

SRI RAMA LALITHA KALA MANDIRA (Regd)
9th Main Road, Banashankari 2nd Stage, Bangalore 560 070.

www.srlkmandira.org

Mobile: 7760907939

Vibrant Vasanthotsava

Smt. Rajashree Yogananda

Sri Rama Lalitha Kala Mandira celebrated its 25th year of Spring Music Festival. It commenced on the first day of new year wherein Sri Vishnudev Namboothiri, winner of Carnatic Music Idol-2012 (conducted by Jaya TV) gave a very good start to the festivities. The Sankranti Music Festival from 2nd January 2013 had special vocal duet concerts at their premises in BSK 2nd Stage. The concert series was inaugurated by Carnatica brothers. It was followed by mother-daughter duo Lakshmi Rangarajan and Subhiksha Rangarajan. There was Saralaya sisters, Madhu Kashyap-A.K.Jagadeesh, Akkarai sisters, Kanchana Ranjani sisters, N.R.Harini-N.R.Sharada and the Sathur sisters all performing to their very best. These concerts gave a wonderful start to their sangeethotsava in February.

Just as the month of December has become synonymous with the Chennai music festive season, the Spring Music Festival conducted by Sri Rama Lalitha Kala Mandira in the first week of February has become the high light of the Bangalore cultural festivities and looked forward to by all rasikas in Bangalore.

True to the tradition, SRLKM conducted 8-day long Vasanthotsava starting from 3rd February. The inaugural concert was by Dr.Bombay Jayashri Ramnath. The Gayana Samaja auditorium in K.R. Road saw music lovers turning up in record numbers. The overflowing audience, the sound system which was specially arranged for the festival by SRLKM, and the ambience cast a spell and Bombay Jayashri gave an outstanding performance very much to the delight of the rasikas. Veteran artiste, senior musician Smt.Neela Ramgopal gave a scholarly concert the following day and was very much appreciated by all. The third day of the concert series was that of T.M.Krishna who has become very popular with the younger generation. Everyone were seen listening and enjoying to his creative and innovative concert. Fourth day of the series belonged to Sanjay Subrahmanian who sang with lot of verve and gusto. S.Shankar gave a soulful concert the following day. Friday, 8th February saw young upcoming artiste Ramakrishnan Murthy give a superb concert. His will be a name to reckon with in future. Next day saw Smt.Vishaka Hari give a musical discourse on "Srirangam Vaibhavam". As usual, the hall in Gayana samaja was overcrowded and there was no vacant place in the hall or on the stage. She mesmerized everyone with her deep understanding and mastery over the subject and with her ringing voice.

Sunday the 10th February was the culmination of the 8-day music festival. SRLKM, in memory of its founder G.Vedanta Iyengar conferred the title "Sangeetha Vedanta Dhureene" to Dr. Sudha Raghunathan with a cash award of one lakh along with a citation and a silver medal. Smt. Vyjayanthi Kashi, chairperson, Karnataka Sangeetha Nritya Academy conferred the award and Sri.Thiru Swamiji, Director, Sri Krishna Kalakshetra, ISCKON, Bangalore, presided over the function along with Smt.Neela Ramgopal who was the guest of honour. This was followed by Sudha Raghunathan's mellifluous music concert. As it was the Purandara Dasa Aradhana day, Smt.Sudha chose some deveranamas and sang it with devotion. It was apt as it was her guru Smt.MLV Amma who made the

Purandaradasa keertanas very popular. The last day also saw Sri.S.M.Krishna, ex Chief Minister of Karnataka and former minister for external affairs, Govt. of India present at Sudha's concert. The organizers were delighted by his arrival and welcomed him warmly. He was seen enjoying the concert and later presented a bouquet to Smt.Sudha. He also presented mementoes to all the accompanying artists on behalf of SRLKM.

Special mention must be made of all the accompanying artists on all the days of the festival for having made the concerts very enjoyable. It must be appreciated that the secretary of SRLKM G.V.KrishnaPrasad had painstakingly gone over all the minute details to ensure the success of vasanthotsava.