

Rhythm and melody in Carnatic music are so strong that you can walk into any kind of music with your eyes closed

Sharing emotions through music

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“It is great to be in this profession, because at some point you have to look to the almighty and here you are in divine waters all the way,” says Sudha Ragunathan sharing how sacred it is to be into Carnatic music which allows you to address God through songs.

Sudha, who has found herself a prominent place in the Carnatic music circle says her foray into music was as natural as one would learn to do his or her daily chores. “My mother and sister were into music. As such, I listened to a lot of music so it just got into my system,” she recalls.

Since the art calls for a regimen like training, she says she got into voice training when she was about nine years old, with her mother Choodamani being her first guru. “My mother was a good singer. Being a Brahmin woman, she was not allowed to go to the stage due to the rigidity that existed around that time. Her dreams have been realised through me,” says the acclaimed vocalist.

It was when she was in college that her ground was built. She would take part in every function in college and inter-college programmes. Then she got a scholarship to do a three-year advanced study in music under M L Vasantha Kumari.

Now a singer with numerous performances to her name, Sudha has sung for people with in-depth knowledge of Carnatic music, audi-

ences who attend programmes for the sake of entertainment and mixed gatherings where both the groups come together. When asked which section she enjoyed performing for, she said she loves challenges and that is performing for the well-versed in the classical art. At the same time, she says it is very satisfying to hear from those who are not into music, that she is able to

touch them through her music.

With knowledge of Tamil, Kannada, Telugu and Hindi languages she has been able to carry emotions to people who speak different tongues. She has even ventured into world music and sung with two groups, one from Germany and another from Paris, both with members of different nationalities. “It was about fusing with their music. In the beginning, I thought I would not fit into the group but then, rhythm and melody in Carnatic music are so strong that you can walk into any kind of music with your eyes closed,” says Sudha out of her experience.

Sudha Ragunathan

