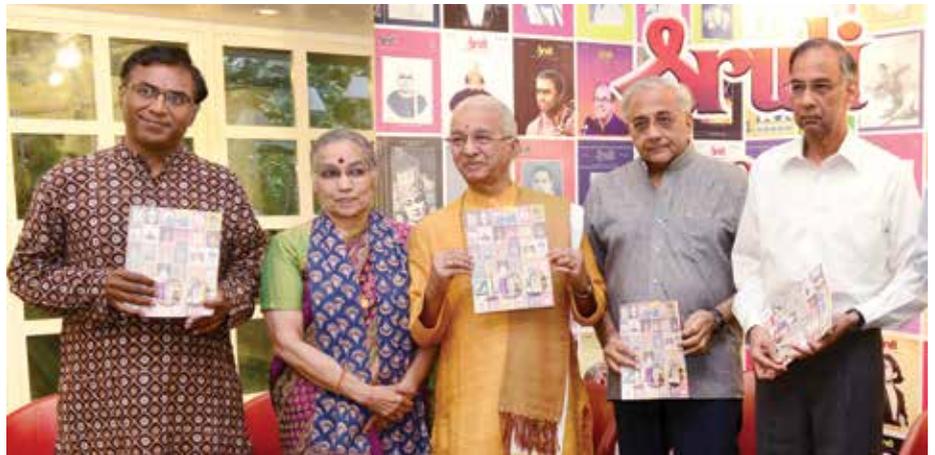


Sruti 400 an event to remember

Eminent business leader R. Seshasayee, who is also a vice president of the Music Academy, and a connoisseur of music, formally released the 400th edition of *Sruti* on 4 January 2018 at Amethyst, Royapettah, Chennai. The other guests of honour that evening, Chitravina N. Ravikiran, recently anointed Sangita Kalanidhi by the Music Academy, and the celebrated Bharatanatyam duo Shanta and V.P. Dhananjayan, received the magazine from him. N. Sankar, Chairman of The Sanmar Group, presided over the function. The celebration was well attended by artists, writers, readers and critics.

The Folly at Amethyst was a fitting venue with an environ of thick lush green foliage surrounding it, a serene haven amidst the crowded, noisy Whites Road.

In his speech, Seshasayee gave the audience several fresh insights into the current state of the performing arts, their economics and the support required to nurture both the art



(L to R) N. Ravikiran, Shanta and V.P. Dhananjayan, N. Sankar and R. Seshasayee with the special issue of *Sruti*

and the artist. He raised thought-provoking queries about what we need to sustain art as it exists today. He stressed the importance of debate on vital issues for the continuance of the performing arts for a long time to come. Stressing the need to leverage technology to enhance the reach of the magazine, he praised *Sruti* for doing its bit and urged that more needed to be done in the coming years.

The event started with a melodious

and well coordinated presentation by Sargam Choir led by Sudha Raja. The group presented songs in a variety of languages and genres ranging from classical to devotional and folk. They began with a medley of songs that comprised *Bharati jaya* by Vinaychandra Maudgalya, the Suddha Dhanyasi varnam by Harikesanallur Muthiah Bhagavata and *Melukovaiya* by Tyagaraja. They then went on to sing *Akashganga* in Gujarati by Kanu Ghosh,

Sargam Choir conducted by Sudha Raja





The Sruti team: (L to R) S. Janaki, V. Ramnarayan, Sudha Narayanan, S. Sathish, Sumathi Viswanathan, G. Suresh, Kalpana Muralikrishnan and Sukanya Sankar

Ekla chalo in Bengali by Tagore, *Santatam pahimam* by Muttuswami Dikshitar, *Nenjuku neeti* by Subramania Bharati and *Kuttanaadan* a Malayalam folk song. The presentation was impeccable.

Editor-in-Chief V. Ramnarayan welcomed the gathering and recounted his association with the magazine and N. Pattabhi Raman who founded *Sruti*. He said the first issue of the magazine featured Mandolin U. Shrinivas on the cover, along with D.K. Pattammal—the subject of the magazine’s first major profile—and dancers Sonal Mansingh and Lakshmi Viswanathan. Ravikiran had been one of the prodigies written about in that first issue, and the December 2017 issue contained an article and interview featuring Sangita Kalanidhi-designate Ravikiran. The second edition of *Sruti* (November 1983) featured an interview with the Dhananjayans. *Sruti* was happy that the three artists had accepted its invitation to receive copies of the 400th issue.

Recalling many *Sruti* firsts like the Pallavi project, Ramnarayan thanked long time contributors to the magazine, writers and supporters who

have stood by the magazine, and The Sanmar Group which took over *Sruti* by recasting the Sruti Foundation.

N. Sankar spoke about his happy relationship with *Sruti* magazine over the last decade. He recalled his long term association with Seshasayee, praised him for his multifaceted talents. He welcomed the artists on the dais and praised the entire *Sruti* team for its good work.

Ravikiran spoke about his association with the magazine and how he used to read the articles and appreciate the language and the contents. He mentioned the specific role that the magazine had played in bringing forth a new wave in arts journalism and said that the journey from good to great is when people not just admire you, but emulate you! In that context the *Sruti* magazine has been a great trendsetter, which many others have tried to emulate and how it continues its numero uno position in keeping with this trend.

V.P. Dhananjayan complimented *Sruti* for its efforts to bring dance closer to the audience. He praised the magazine for projecting the right issues pertaining to art forms and also helping showcase through critiques

and features, both young artists and doyens of the art.

S. Janaki, the executive editor of *Sruti*, who has been with *Sruti* for more than 25 years, did a remarkable job of putting together the events and compering the session. She made specific mention of the contributions made by writers and long term associates with the magazine and thanked them for their efforts. She also introduced the team

which has put in tireless hours of work to ensure the faultless launch of every edition.

Sukanya Sankar, managing trustee, has worked in expanding the footprint of the magazine with its digital, blog, ebooks and app avatars. She proposed a vote of thanks and thanked the readers, subscribers, the loyalists, the writers and contributors, the artists and the core team for making the 400th edition possible.

Special mention was made of contributors and long term associates including K.K. Gopalakrishnan who had specifically come from Kerala to attend this function. Most of the contributors to the 400th edition were present on the occasion— Leela Venkataraman, Sunil Kothari, Gowri Ramnarayan, V.R. Devika, K.K. Gopalakrishnan, Vasanthalakshmi Narasimhachari, V. Ramnarayan and S. Janaki. Copies were presented to the writers by the chief guest R. Seshayee.

It was a wonderful celebration conducted with poise and grace, true to the core style of the magazine. I am happy to have been a subscriber, reader and writer for this magazine which I have cherished over the years.

SIVAPRIYA KRISHNAN
(Carnatic vocalist, writer and management professional)