

Topic: Compositions of Muttusvāmi Dīkṣitar in Unpublished Manuscripts

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Date & Time: 8.05AM

Venue: Kasthuri Srinivasan Hall, The Music Academy

Abstract:

Muttusvāmi Dīkṣitar, a composer of the 19th century, is known for his works inscribed with archaic rāga phrases, iconographic details, and an exegesis of the esoteric Śrī Vidyā cult. Though the concert circuit today includes a multitude of his compositions, the scenario was different a hundred years ago. The majority of his works came to light through the monumental treatise *Saṅgīta Sampradāya Pradarśini*, authored by Śrī Subbarāma Dīkṣitar, a nephew of Muttusvāmi Dīkṣitar.

Unfortunately, the treatise does not catalogue the complete set of his compositions. This compels us to turn to other possible sources, namely the unpublished manuscripts available with musicians. Such an exercise not only enables us to gain insight into the unpublished works, but also provides an understanding of the versions of the kṛti-s that existed after the publication of the *Pradarshini*. This paper attempts to revisit the past to explore the kṛti-s and/or versions of Muttusvāmi Dīkṣitar that survive in these manuscripts.