

Topic: Music of the Dīkṣita paramparā composers

Speaker: Dr. Sumithra Vasudev

Date & Time: 19.12.2025; 8.05AM

Venue: Kasthuri Srinivasan Hall, The Music Academy

Abstract:

The presentation ‘Music of the Dīkṣita paramparā composers’ is based on a study of the compositions of Rāmasvāmī, Muddusvāmī, Balasvāmī and Subbarāma Dīkṣita-s. It endeavours to understand how different aspects of music have been passed down in this paramparā through a period spanning four generations.

This presentation will focus on the compositions of Rāmasvāmī, Balasvāmī and Subbarāma Dīkṣita-s and include Muddusvāmī Dīkṣita’s compositions for a comparative study, accompanied by illustrative musical renditions.

Muddusvāmī Dīkṣita is one of the most well-respected composers of Karṇāṭaka music. A study of his compositions is a quest that is ananta (unending) – whether it is the sāhitya aspect; the range of tāla-s used; or the melodic aspect - one always feels there is more to it.

While one is amazed at the beauty of Muddusvāmī Dīkṣita’s compositions, one wonders if there would be other factors, apart from his own musical genius, that played a role in shaping his approach to the different musical aspects, as well as ensuring continuity in preservation and transmission, by which we are able to discuss about these compositions today, after 250 years. This idea will be examined and discussed in the course of this presentation.

The presentation will have two parts. The first will discuss the compositions of Rāmasvāmī, Balasvāmī and Subbarāma Dīkṣita-s individually while the second part will present a comparative study of the different musical aspects in the compositions of the four Dīkṣita composers, including Muddusvāmī Dīkṣita.