

## APPRECIATING ART



**STRIKING A POSE:** Musician T.M. Krishna (left) with Mr S. Hariharan, at the music workshop held at the premises of i-flex Solutions, recently. ■AA photograph

The workshop began with Krishna's introductory rendition of Saint Thyagaraja's *krithi* in *raag* Nalinakanthi *Manavyaalakim*. Krishna, clad in a *khadi kurta* and a traditional white dhoti with a neat *angavastra* on his shoulder, was absolutely at ease explaining basics like what is a *shreti* (base on which music

is created) and *gamakas* which are curves or the oscillation put on musical notes. He lucidly explained vital differences between western music and Carnatic music. Drawing a parallel between jazz and Carnatic music he said, "In jazz, a form is created and every artist has the freedom to im-

provise within the structure of that *raag* and we artistes have the liberty to sing or play (an instrument) within the parameters of that *raag*."

It was interesting to see how he introduced the 120-strong audience to the concept of *raag*. He chose *Kharaharapriya* which comprises all the seven notes *sa, ri, ga, ma, pa, dha, ni* in the *aaroha* (ascending order) and *avaroha* (descending order). He dropped the note *pa* and *Kharaharapriya* changed to *Sriranjini*. By dropping *pa* and *ni*, the *raag* became *Abhogi*. And despite retaining all the seven notes, only by changing the order of singing, a totally new *raag* *Reethigoula* was created. Taking the audience through the structure of a classical concert, Krishna, blessed with a mellifluous voice further enriched by rigorous practice, rendered a flawless *aalapana, neraval* and *manodharma swara* (all different kinds of improvisations) in *raag* *Thodi*.

The audience not only listened with rapt attention but

Bangalore, April 3: Just when everyone thought Carnatic music was breathing its last in the 1980's, Chennai (or Madras as it was called then) witnessed a youth revolution which revived public interest in the classical art form. And today it is a matter of pleasure and pride to see lot of young blood on-stage-performing and promoting music, not just in India but even abroad. One such artiste is 28-year-old T.M. Krishna who was in the city to conduct a music appreciation workshop, at i-flex solutions.

The workshop was the brainchild of head of infrastructure and administration, i-flex Solutions, S. Hariharan. Speaking to *The Asian Age* Hariharan said, "I am a student of Carnatic music. I have attended many lecture-demonstrations which elucidate the nuances of the art form for both the knowledgeable and the uninitiated. On an experimental basis, we held a similar lecture-demonstration at our Chennai office.