

RANJANI SIVAKUMAR



ABOUT ME

I started learning music at the age of 6, from **Smt.Seetha Narayanan** and continued to do so while studying engineering at Vellore Institute of Technology.

It was during my posting at Hyderabad with Tata Consultancy Services that I had the good fortune of coming under the tutelage of **Late Sri N.S.Srinivasan**. He honed my skills and taught me many rare compositions.

My natural love for Tamil compositions and Viruttams urged me approach **Late Sri Sethalapati Balasubramaniam** who shared his knowledge without any reservations.

Currently, I am learning from Isai Peroli **Dr.Smt.Pantula Rama**, having in the meanwhile completed my Master's Degree in Music from Madras University.

In 2006, I resigned from my job with TCS to pursue music full time.

I believe that learning and teaching are two sides of the same coin and therefore have worked in developing the talents of many aspiring musicians through face-to-face and technology driven modes.

My father Sri S Sivakumar, retired from the Indian Bank, now writes music reviews for The Hindu and a few other papers.

My mother Smt.Asha, also retired from the Indian Bank, is a student of Coimbatore Sri.Sivaraman (Kannan Brothers).

Madhukar, my younger brother is a research scholar in Physics at Raman Research Institute.

I am married to Venkat SiddaReddy who is a Writer/Director in the Telugu Film Industry.

I am currently interested in expanding my network of rasikas, peers, students, media and organizations.

Breadth adds as much zest to life as does depth

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EXPERIENCE

TAMILNADU

Music Academy, Charsur, Kartik Fine Arts, Bramha Gana Sabha, Kalakshetra, Parathasarathy Swami Sabha, Ramanakendra, Ramana Ashram, Madhuradwani, Parampara Trust, Sruti Sri Pattabhiraman Memorial Concert, Narada Gana Sabha, Hamsavinodini Sarvani Sangeetha Sabha, SAFE, Mudhra Fine arts, Kalakruthi, Chennai Fine Arts, Ramani's Academy of Flute, Hamsadhwani, Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam, Tapovan, Karpagam Gardens, Krishna Gana Sabha, Tamizh Iyal Isai Nataka Mandram concerts at Madurai, Pollachi, Karur and Chennai

ANDHRA PRADESH

Nadaneerajanam (Tirupati), Visakha Dance and Music Academy, Sangita Vidwat Sabha (Kakinada), Gayatri Mahila Sabha (Guntur), Tyagaraja Bhavanam (Bheemavaram), Tyagaraja Smaranotsava Sabha (Nellore), Bhadrachalam Ramadasu Jayanti Concert, Sharada Cultural Trust, Kalasagaram, Vijayanagar Fine Arts, Tyagaraja Gana Sabha, NadaBharati, Skandagiri Temple, Vignan Samiti, Sujanaranjani, Tarang, Kartikeya Gana Sabha

UNITED KINGDOM and USA

Birmingham Temple, Sangeetha School of Music, Cleveland Tyagaraja Aradhana

KERALA

Brehath Sangeetolsavam, Chembai Festival

AWARDS & ACCOLADES

- Recipient of CCRT, Govt. of India, Junior(1994) and Senior(2006) Scholarship
- Awards and prizes from All India Radio and various sabhas
- Endowment Concert at Madras Music Academy, 2015
- Selected by Iyal Isai Nataka Manram, for sponsored music concerts
- Sharada Cultural Trust Tambura Prize and Kalasagaram Tambura Prize
- "Upcoming Vocalist" awarded by Vishaka Music and Dance Academy
- B-High Graded artiste, in All India Radio, Chennai
- Finalist for MS Subbulakshmi award, instituted by Bhramara Trust, Mysore

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

- Voice for the film Platform no 5, which won the Best Livelihood Film award at CMS Vatavaran, was nominated to many prestigious film festivals.
- Sustaining Sampradaya, Cleveland Aradhana festival, 2016.
- Doordarshan show, "Kurai Onrum Illai" on Smt. MS Subbulakshmi.
- BBC documentary for Channel Four on Carnatic Music
- Interviewed by Richard Skinner for BBC Radio Berkshire, UK.
- Classical concert for CEO of Apple Inc Tim Cook, 2016.
- Funding to make videos to welcome a new audience to Carnatic Music.

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Reviews of concerts offer constructive feedback on the acceptability of the artist's offering. I have been blessed with favourable comments from reviewers.

".....She at once became the connoisseurs delight... Thodi offers infinite scope and the entire gamut came before us through her" Maduram, A connoisseur's delight!

Trinity Mirror (July 10, 2012)

"A remarkably patient delivery in the exposition of ragas and control over her voice were characteristics to her singing.....Ranjani's considerable potential came to light particularly in the exposition of raga Kambodi. Singing at a leisurely and controlled pace, she could take her audience on a quiet journey somewhere in the afternoon."

**by Garimella Subramaniam,
A Judicious assortment of Kritis,
The Hindu (January 3, 2014)**

*"..made an impressive beginning with Abhogi varnam Tanjam endrale....with a soft and pliable voice she could deliver briga-filled sangatis and swara phrases with ease" by B Ramadevi,
Kaleidoscope of Art Forms
The Hindu (June 29, 2012)*

"Good performance is probably the best tribute an artiste can pay a Guru....Ranjani is an artiste of no mean ability.....has a strong penchant for classical musicher strong achievements are her strict adherence to 'sruti' and immaculate accuracy in 'laya'. In her presentation, the sublime gave place to the delightful, the dignified to the graceful and the grandeur to the charm of elegance"

**B.R.C Iyengar
The Hindu (Sep 24, 2004)**

"Ranjani's raga alapana showcased her subtle style...With her full understanding of when and where to control her voice, brought out the aesthetics the raga with melody filled phrases"

**by Uma K,
Soulful Serenades,
The Hindu (Dec 14, 2012)**

EXCERPTS FROM REVIEWS

"Endowed with a pliable voice that can traverse in the chosen octave with ease, she explored the both lyrical and musical aspects of the compositions taken up with gusto. A sense of emotional involvement in rendition of the kritis was transparent in her performance.....That she has an eye for detail was evident in her raga essays, replete with alluring flashes of succinct and pithy gamakas.....Her ability to produce soothing effect interlacing notes in melody made her singing pleasant in a lively presentation. She seems to revel in weaving elegant and soft music that brings out the subtle lyrical and musical nuances to the fore and gently thrust its import that holds the audience captive."

**by Velcheti Subrahmanyam,
titled An Elegant Rendition,
The Hindu (June 14, 2013)**