

Background of Thiru Peruman is as follows



### **Career Synopsis**

A professional Carnatic music teacher and performer, with M.A and B.A qualifications, whose research encompasses ancient Tamil compositions to the current evolution of this art form in particular in the Indian Ocean region and Indian Diasporas.

### **Professional Educational Qualifications:**

#### **(i) Tertiary Education:**

(a) Pursuing PhD research at the *University of Madras*, Chennai, India. (August 2010-2015)

(b) M.A in Indian Music, **First Class**, *University of Madras*, Chennai, India. (May 2007)

(c) B.A Music, **First Class Gold Medal**, *Annamalai University*, Chidambaram, India. (July 1998)

#### **(ii) Secondary Education:**

St. Andrews Secondary School - Rose Hill

#### **(iii) Competitions and Awards**

- (i) Presented the '*Sri Sabhanayakar Memento*' October 2006, at the Chidambaram Temple, India.
- (ii) Awarded the "*Prof. P.L. Ramaswamy and P. Alagammai Endowment Prize*" as Best Student of the year 1996-1997, Annamalai University, India.
- (iii) Awarded the "*C.P. Ramaswami Aiyer Prize*" as Best Student of the year 1997-1998, Annamalai University, India.
- (iv) Awarded the "*Madras Governor Prize*" first prize in Tamil song competition, September 1997, Chidambaram, India.

#### **(iv)Audio/Video Released**

- (i) DVD released entitled "**Live Concert**", July 2007.
- (ii) CD released entitled "**Pranavam**", July 2007.
- (iii) Audiocassette released entitled "**Dedication**", September 1998.

#### **Profile of Adi Sankara Peruman**

Adi sankara Peruman was born in a family of musicians. His father and uncles founded an orchestra way back in the 1950's, the **Vauhini Band**. He started his apprenticeship in Vocal Carnatic in 1980 at the Mahatma Gandhi Institute in Mauritius. He obtained a scholarship from the MGI to pursue further studies in the same field in 1995.

Adi Sankara completed his B.A Hon in Carnatic Music at the well-known Annamalai University, Chidambaram, India in 1998. In 1997 he obtained the award of Best Student for the academic year 1996-1997 and, at the same time, won the Madras Governor Prize in a Tamil song competition organized by the same institution. He participated at the Pondicherry Radio programmes at several occasions and was an appreciated member of all the departmental activities, particularly during the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Independence of India. At the end of this final year ,Adi Sankara was presented for the 2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive year the Best Student of the year 1997-1998 and was also conferred the prestigious P.Ramaswamy Prize for having the highest percentage of marks. He obtained the **First class gold medal** from the Annamalai University Music Department after lot of hard work and dedication.

After completion of his B.A degree course, Adi Sankara gave a major recital at the MGI on January 16<sup>th</sup> 2000. He travelled several times to Reunion Island to perform and disseminate Carnatic Music. He participated at various levels for different organization all over the island where his performance was highly appreciated. He was a member of the jury panel for the National Tamil song competition in 2004 organised by the MBC TV. Adi sankara released an audio cassette entitle Dedication in 1998.

In May 2005, Adi Sankara was the initiator of the Tyagaraja Jayanthi Celebration at National Level. The festival was hosted by the MGI in collaboration with the Tamil Cultural Centre Trust,

The Telugu Cultural centre trust and the Indira Gandhi Centre for Indian culture. In August 2005, Adi sankara obtained another scholarship from the MGI to pursue his masters at the world famous University of Madras, Chennai, India.

In July 2005 Adi Sankara obtained another scholarship from the MGI to pursue his post graduation at the University of Madras. He obtained a First Class after completion of his studies in 2007.

Adi Sankara published a book entitled **“Singing with Saivite Saints from Tirumurai to Natchintanai.”** This book explores how the Saivite saints have contributed to modern Carnatic Music, and is based on three years research. He also releases at the same function attended by the Minister of Education and Human Resources, Hon. Mr. Dharam Ghokool, a DVD entitled **“Live Concert”** and a CD entitled **“Pranavam”**, July 2007.

At present Adi sankara is a lecturer at the School of Performing Arts, MGI, and Mauritius. He is specializing both in teachings and research.

He has read many research papers both at national and international conferences.

