



FIFTEENTH YEAR ANNUAL REPORT

Chairman's report



It enthralls me to look back at the successful journey of Chennai Fine Arts over the past fifteen years. The year began with the musical offering to Lord Sri Rama - the Dasarathi Sangeethotsavam at Sri Krishna Mandiram. The highlight of the program was performance by little kids who sang the glories of the god. CFA had three co-sponsored programs this year. The first one was by the Mayavaram 'Fiddle' Govindaraja Pillai, which sponsored Nagasvarams to deserving students of music. The next was Ganakalanidhi Vinjamuri Varadaraja Iyengar Memorial Trust which sponsored a concert in his memory. The trust was also magnanimous to sponsor a cash award to one of the winners of the Mangala Isai Music Competition which was organised later in the year. Vipanchee, another organisation in the city came forward to co-sponsor a concert in memory of its founder Kalaimamani Dr Saraswati. These events showcased the prowess of Chennai Fine Arts in organising quality events from time to time.

The CFA academy imparting training in classical music is functioning in the heart of the city at Adyar and also at the outskirts of Chennai with about sixty students. The Government's support by means of Repertory Grant is also a pillar of support to the academy. The students took part in various competitions and also won prizes. They performed during the Rama Navami and Krishna Jayanthi festivals.

Only one 'Shukravaara Sangitam' concert was organised this year in which Smt. Vasudha Ravi performed. The annual summer workshop was held at Puducherry under the able guidance of Kalaimamani S Gopakumar, who imparted training to students in playing the percussion instruments Mrdangam and Arumukhanam and also in certain soft skills like communicative English, Yoga and Public speaking.

During Navaratri, concerts were held at CFA's administrative office. On one of the days Vidushi Shyamala Venkateswaran performed the Navavarana Krtis of Muthuswami Deekshitar. In the month of November two remarkable events took place in CFA. One was the first ever Mangala Isai Music Competition in which as many as forty students from various districts of Tamil Nadu participated. The other event was the release of a monograph titled Dhanam 150 commemorating the 150th Birth Anniversary of Veena Dhanammal.

The Annual Music Festival was held for ten days during the famous December season in Chennai. Three of the concerts were recorded and broadcast by All India Radio. Violin maestro VV Subrahmanyam was presented the GNI Award for excellence and the winners of Mangala Isai Music Competition were presented the Guru Chitravina Narasimhan Merit Scholarship on the inaugural of the music festival.

The final day of the year was celebrated as Sruti Pattabhiraaman day and a concert in association with The Sruti Magazine was organised. The GNI Music Festival was held on 25th January, in which Sandeep Narayanan performed. The final concert of the year was performed by Chitravina Ganesh - which was the annual Visessa Vadyanubhava concert. Thus the year went by with a number of activities. Looking forward to the forthcoming year with enthusiasm!



Acknowledgement

My pranams to my guru Shri. Chitravina Narasimhan. It is my pleasure to thank Prof. TN Krishnan, Chitravina N Ravikiran, Haridwaramangalam A.K. Palanivel, R Muthukumar, the Tamil Nadu Iyal Isai Nataka Mandram and the State Academy Directorate of Arts & Culture, Tamil Nadu for their continuous support to the trust in its activities.

Auditor Mr. Ashwin Sridhaaran and our Bankers, Bank of India, Adyar Branch need a special acknowledgement for their services for the smooth functioning of the trust.

A note of appreciation to all the faculties for skillfully training the students of CFA Academy. I also thank Kalaimamani S Gopakumar for his services at Puducherry.

The trust places its appreciation to all the sponsors and donors. Thanks are also due to the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, New Delhi for extending financial assistance to carry out the object of the trust more effectively and efficiently. All the media friends including Trinity Mirror, Makkal Kural, the New Indian Express, The Hindu, Dinamani, Dinamalar, Online Times, Aboorva Ragam, and Sruti Magazine are also thanked profusely for their tremendous support.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees,

P N Muralidharan, Chairman
Chennai-20.

**Constitution****Board of Trustees**

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R Muthukumar	Editor in-chief, Trinity Mirror

CFA Academy Faculty

S Nithyasree	Principal / Veena Guru
'Chitravina' P Ganesh	Vocal & Chitravina Artiste
A S Divya	Vocal Artiste
A G Murugan	Tavil Artiste
B Mani	Tavil Artiste
T Venkatesan	Nagaswaram Artiste
S Sivasubramanian	Mrdangam Artiste
R Rajesh	Mrdangam Artiste



ACTIVITIES OF THE TRUST DURING THE YEAR



FESTIVALS

Dasarathi Sangeethotsavam
Sarathy Sangeethotsavam
Navaratri
Annual Music Festival



OTHER SPECIAL EVENTS

Birth Anniversaries of Mayavaram Govindaraja Pillai, Vinjamuri Varadaraja Iyengar
Dr Saraswati, Sruti Pattabhiraman & Gotuvadyam Narayana Iyengar
Visesha Vadyanubhava



CFA ACADEMY

Activities
Faculty & Students
Summre Workshop
Mangala Isai Music Competition



PUBLICATION

Dhanam 150



AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

GOTUVADYAM NARAYANA IYENGAR AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE
GURU CHITRAVINA NARASIMHAN MERIT SCHOLARSHIP



SOCIAL ACTIVITIES



Festivals

DASARATHI SANGEETHOTSAVAM



The year began with Dasarathi Sangeethotsavam concerts commemorating the Rama Navami mahotsavam at Sri Krishna Mandiram in Thiruvannamiyur. There were ten concerts in the festival including a flute and Veena recital. Little kids learning music from S Nithyasree also performed in the festival and were appreciated by the audience.



