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High energy, steady tempo all along

RAJALAKSHMI PADMANABHAN



Fulfilling: Gayathri Venkataraghavan presenting a vocal concert at the 62nd anniversary celebration of the Sri Sathguru Sangeetha Samajam in Madurai.— Photo: G. Moorthy

High energy marked the eighth day's concert at the annual music festival of Sri Sathguru Sangeetha Samajam here on Monday, as Gayathri Venkataraghavan launched into 'Sadhinchane,' the gana raga Pancharatna Kriti by Thyagaraja, in Arabhi. She picked another gana raga, Goulai, and dedicated it to the Vinayakar in Muthuswami Dikshitar's 'Sri Mahaganapathim,' embellishing it with rhythmic chittai swarams. The next in the repertoire was Pattina Subramanya Iyer's 'Marivere Dikkevaru' and this found violinist Charumathi Ranganathan participating enthusiastically.

The steady tempo maintained by the singer kept percussionists Palladam Ravi and Tiruchi S. Krishnaswami involved in the proceedings.

She brought the richness of Tamil music to the audience in Sivan's 'Un perumai evar arivar' on Goddess Meenakshi, in Karahara Priya. That being said, music and devotion go beyond language; and Gayathri went on to prove this through her choice of 'Mayamma,' Syama Sastri's Ahiri raga kriti. She manipulated the laya of the kriti in chavukka kalam, in such a way that everyone felt the compassion of the goddess encapsulated in the Telugu lyrics.

The audience were also happy to note that she took up the challenge of Kamboji in 'Adum theivam' by Sivan and included a rare pallavi of T.K. Rengachary in Amruthavarshini. Gayathri fulfilled the expectations that she has created in the last few years.

Rajalakshmi Padmanabhan