## **INTERVIEW**

- 1. Thiru Peruman, you are a very well known figure in Mauritius, in the field of Carnatic Music, and many of our devotees watch passionately your various performances live and on the National Television during Cavadees and other festivals. Why have you chosen this passion for Carnatic Music?**

I was born in a family of musicians. My uncles owned an orchestra named the “Vauhini Band” in the 1950’s. My father was playing the violin in that orchestra. My mother too was singing in “tiroukutthams”. I was told that my paternal fore- father came from Tanjavur and was a Kanjira player. He composed songs and sung during various festivals. My mother’s grandfather was reciting the Kamban Ramayanam and singing many other Tamil epics. I was attracted by the "chanté engazé" in the 1980’s. My parents used to make me sing during the yearly gathering of the whole family at my grandfather’s place. My parents paved the way for me to join the MGI in 1979, and that was

the starting point. Furthermore I got an audio cd of Dr K.J.Yesudas, my music guru, and felt the sweetness of Carnatic Music.

**2. How do you rate the interest of Tamils in Mauritius for Carnatic Music? Are you and your colleagues' artist given enough opportunities for public performance, other than in Kovils?**

The public shows appreciation for our performances. The response is positive as far as adults are concerned. My expectation is to have more young students involved in following Carnatic Music. We have a newly designed structured programme such as the B.A Hons in Vocal Carnatic Music which has been offered for the first time for the 2008-2010 cohorts. A newly revised syllabus for a 3-yrs part –time course in “Diploma in Performing Arts” at the same institute has been implemented as from 2008. Now we are running two cohorts at Diploma level. Furthermore more opportunities have been offered at the Tamil Cultural Centre and with qualified teachers; new avenues have been created for Carnatic Music students. The Centre has also “invested” in the future of this style of music by sponsoring three students in August 2012, to read for a Bachelor in Music at the Annamalai University, Chidambaram, Tamil-Nadu.

Besides Carnatic Music is supportive to Bharata Natyam dance. With the coming of more qualified B.Natyam dancers from abroad with Masters Degree, the interests in this subject have increased.

It is indeed a fact that we sing mostly in temples. Carnatic Music itself is basically devotional and spiritual. It is a way to attain “Moksha” or “God”. For me it’s bliss to sing at these holy places. But there are few opportunities compared to India when it’s a matter to organize concerts. Before musicians were taken for granted. Nowadays the mentality is slowly changing; we are properly being acknowledged and remunerated.

**3. You have been training many students in Carnatic Music over the years. Have you noticed a rise or a decline in the number of students opting for such studies, and why? What is your feeling about the future of this art in Mauritius?**

The figures speak of themselves whether at the MGI, IGCIC or Tamil Cultural Centers. The tendency is soaring. This is due to the decentralization of the MGI regional centers and those regional of the Tamil Cultural Centers. We have also more and more Post-Graduate musicians who are operating their private schools and academies. This beneficial factor is most welcome among the public in general.

I am very optimistic for the future of this “Great” Art-form in Mauritius.

**You have just launched the book "Singing with the Saivite Saints". Can you give us a brief overview of the book?**

This book explores how the Saivite saints have contributed to modern Carnatic Music, and is based on three years research. This book can be used by both students and pilgrims in search of knowledge about how our “Saints” have paved their way, by singing the sacred Thevarams at different places in South India. I also mentioned about the precursors of modern ragam known as "pann".

The first edition of the book was launched in 2007 and I felt a need for a second edition in 2012 due to demand from the public.

**4. What message would you wish to convey through your book?**

I have known so much joy in visiting the “kovils” and gained so much in praying at these powerful sthalas and wish same to all the readers.

**6. What is your opinion on the online journal Pathirikai, which is an independent and apolitical journal for the Tamil Community of Mauritius? How do you think it can better assist the community?**

I was really impressed by reading online this very good journal.

I personally think this is the best way to reach maximum readers in Mauritius, in the region and abroad.

### **7. Anything you would like to add for our readers?**

Music especially Carnatic Music is not mere music....it is a way of life. I wish to convey to all parents to make an effort to spare one hour a week to send their children for music or dance classes.

#### **Additional information:**

#### **- What is the price of the book and where can it be purchased?**

The book is at Rs 500 (Mauritian Rupee). It's available for the time being only at my place. Do call on 7501393.