Sahana Samraj



Madurai GS Mani



S Srinivasan



Students of S Nithyasree



Thoppur Sairam



Mala Chandrasekar



Sweta Balasubramaniam



Sowmya Acharya



Srivatsan



Koushik



Gayathri



Inaugural Address

SARATHY SANGEETHOTSAVAM



In August 2017, three days were dedicated for concerts on the occasion of Sri Krishna Jayanthi. Titled as 'Sarathy Sangeethotsavam', little kids, Calcutta Srividya and Thanmayee Krishnamurthy performed in this festival. Chitravina Narasimhan inaugurated and presented certificates to the kids who performed.



NAVARATRI

Concerts were organised at CFA's administrative office in Adyar during Navaratri. Senior Vidushi Smt. Shyamala Venkateswaran performed Muthuswami Dikshitar's Navavarnams on one of the days. There were also concerts by Keyboard duo Arjun & Narayanan, Anandhi Sivakumar, Nithyasree (Veena), VV Surya (Mandolin) and Baradwaj Raman (Veena).



Keyboard Duo



Anandi Sivakumar



Shyamala Venkateswaran



S Nithyasree

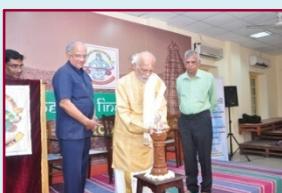


Baradwaj Raman



VV Surya

ANNUAL MUSIC FESTIVAL – Supported by Ministry of Culture, Government of India





The Annual Music Festival of Chennai Fine Arts began on Thursday, 21st December 2017 at Srinivasa Sastri Hall, Luz. Renowned violinist Prof. V.V. Subramanyam was honoured with the Gotuvadyam Narayana Iyengar Award for Excellence comprising Rupees One lakh cash and a gold medal. Shri. R. Chakrapani of SICA, Hyderabad was presented a 'Lifetime Achievement Award' for his contributions to fine arts. Shri. T.S. Krishnamurthy, Former Chief Election Commissioner of India and Vidwan Madurai G.S. Mani were the guests of honour. The inaugural concert was a vocal recital by 'Akkarai Sisters' Subhalakshmi & Sornalatha. There were two concerts everyday between 5 to 8.30 p.m. The senior musicians who performed in the festival are, Prof. T.N. Krishnan, Dr. M.Chandrasekaran, AKC Natarajan, Prof. V.V. Subramanyam, Maharajapuram Ramachandran, Dr Jayanthi Kumaresh, S R Mahadeva Sarma, Gayathri Girish, Shertalai Renganatha Sarma and Kunnakudi Balamuralikrishna. The festival was supported by Ministry of Culture, Government of India, New Delhi. All the concerts were open to public.



Vishal Sapuram



Kunnakudi
Balamuralikrishna



Audience



Dr M Chandrasekaran &
G Bharati



Ananya Ashok



Dr Jayanthi Kumaresh



Ananthanarayanan



Gayathri Girish



Audience



VV surya



SR Mahadeva Sarma & SR
Rajasree



Deepa & Divya



Shertalai Renganatha
Sarma



Duddu Radhika



Prof TN Krishnan & Sriram
Krishnan



Audience



Bangalore Brothers



AKC Natarajan



Arjun Sambasivan &
Narayanan



Maharajapuram
Ramachandran



Aravind Soundararajan



Audience



VV Subramanyam & VVS
Murari



Audience

OTHER SPECIAL EVENTS

SHUKRAVAARA SANGITAM



Only one concert was organised in this year's Shukravaara Sangitam. It was performed by Smt. Vasudha Ravi accompanied by Tirumarugal Dinesh Kumar on the Violin and Sumesh Narayanan on the Mrdangam.



