



## TWENTY FIRST YEAR ANNUAL REPORT

### Chairman's report

Chennai Fine Arts has completed twenty-one years successfully. The organization continues to grow in stature by organizing various events throughout the year. The special highlight of this year was the Annual Music Festival in which more than fifty concerts were organized continuously for the first time. The growth of the organization has been possible with abundant blessings from Almighty, support of artists, concert venues, audience and medial. Chennai Fine Arts whole-heartedly acknowledges all.

The first event of the year was Five-day Dasarathy Sangeetotsavam organised between 1 and 5 April 2023 at Sri Krishna Mandiram, Thiruvanmiyur, Chennai. The festival was inaugurated by Shri G Srinivasaraghavan, Global President, myTVS. There were two concerts everyday where the first one was performed by children around ten years of age, who are learning music from renowned institutions and gurus in the city. The second concert was by upcoming musicians. The festival was organized on the occasion of Sri Rama Navami.

Tyagaraja Award was the next event. CFA's Tyāgarāja Award was presented in coincidence with 256<sup>th</sup> Jayanthi of the Saint composer of Carnatic Music, Sadguru Tyagaraja. The award titled "Nādabrahmam Sadguru Sri Tyāgarāja Swāmi Puraskār" was presented to 'Vaggeyakkārā' Madurai Shri G S Mani on Friday, 28th April 2023, at Sri Rathnagireeswarar Temple, Besant Nagar, Chennai.

Palghat Mani Iyer Award was presented to Vidvan Neyveli R Narayanan at Srinivasa Sastri Hall, Luz, Chennai on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2023 commemorating the 111<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of the mrdangam legend Palghat Mani Iyer.

On Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023, Gayaka Sikhamani Harikesanallur Dr. L Muthaiah Bhagavatar's compositions were presented by Disciples of Smt. Bhavadharani Anatharaman in an exclusive Vaggeyakkara Vaibhavam program organised at Vani Mahal, T.Nagar. The 108<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary



of Dr. Vinjamuri Varadaraja Iyengar was celebrated on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at Srinivasa Sastri Hall with concert by Bangalore Brothers Hariharan and Ashok. The next festival was Sarathy Sangeethotsavam organised from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> August 2023. This festival was to celebrate Sri Krishna Jayanthi or Janmashtami, which is celebrated nationwide in India. This festival had three concerts by senior musicians.

The Navaratri concerts were organised from 15<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2023 at the administrative office of Chennai Fine Arts at Adyar. Every year during Dusserah musicians are invited to perform for prosperity of the organisation seeking divine blessings. The concerts were streamed live in Facebook. Chennai Fine Arts celebrated the Birth Centenary of Vidvan Shri Tanjavur M Thiagarajan on 14th December, 2023, with a concert by his disciple Smt. Sangeetha Ramprasad at Gokhale Sastri Hall in Luz, Mylapore.

The grand event of the year 2023 was the Annual Music Festival held between 21<sup>st</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023. There were 53 concerts in this festival featuring more than 200 artists including vocalists, vainikas, flutists, violinists, mrdangists, tavil artists, ghatam and kanjira vidwans. The festival was organised in a grand manner at Srinivasa Sastri Hall in Luz, Chennai. The Member Secretary of Tamil Nadu Iyal Isai Nataka Mandram inaugurated the festival and presented the award comprising one lakh cash prize and a gold medal to Yella Venkateswara Rao, a senior mridangam artist.

Vasanth Panchami, celebrating the jayanthi of Goddess Saraswati, the presiding deity of wisdom and knowledge was celebrated with a Veena recital by Shri. SP Ramh and Smt. Pavithra Mahesh.

### **Acknowledgement**

I offer my respects to my guru Shri. Chitravina Narasimhan. I thank all members of our advisory board and executive committee. I also acknowledge the constant support offered by the print and online media. I thank our auditor Mr. Ashwin Sridhaaran and our Bankers, Bank of India and Canara Bank, Adyar Branch 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. My sincere thanks 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.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees,

P N Muralidharan, Chairman  
Chennai-20.

