

A downpour of divine music

By Manikandan



The Hindu IN UNISON: Artists performing at Naadha Vaibhavam' presented by The Art of Living and MARG Brindavan on Sunday. Photo: S.S.Kumar

On a pleasant Sunday evening, several thousand people were witness to a heavy downpour of divine rhythm and mellifluous music. 'Naadha Vaibhavam' presented by The Art of Living and MARG Brindavan lived upto its name.

It was announced that a total of 5,700 artists were on stage.

It included 347 instrumentalists playing the mridangam, violin, ghatam, flute and veena. Among those on stage, nearly 3,000 were from Chennai and the rest from other parts of Tamil Nadu and also from Puducherry, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and even Maharashtra, according to volunteers.

The evening began with prayer songs 'Vinayaka Vishwadhara' and 'Jaya Jaya Durge Ma' that were sung by volunteers and also by the audience. Compositions by eminent musicians in Sanskrit, Telugu and Tamil were rendered on stage. Each of the songs was led by senior artists such as T.K. Govinda Rao, P.S. Narayanaswami, Suguna Varadachari, G.S. Mani, Suguna Purushothaman, Allepey Venkatesan, O.S. Thyagarajan and Trichur Ramachandran.

The thani aavardhanam by mridangists Tiruchi Sankaran and K.V. Prasad received tremendous applause.

Several thousands managed to find a place inside the vast open space of Shriram IT Gateway, adjacent to Grand Southern Trunk Road in Perungalathur.

Mira Arabinth (13), a class VIII student of Petit Seminaire Higher Secondary School, Puducherry, said it was a dream come true and that performing amid several thousand musicians was "once in a lifetime" experience.

K. Ravi Anantha Padmanabhan, State coordinator, Art of Living Bureau of Communication, said the event was the culmination of months of planning and preparation, coordination with various educational institutions, individual music schools by several hundred volunteers.

In his address, Sri Ravi Shankar, founder, The Art of Living, said India should become free from corruption and violence. Scams had brought shame and embarrassment to India, the world over.

"We will have to take resolve this evening to put an end to corruption and violence. Music binds us all together across nations, continents. It is the one thing that binds other than love," Sri Ravi Shankar said.

Keywords: [Naadha Vaibhavam](#), [Art of Living](#), [5000 musicians](#)

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