



# SPIC MACAY ZONAL CONVENTION

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The South Zone Convention of The Society for the Promotion of Indian Classical Music and Culture Amongst Youth (SPIC MACAY) was held on 4 & 5 February, 2023 at Delhi Public School, Coimbatore. The two-day zonal convention of the Southern Chapter of SPIC MACAY saw the participation of over 170 students from schools and colleges of southern states of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Kerala & Tamil Nadu. .

The six intensives (workshops) on offer at the two-day convention were Bharatanatyam, Carnatic Vocal, Therukoothu, Konnakkol, Terracotta Pottery and Kolam. The intensive workshops which offered the participants the foundational basics of the traditional art forms sought to initiate them into appreciating their nuances through a disciplined and sincere engagement with them.

The inaugural assembly of the convention began with incantation for divine benediction and *Ganesh Stuti* rendered by the choir from DPS, Coimbatore which set the tone for the day's activities to begin. In a brief introductory address, Mrs. Latha Mani, convener of the Coimbatore chapter of SPIC MACAY, laid emphasis on the need for discipline and enhanced receptivity to gain the maximum from the two-day long *ashramvas*. After the traditional lighting in her address, exhorted the students to "take as much as you can" from the intensives with the feted artistes.

## HIGHLIGHTS

### FEBRUARY 04 | DAY 1

- Welcome at DPS Coimbatore
- Registration & Breakfast
- Orientation followed by Therukoothu performance by *Dr. PK.Sambandan & troupe*
- Intensives:
  - Bharatnatyam/Vocal/Konnakkol /Therukoothu/Terracotta/Kolam
  - Indian Classical Music Concert: Vocal recital by *Vidushi Amritha Murali & troupe*/Bharatnatyam recital by *Vidushi Bragha Bassell & troupe*
- Late Evening Nutrition & Lights Out

### FEBRUARY 05 | DAY 2

- Wake -up-Call
- Nada Yoga, Hatha Yoga & Meditation
- Breakfast followed by Intensives & Lunch Time
- Indian Classical Music Concert: Flute Recital by *Vidushi Sikkil Mala Chandrasekar*
- Experience Sharing
- Dispersal

She overwhelmed the students the rare opportunity to learn from the artistes who represent over a thousand-year-old cultural lineage bequeathed to them by their illustrious gurus. She prepped the students on how the intensives were aimed at giving the initiates a sense of what the indigenous art forms have to offer. One cannot hope to “learn” the art form in five hours which the artists have spent a lifetime to master. It is to offer a ‘glimpse’-a bird’s eye view of the rich cultural legacy these artists represent.



Therukoothu, has been quite popular since the time immemorial as the rural people in southern zone relished during festivals with their kith and kin. Spic Macay, gave an edge by bringing light to such rare art form to the students of modern era. Great episodes from Indian epics Mahabharata and Ramayana were beautifully narrated through dramatization. The audience was left in great sense of awe and wonder. It was then followed by delectable lunch which served to the participants prior to the commencement of the Intensives.



## INTENSIVES AT A GLANCE

Intensives play an integral role in instilling and imbibing the values and ideologies edged and embedded in our rich cultural heritage. By keeping in view, the intensives were conducted for three solid hours to enrich the crux and the bottom line of each art form. Bharatnatyam, the classical dance of Tamil Nadu was transacted and illustrated deftly by Vidushi Bragha Bessell, Therukoothu, the rural art form has been widely practised and still prevalent in many rural belts as a entertainment in which great epics were demonstrated through dramatization. This art form was adeptly depicted by Dr. PK. Sambandan and his troupe. Konnakkol by Vidwan Vijay Natesan, the acclaimed percussionist accompanied the legendary musicians like Dr.TVG, violin maestro Prof

The artistes demonstrated the nitty-gritty of the art forms and gave a hands-on experience to sense its utmost blissfulness.

The distinguished vocalist Amritha Murali spread the divine music and the participants who perceived flawless sruti in her singing was indeed impeccable. The kolam made the participants hell-bent and learnt the shades of kolam from Ms. Gayathri Sankaranarayan.