### Constitution

#### Board of Trustees

P N Muralidharan B.Sc., FCA	Founder and Managing Trustee
S Nithyasree	Secretary
P S Aravamudhan	Trustee

#### CFA Academy Faculty

Dr. S Nithyasree	Principal / Veena Guru
A S Divya	Vocal Artiste
Charukesi	Vocal Artiste
Shreya Anil	Violin Artiste
Tiruneermalai B Mani	Tavil Artiste
P Innisaivendhan	Arumukhanam Artiste
S Raghuraman	Arumukhanam Artiste
S Sivasubramanian	Mridangam Artiste
R Rajesh	Mridangam Artiste
R Ramasubramanian	Mridangam Artiste



## ACTIVITIES OF THE TRUST DURING THE YEAR 2023-2024





## Festivals

### Dasarathi Sangeethotsavam



Chennai Fine Art's eleventh year Dasarathy Sangeethotsavam featured ten concerts. The festival was inaugurated by myTVS Global President Shri Srinivasa Raghavan. Vidwan Thiruvaidaimarudur Radhakrishnan and Shri Kedarnath of Kedaram Trust participated in the inauguration. All the five days students who are learning from different Gurus showcased their talent which was welcomed by all. CFA believes that Carnatic music is a beautiful and unique form of music which helps the learner in focus and concentration, boosts their memory power, improves their coordination, enhances their creativity and imagination and it can also be an excellent way for children to connect with their cultural heritage. Other guests of honour for rest of the days were Shri R Srinivasan, Secretary & Shri S V Mani, Executive Member of Sri Thyaga Bramha Gana Sabha, Vani Mahal, Smt. Shantha Krishnamurthy, Founder Member, Sri Krishna Mandiram, Thiruvanmiyur and Vaggeyakkara Shri Karur Narayanan (Nimalan).



## Sarathy Sangeethotsavam



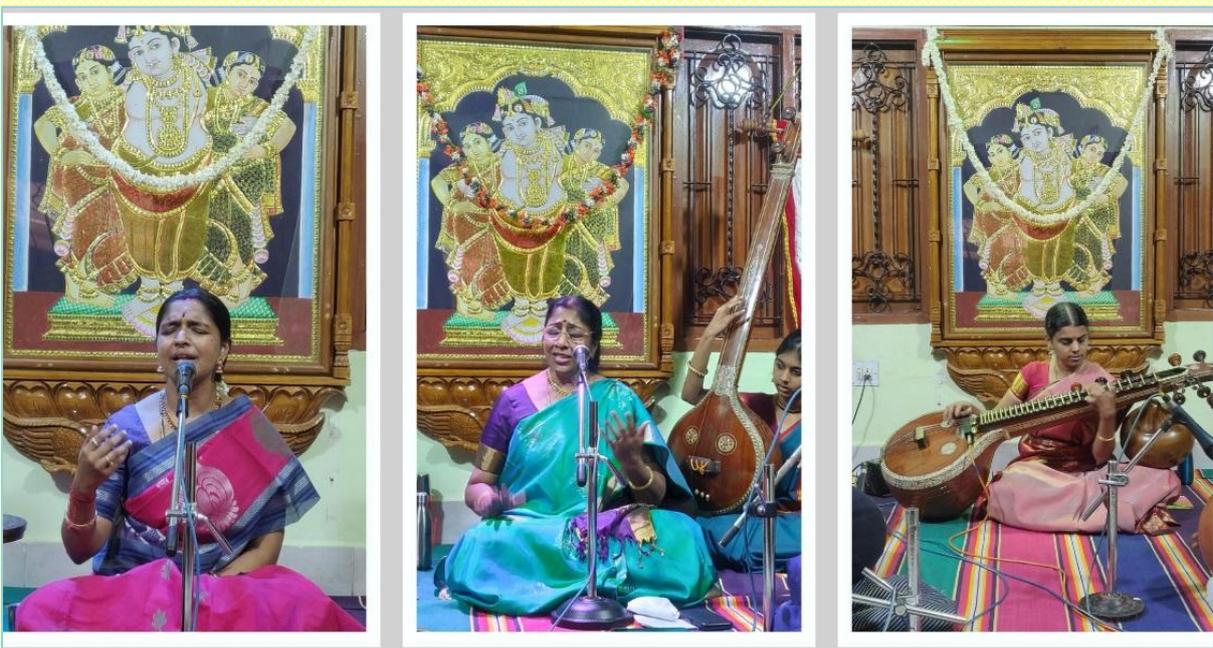
Sarathy Sangeethotsavam celebrating Sri Krishna Jayanthi was organised from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> September at Sri Krishna Mandiram at Thiruvanmiyur, Chennai. There were concerts by Easwaran Bhattathiri (Vocal), Smt. Meera Sivaramakrishnan and Dr. Usha Rajagopalan (Violin duet) and Smt. Niranjana Srinivasan (Vocal).

