

‘Guru Guha Music Festival’

The Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) is organizing ‘Guru Guha Music festival’ on **Sunday, 30 September 2012**. *Guruguha* is the signature of the compositions by Muthuswamy Dikshitar, one of the ‘Trinity’ of carnatic music tradition.

Prof T R Subrahmaniam, renowned scholar and vocalist would present a lecture-demonstration on ‘The influence of Dhrupad in the compositions of Muthuswamy Dikshitar.’ This would be followed by a concert by acclaimed singer **Shri Neyveli Santhanagopalan**.

Muthuswamy Dikshitar was born in Tiravarur in Tanjavur district, Tamil Nadu. He was a scholarly musician who had a profound knowledge on *vedas, kavyas, natakas, kaumudi*, various religious texts and music. His expertise extended to the sciences of astrology, medicine and mantra. The artist’s early years of stay in Manali and travels to the shores of Ganges were highly influential in making him, an authority in music and philosophy. **Dikshitar was influenced by Hindustani music while he was in Varanasi** and this had a definite stamp on his compositions. One can also see an **influence of Celtic and Baroque styles in his compositions** as he got exposed to Western music too at a very young age. His compositions are mostly in Sanskrit language. ‘*Guruguha*’ was his *Vaggeyakara Mudra* (insignia of the composer). His style of music drew the listeners into their introspective mode transcending ragas through the subtle play of *vainika* (veena player) emphasizing *gamakas* (ornamentation of *swaras*). Many a times, these also convey history of temples, shrines he visited during his extensive travel and his profound studies of religious texts.

The confluence of various streams of music in the creations of Muthuswamy Dikshitar is a topic of interest. His compositions are best suited for singing at slow speed and many of his compositions have similarities with the style of *Dhrupad* of Hindustani Music. An illustrative lecture by **Prof. T.R. Subrahmaniam** would help to have a deeper understanding on the issue.

Prof T R Subrahmaniam is acclaimed as one of the most versatile musicians of our times. **TRS** (as he is popularly known) is the pride of the Government College of Music, Madras, from where he obtained the post graduate *Sangeeta Vidwan* title in

1951. He is celebrated everywhere as the *pallavi* king. TRS has been conferred with many titles and awards including the Central Sangeet Natak Akademi Award. He is frequently invited for concerts/lectures/demonstrations to countries like USA, UK, Canada, Japan, Australia, and Singapore and to prestigious institutions like Oxford and Cambridge Universities. He is a former member of the Faculty of Music, Delhi University.

The lecture will be followed by a concert by leading vocalist, Neyveli R. Santhanagopalan, a much applauded musician. Renowned for rendition couched in *bhakti* (devotion) and *bhava* (emotion), he skillfully elevates his music to the pedestal of divine. This multi faceted and versatile singer is also proficient at playing the *veena* (foremost instrument of Dikshitar's music) and percussion instruments with strengths in *laya* exposition. Neyveli Santhanagopalan is a top grade artist both in All India radio and Doordarshan and is a recipient of several laurels, titles and awards from leading music associations in India and overseas. Neyveli Santhanagopalan will be accompanied on the violin by M S Sundareswaran, on the Mridangam by K V Prasad and on the Ghatom by Vaikom R Gopalakrishnan.

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Programme will be as follows:

Guru Guha Music Festival

Date: 30th September, 2012 (Sunday)

Venue: Auditorium, CV Mess Building, Janpath, New Delhi-110001

Time: 5:00 PM **Illustrative Lecture by Prof. T.R. Subrahmaniam**

Topic of Lecture: The Influence of Dhrupad in the compositions of Muthuswamy Dikshitar

6:00 PM Music Concert

Sh Neyveli R Santanagopalan-vocal

P V Ajay Namboodiri (Vocal support)

M A Sundareswaran (Violin)

K V Prasad (Mridangam)

Vaikom R. Gopalakrishnan (Ghatom)

Entry is free and seating will be on first come first serve basis.



Muthuswamy Deekshitar(



Neyveli R Santhanagopalan



Prof T R Subrahmaniam