Konnakkol, the maestro, Vijay Natesans’ expertise made the participants to acquire the art of performing percussion syllables vocally by counting the tala (meters) by hand. Terracotta, the art of pottery was exceptional, it was indeed delightful to

T.N.Krishnan,Shri.T.V.Sankaranarayanan, O.S.Thiagarajan.Terracotta the Pottery was illustrated by Sri Ramaiyya Thangaiyya.Another ancient art form that depicts and speaks volume about Tamil tradition is Kolam which was illustrated by Dr.Gayathri Sankaranarayan and Vocal Recital by Vidushi Amritha Murali, who conducted intensives to the enthusiastic participants.

Sri. see the participants' inventiveness in constructing earthen wares, and the replicas they displayed revealed their involvement and commitment towards the art form. The art form Therukoothu was utterly novel for the participants and fascinated them to acquire in detail the subtle expressions from the artistes.



### Recital by Vidushi Sikkil Mala Chandrasekar & Team

The cold nip in the air did not dampen the spirits of ardent lovers of music as the participants assembled at the open-air theatre for the flute recital by Vidushi Sikkil Mala Chandrasekar the exponent of South Indian Carnatic flautist who had been honored with Flute Mali, Shanmuka Sangeetha Shironmani Ananadha Vidushi and many more awards, who was accompanied with Shri. B Anandha Krishnan a prominent violinist, Shri. K Ramamurthy a legendary Ghatam player and Shri. Vijay B Natesan, a distinguished mridangam artist had left audience spellbound. The participants were encouraged to share their experiences in these two days of Ashramyas. It was certainly apparent that they assimilated the refined artistic expressions from the artistes. The two days South zone convention came to a close parting the note to the inquisitive partakers to revere and exercise the instructions and values that they had imbibed.

Yoga is a mirror to look at ourselves from within. It fosters the ways of sustaining a poised approach in day-to-day life and bequeaths skill in the act of one's actions". The day two of the SPICMACAY South zone convention instigated with the traditional preparation of revivifying the mind, body and soul "Nada Yoga". Participants were ushered to the OAT. Delving into the self, the freezing gust, the tranquil serene and restful harmony enthused the participants to rejuvenate their mind, body and soul.

The second day dawned with the demonstration of Hatha yoga which emphasized on breathing exercise practiced at a slower pace, with focus on the breath, controlled movements, and stretching. Another yoga form was Nath Yoga also called Natha, are a Shaiva sub-tradition within Hinduism in India and Nepal. A medieval movement, it combined ideas from Buddhism, Shaivism and Yoga



traditions in India. The Nath's have been a confederation of devotees who consider Shiva, as their first lord or guru, with varying lists of additional gurus.

The evening concert witnessed the terrific performance of Carnatic rendition by legendary artiste Vidushi Amritha Murali accompanied by her troupe captivated the salubrious evening with her mellifluous recitals. The artiste presented altogether seven compositions on Jaya Jaya Nattai, Sitapati Kamas, Ninnuvinaga Purvikalyani, Vande Bharata Mataram, Bharata desam enru, Sindhu Tarana, Vandeminakishi, which won immense accolades from the jubilant audience. As an icing on the cake, the evening witnessed yet another riveting performance of classical dance - Bharatnatyam by Nritya Kalanidhi Bragha Bessel .The artiste was felicitated by Headmaster Mr. Ahamad Azad by garlanding the troupe. The dainty dancer exhibited her prowess on Varna with endearing rhythm and abhinayas. Her troupe comprised of Vocal by Nadine Anand Sharma, Mridangham by Karan Pai, another student of Kalachakra, Natuwangham by Sri Sudharshini, the faculty from Kalachakra.

The two days convention culminated with felicitation of the artistes of yester years for having contributed to the rich legacy and tradition. The artistes left with a note of accomplishment and the participants with the satisfaction of innate learning cherishing the learning imparted on them by the learners and teachers of the yester years. On the whole, to corroborate the event, it was a mellifluous performance imparting learning not only to the body and mind but to the 'inward eye' with 'learning continuum' and an enlightening and endearing experience.

## Photo Gallery