## Sobhakrit Dusserah Utsav

The next event was Sobhakrit Dussehra Utsav 2023. Eleven concerts were organized on ten days to celebrate the famous Navaratri festival. All concerts were be streamed live through Chennai Fine Arts' Facebook page daily from 11.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. The concerts were held at the



administrative office of CFA and many senior musicians performed on the occasion.





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



The Annual Music Festival was organized for eleven days from 21st to 30th December 2023. This is a major event for Chennai Fine Arts and this year, more than fifty concerts were organized during the eleven day festival. The concerts were held at Srinivasa Sastri Hall in Mylapore, at the heart of the city. A few other concert venues nearby made it convenient for the audience to attend most of the concerts during the famous December season. The festival was inaugurated by Tmt. Vijaya Thayanban, Member Secretary of the State Government body Tamil Nadu Iyal Isai Nataka Mandram. Padmavibhushan Awardee, Mridanga vidwan Umayalpuram Dr. K. Sivaraman presided over the function. Chennai Fine Arts' highest award 'Gotuvadyam Narayana Iyengar Award for Excellence' comprising One Lakh cash and a gold medal was presented to Mridanga vidwan Yella Venkateshwara Rao. He was also conferred the title



‘Digvijaya Nada Vani’. The awardee performed the inaugural concert which was presented by Hyderabad Brothers Seshachari and Raghavachari.







The concerts were organized from 9.30-11.30 a.m., 1.15-2.15 p.m., 2.30-4.00 p.m., 4.15-6.15 p.m. and 6.30-9.00 p.m. Veterans performed in the morning, youngsters in the afternoon and evening and top-ranking musicians performed the night concerts. All concerts were well received by the public. The annual music festival was supported by **Ministry of Culture, Government of India, New Delhi** with financial grant under the Cultural Functions grant scheme. CFA sincerely acknowledges the Government's initiative in supporting cultural organizations. None of the concerts were ticketed and hence drew a sizeable audience.



All the concerts were video recorded and excerpts uploaded in the YouTube channel of Chennai Fine Arts. The viewership increased multifold and many positive comments were received from the viewers. Chennai Fine Arts continues to grow in stature in the eyes of the music enthusiasts and ardent rasikas.



## Awards

### Tyagaraja Award



256<sup>th</sup> Jayanthi of Sadguru Sri Tyagaraja Swami was celebrated by Chennai Fine Arts differently by instituting a new award, first time in the history Carnatic music, in the name of Saint Tyagaraja Swami titled as “Naadabrahmam Sadguru Sri Tyagaraja Swami Puraskar”. This award was presented to veteran Carnatic musician and Vaggeyakkara Madurai Shri G S Mani on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at Sri Rathnagiriswara temple in Besant Nagar, Chennai. The award comprised of Shawl, Citation, Cash and Tyagaraja's portrait. Veteran Musicologist, Vaggeyakkara Dr. B M Sundaram and Taval maestro Haridwaramangalam Dr. A.K.Palanivel presided over the function. Shri G S Mani in his acceptance speech explained the power of Raama Naamaa that Tyagaraja revealed in many of his compositions and eventually that was the message that he wanted to convey to us through his kritis.



## Palghat Mani Iyer Puraskar

Palghat Mani Iyer was one of the most revered Mridanga Vidwans of Carnatic music. His family has instituted an award in his honour under the auspices of Chennai Fine Arts. This award is presented to a percussion instrumentalist every year. This year's award was presented to Vidwan Neyveli Narayanan, one of the senior mridanga vidwans in the present times. Dr. S. Sowmya, Vice Chancellor of the Tamil Nadu Dr. J Jayalalitha Music and Fine Arts University presided over the function and presented the award. Mani Iyer's Grandson Palghat Dr. R. Ramprasad, who also happens to be a senior vocalist in the Carnatic music arena, felicitated the awardee. The award function was followed by Dr. Sowmya's vocal recital accompanied by Dr. M. Narmada on the Violin, the awardee Neyveli Narayanan on the Mridangam and Anirudh Athreya on Kanjira. The event marking the 111<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of Mani Iyer was organized on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at Srinivasa Sastri Hall. Many vidwans were present in the audience.





