

HAMSADHWANI

A FEW PRESS ARTICLES FROM HINDU AND INDIAN EXPRESS ON INAUGURATION OF HAMSADHWANI

<p style="text-align: center;">HAMSADHWANI</p> <div style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">GLEANINGS FROM THE PRESS</div> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>"HAMSADHWANI CONCERTS WERE REVIEWED OFTEN TIMES BY THE HINDU, INDIAN EXPRESS, FINANCIAL EXPRESS, DINAMANI. SOME EXCERPTS FROM THE EUPHORIC PRESS COMMENTS.</i></p> <p>New Music Sabha</p> <p>A long felt need of music lovers in Adyar and neighbourhood areas was fulfilled on Saturday last when 'Hamsadhwani', the cultural wing of Exnora, was inaugurated by Sri Semmangudi Srinivasa Aiyar at the Hindu Senior Secondary School Hall, Indira Nagar.</p> <p>The inaugural concert was by mandolin maestro U.Srinivas accompanied by Rajesh, his brother. In his 110 minute scintillating performance, ably supported by V.V.Ravi (violin), Guruvayur Dorai (mridangam) and Seva Ganesh (kanjira), Srinivas kept the big audience spellbound with a variety of kritis.</p> <p>Mr. T.T.Vasu, who presided, offered on behalf of the Music Academy to sponsor harikathas at 'Hamsadhwani' as part of the Academy Trust plan to promote ancient arts. Mr. M.B.Nirmal, Exnora President, Mr. Justice K Venkataswami and Mr. V.Venkatachalam, Principal, Hindu Senior Secondary School, offered their felicitations.</p> <p>Earlier, D.K.Pattinmel lighted a kuthuvilakku. The convenor, Mr. R. Ramachandran promised to provide two programmes each month, one by a senior vidwan and another by an up-and-coming musician.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">-- The Hindu, Aug. 24, '90</p> <p style="text-align: right;">K.S.Mahadevan, Indian Express, Aug. 24, 1990</p>	<div style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">THERE WAS ONLY ONE CAPTAIN</div> <p>The living legend Semmangudi Srinivasa Iyer was presented by Hamsadhwani at the inauguration of its Annual Music Festival on March 4, 1996.</p> <p>The vocalist and his voice not only rose to the occasion but soared high into the moon which was shining benignly on the open air auditorium. Semmangudi proved that Carnatic music is not only meditation but also medicine — geriatric of course, for what else could have sustained this artiste touching 90 years of age through a two and half hour concert!</p> <p>Not for him — like many leading musicians of today — unknown and "appaiva" ragas which leave the audience bewildered and bereft of participatory delight. The ragas essayed were : Hamsadhwani, Hanikambodi, Bhairavi, Anandabhairavi, Kalyani, Kambodi, Kamas.</p> <p>The first thing he did was rare, and unexpected these days — he repeatedly gestured to the miko man to reduce amplification, so that what ultimately got amplified was not sound but "Sugam" and "Bhavam".</p> <p>He had an outstanding team of accompanimenters — V.V. Subramaniam on the violin, Umayalpuram Sivaraman on the mridangam and V. Nagarajan on the Kanjira. Excellence breeds excellence, and so Semmangudi brought out the very best in all of them. Sensitivity was V.V. Subramaniam's theme of the day. He consistently sustained the moods and modes so effortlessly created by Semmangudi and contributed his own manodharma phrases and swaras to enhance them. Truly that evening Semmangudi and V.V. Subramaniam were "made for each other"</p> <p>Umayalpuram Sivaraman made metal alchemy by bringing out golden nuggets of sound from his instrument. His anticipatory accompaniment to Semmangudi's always rhythmic music made not only rasikas' feet, but also hearts, dance.</p> <p>And Nagarajan on his kanjira kept the pace stroke for stroke imaginatively and dexterously. His thani with Umayalpuram Sivaraman was stunning.</p> <p>Strangely attractive was the fact that there was only one captain on the stage — the vocalist — and the others were players, and it was an exuberant team game. Unlike quite a few concerts of today where all the performers on the stage are captains and there are no players, let alone a team.</p> <p>Kambodi was the shining star of the evening's concert firmament. Semmangudi and V.V. Subramaniam in the alapana created an aura, an atmosphere of Kambodi. Its all pervading fragrance wafted towards the audience and totally enveloped them. Followed by Tanam and "O, Rangasayee".</p> <p>And so the concert ended and rasikas slowly got up and reluctantly melted away — some humming, some lost in thought, and others with a beatific smile lighting up their faces.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">- K.S. Ramasurthi Courtesy : The Hindu</p> <p style="text-align: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">HAMSADHWANI 57</p>
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THE HINDU ON THE PERFORMANCE OF SHRI SEMMANGUDI SRINIVASA IYER HELD ON MARCH 4, 1996

