

Topic: Iconographic representations of Lord Siva in Muttusvāmi Dīkṣita's kṛti-s

Speaker(s): Dr Gayathri Girish, Dr Chithra Madhavan

Date & Time: 21.12.2025; 9.05AM

Venue: Kasthuri Srinivasan Hall, The Music Academy

Abstract:

The kṛti-s of Muttusvāmi Dīkṣitar contain many references to various deities, especially Lord Siva in His numerous manifestations. Most of his compositions give references to more than one form, while there are a few which are exclusively about a particular form of the Lord. The representation of these forms of Siva are seen in many temples. Although the main sanctum of most Siva temples has the Siva Linga in worship, the utsava-murtis (processional images) are of many manifestations of this deity such as Nataraja, Bhikshatanamurti, Somaskanda, Ardhanarishwara, Kalyanasundara, Dakshinamurti, Virabhadra, etc. These images are also seen on the walls and pillars as stone sculptures. This lec dem will focus on the above manifestations of Siva, along with a few others. Dr Gayathri Girish will demonstrate a few compositions of Muttusvāmi Dīkṣitar on these deities and explain the subtle details of iconography mentioned in the composition along with relevant Purānic references, while Dr Chithra Madhavan will talk, with illustrations, about the iconographic importance of these forms of Siva.