### Other Special Events

#### Vaggeyakkara Vaibhavam



On Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023, Gayaka Sikhamani Harikesanallur Dr. L Muthaiah Bhagavatar's compositions were presented by Disciples of Smt. Bhavadharani Anatharaman in an exclusive Vaggeyakkara Vaibhavam program organised at Vani Mahal, T.Nagar.

#### Concert in memory of Vinjamuri Dr. Varadaraja Iyengar



The next event of the year was celebration of 108<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ganakalanidhi Dr. Vinjamuri Varadaraja Iyengar, in association with the Ganakalanidhi Vinjamuri Varadaraja Iyengar Memorial Trust. his family trust. Bangalore Brothers MB Hariharan and K Ashok performed a special concert on the occasion on 15<sup>th</sup>

July 2023 at Srinivasa Sastri Hall. They were accompanied by VL Kumar on Violin, Aravind Ranganathan on Mridangam and Nerkunam Dr. Shankar on Kanjira.

#### TMT Birth Anniversary

The Birth Centenary of one of the outstanding musicians of the past generation, vidwan TM Tyagarajan was celebrated by Chennai Fine Arts with a concert by his disciple Smt. Sangeetha Ramprasad (vocal) accompanied by Smt. Sudha Iyer on the Violin, Calcutta TK Karthik on Mridangam and Madipakkam Murali





on the Ghatam. The concert was on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at Gokhale Sastri Hall, Mylapore. The artist presented many rare compositions composed, tuned or swaras set by TMT.

### Vasant Panchami Veenotsavam



Vasant Panchami Veenotsavam celebrating the Jayanthi of Goddess Saraswati, the presiding deity of knowledge, wisdom and fine arts was celebrated on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2024. The concert was by SP Ramh & Pavithra Mahesh with K R Ganesh & Adambakkam Shankar at Music Hall,

Vani Mahal, T.Nagar, Chennai. This was the final event of the year for Chennai Fine Arts.

### CFA Academy



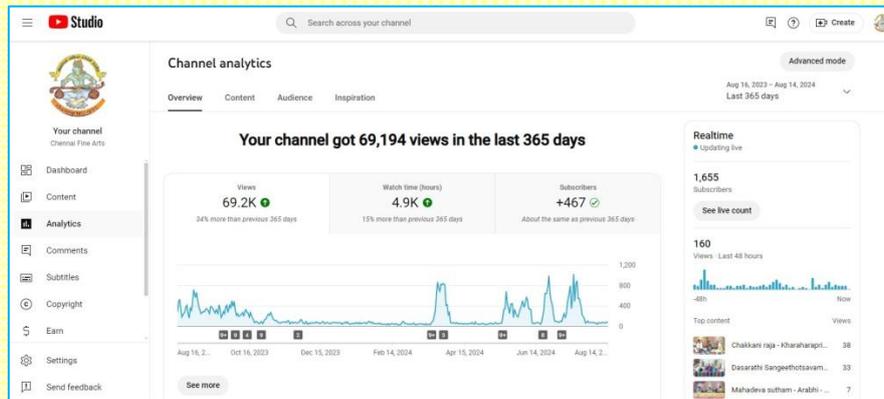
The CFA Academy continued to function successfully. Many students enrolled for classes and started learning carnatic music from the able masters of the academy. Many kids have started learning music enthusiastically in various streams such as vocal, violin, mrdangam and veena. We are proud to state that our artists supported by the Ministry of Culture’s Repertory Grant are training more than 200 students, mostly children in various classical performing arts.

The students learning from the academy performed during Dasarathi Sangeetha Utsavam series of Chennai Fine Arts. The artists came up with two productions, one on Lord Krishna and another on



patriotic songs. The team enthusiastically participated in the Jan Bharat Rang Mahotsav organized by National School of Drama.

## CFA Online



Chennai Fine Arts has remarkable presence online. The activities of the trust are regularly uploaded in its website [www.chennaifinearts.in](http://www.chennaifinearts.in). 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 has been donating musical instruments to the deserving students every year. In the past ten years nearly 40 students have 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, 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.

All the activities have been possible with outstanding support from the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, the artistes, audience, press and other media. Chennai Fine Arts once again places on record its sincere acknowledgement to all who are supporting us in this journey of up keeping our motto 'Service to Music and Service through Music'.