



Vidhya Subramanian with her guru and mentor Lalgudi Jayaraman

Can you believe a chartered accountant and that too a rank holder at the all India level and an MBA from a foreign university chose a career in the field of music?

Vidhya Subramanian, a disciple of legendary musician, the late Lalgudi Jayaraman and resident of Raghaviah Road did just that.

What made her to turn away from the field of financial management to carnatic music? Vidhya says 'Though my qualifications provided me ample opportunities both in India and abroad, with a high level of perks and compensations, I thought it fit to follow the footsteps of 'Lalgudi' Mama and started imparting the art.'

Vidhya lived in America for several years. During that time Vidhya never failed to perform carnatic music concerts and impart the art to many Americans too. About imparting Indian art to Americans, she

says 'It was not easy to make them understand the nuances of raga and kritis, but their interest was quite amazing and most of them learnt it thoroughly and rendered concerts too.'

Vidhya has also formed a team of teachers who are located at various countries and they train students at various levels. Apart from performance in sabhas like Narada Gana Sabha, Karthik Fine Arts, Mylapore Fine

Like *Guru*, like *Sishya*

arts, Brahma Gana Sabhga, she has rendered concerts in places like University of Utah, Florida Fine arts, Cleveland, California, Singapore, to name a few.

When asked about the late Lalgudi Jayaraman, her guru, Vidhya's face shows delight and Vidhya opens up about her mentor. 'A very unique attribute of Lalgudi Mama was his ability to communicate his musical ideas and share his experiences in an easy to understand and crystal clean manner. His classes would cover the gamut of information that would help his students equip themselves for concert performances and his attention to detail, systematic detailing of sangatis in a song, explanation and practical demonstration of various manodharma aspects and constantly raising the bar for students and challenging them to work towards perfection. He had an unmatched ability to articulate various ideas and concepts in a way that they would be imbibed in the students' memory. He would enthusiastically listen to students' concert recordings and give constructive feedback that would motivate students to work harder.'

Like her guru, the sishya too was honoured with various awards from Sree Krishna Gana Sabha, Sree Rama Seva Mandali, Saratoga Arts and New York State council, New York State Foundation and so on. She has co-hosted free audio podcast series on carnatic music called 'Raagarasika' which can be viewed in www.raagarasika.com.

Apart from that, she runs an online carnatic music-learning academy, which constitutes students and teachers from all over the world. Also through www.skype.com, she trains her students through conference calls and released a DVD with explanations interspersed with English subtitles. It contains over three hours of information and can be accessed from <http://vidyasubramanian.com/orderdvd.aspx>

Born to a family of chartered accountants with a musical background, she showered emotional gratitude on her husband K Subramanian for his outstanding support in her mission. Subramanian, a scientist with a top rank in Indian Institute of Technology now holds a high position in a corporate company. Vidhya Subramanian can be reached at 99626 66129.

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