BIRTH ANNIVERSARIES

The following birth anniversary concerts were organised during the year

	<p>12.05.2017 - Mayavaram 'Fiddle' Govindaraja Pillai Concert by Violin duo Lalitha & Nandini with KH Vineeth (Mrdangam) & Sunil Kumar (Kanjira)</p>
	<p>01.07.2017 - Vinjamuri Varadaraja Iyengar Concert by Bharat Sundar with Nagai Sriram (Violin), Poongulam Subramaniam (Mrdangam) & Chandrasekara Sharma (Ghatam)</p>
	<p>15.07.2017 - Kalaimamani Dr Saraswati Concert by JA Jayanth (Flute) with BU Ganeshprasad (Violin), Tanjavur Murugaboopathy (Mrdangam) & KV Gopalakrishnan - Kanjira</p>
	<p>31.12.2017 - Sruti Pattabhiraman Concerts by Aditya Prakash & Navaneeth Venkatesan</p>
	<p>25.01.2018 - Gotuvadyam Narayana Iyengar Concert by Sandeep Narayan with VVS Murari (Violin), Arjun Ganesh (Mrdangam) & Anirudh Athreya (Kanjira)</p>

WORKSHOP



A workshop on playing Mrdangam and Arumukhanam was organised at Puducherry under the guidance of Kalaimamani S Gopakumar. Fifteen students participated in this workshop in which soft skills such as communicative English, Yoga and public speaking were also taught. It is remarkable to note that a few students who participated in this workshop on earlier occasions have won the Bala Ratna award from the President of India.



MANGALA ISAI MUSIC COMPETITION



Chennai Fine Arts is organised a music competition for the students of Tavil and Nagaswaram on 18th November 2017. About forty students from various districts of Tamil Nadu participated in the competition. The students were given breakfast and lunch and also conveyance fee of Rupees Five Hundred each. The details of first three prizes in each category (Tavil and Nagaswaram) are as under:

Category	1 st Prize	2 nd Prize	3 rd Prize
Nagaswaram	Rs. 2,500/- per month scholarship for an year	Rs. 10,000/-	Rs. 5,000/-
Tavil	Rs. 2,500/- per month scholarship for an year	Rs. 10,000/-	Rs. 5,000/-

Padmasri Awardee Haridwaramangalam Dr AK Palanivel was the judge for the competition. The winners performed on the inaugural of the Annual Music Festival in December. They were also given prizes on that day.

Visesha Vadyanubhava



A Visesha Vadyanubhava concert was organised on 25th February 2018 in which 'Chitravina' P Ganesh, a top ranking chitravina artist performed accompanied by VV Srinivasa Rao on the Violin, B Sivaraman on the Mrdangam and Shreesundarkumar on the Kanjira.

**Publication - Dhanam 150**

Another important event that took place in November 2017 was the release of a monograph titled Dhanam 150. This was authored by Dr B.M. Sundaram and Chitravina N Ravikiran. The monograph was released to mark the 150th Birth Anniversary of Veena Dhanammal who was an inimitable performer and the one who created an outstanding bani in Carnatic music. Her entire family consisted of prominent musicians and the sishyas from her school were also commendable performers. The prodigal performer Chitravina Ravikiran happens to be one among them. The publication was co-sponsored by Ranga Mandira's TS Parthasarathy endowment. Ms Leela Samson presided over the function and received the first copy. The concert of the day was performed by Dr Nirmala Sundararajan and it featured a number of padams and javalis.

**CFA Academy**

CFA Academy imparts eminent training in Carnatic music. The younger generation is given an exposure to our classical art forms and a keen interest is developed in them. The academy functions at various places in Chennai, Puducherry and Tiruvallur. Online classes are also conducted for students residing in other parts of the country and abroad. Training is provided under the categories of Vocal, Chitravina, Veena, Nagaswaram, Taval, Mrudangam and Arumukhanam.

Faculty profile

S. Nithyasree	Principal & Veena Guru
Chitravina P. Ganesh	Chitravina & Vocal Artiste
T Venkatesan	Nagaswaram Artiste
B Mani	Taval Artiste
A G Murugan	Taval Artiste
A S Divya	Vocal Artiste
R Rajesh	Mrdangam Artiste
S Sivasubramanian	Mrdangam Artiste

Area-wise student strength for the academic year 2017-18

Chennai, Tamilnadu	45
Puducherry, Union Territory of India	20
TOTAL	65



CFA Online

Chennai fine arts has remarkable presence online. The activities of the trust are regularly uploaded in its website www.chennaifinearts.com. The trust is also active in the social media. The photographs of all the performances are available at the facebook link <https://www.facebook.com/Chennaifinearts>. CFA also started a YouTube channel recently and it can be viewed in the name of Chennai Fine Arts. (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmZMfaQlCrZenZciB7GYUaQ>).

Social Activities

CFA is coaching carnatic music to 30 students free of cost, under the traditional GURUKULAM system in the outskirts of Chennai city. It has been donating musical instruments like Violin, Veena, Mrudangam and so on to the deserving students every year. In the past ten years nearly 30 students have been benefitted by this contribution. Every year annadhanam is organized to provide food to the needy students. The trust is also supporting with financial assistance, the economically backward school-going children towards payment of their fees and continues the same till they complete their school final, for the past five years.

Chennai Fine Arts aims to reach wider audience and cater to the needs of more deserving people. The trust will continue its activities enthusiastically as ever with support from patrons, audience and the artists.