is a very versatile and engaging performer and has collaborated with many musicians from other genres. She is a recipient of many awards including the Isai Peroli, Shanmuga Sangeetha Sironmani, LifeTime Achievement award from Bharathiya Vidya Bhavan and the Bharat Ratna M.S.Subbulakshmi award from renowned Indian Organizations. She continues to collaborate with artists from other genres and conduct workshops and seminars, to meet young students and serious listeners of music.

She has been actively teaching and conducting workshops, sharing the knowledge she has imbibed, expanded on and practiced. She has created a series called - A Carnatic Journey - ACJ, on her YouTube channel. This continues to help and inspire students of this genre.

Many of her albums have been on the bestselling lists, while she continues to enthrall listeners around the globe.

Press extracts

Incessantly flowing extempore mesmerized the audience by creating a sublime aura and her intense involvement and commitment scintillated the mind commanding wholehearted and unreserved admiration.

- Dr.Nataraj. The Hindu, Mangalore Edition

With an accent on melody, the way she embroidered gamaka casements over the contours of chosen raga particularly for raga Kharaharapriya was reflective of her enviable command over Carnatic classical idiom. Be it nifty swarakalpana or fluent neraval, her dexterity came to the fore in all its brilliance.

- Hindu Visakhapatnam

One significant feature in her musical equipment was that she never resorted to contrivance of flimsy vocal modulation to feign mellowness, which some top ranking women musicians have set as a model. The dynamics of vocal depth through the exercise of her natural tonal timbre engaged her attention all the time. Her broad articulation transformed the ragas and kirtanas

into glowing edifices of expression, full of grace and suppleness. It was impossible not to be stirred by admiration for rarely these days a rasika encounters a performance by a junior artiste with such a potent combination of musical finesse, idealism, talent and interpretive competence. Her performance was a planned, conscious process of creative activity aimed at optimisation of professional expertise.

- SVK Hindu Chennai

When the performing artist comprehends the strong link between the devoutness of classical music and its manifestation in the form of kritis, and embellishes it, the output is significantly reflective. Gayathri's musical vision was testimony to this.

- G.Swaminathan Hindu Chennai