



GOOD SELECTION OF KRITIS: T.M. Krishna.

PHOTO: R. RAGU

Punctuated with power and repose

VOCAL The pace varied as T.M.Krishna's raga expositions had serene and aggressive passages.

G. SWAMINATHAN

TM.Krishna's concert for ICICI Bank Music Fest in association with Music Academy carried the mechanism mandatory for a popular performance. The full auditorium enjoyed integrated music with a good choice of the Trinity's kritis, an array of beautiful ragas, moving passages, voice modulation, splendid chains of swaras, breathtaking raga build-ups, dramatic denouement, etc.

Should a concert always start with a varnam or an invocation of Lord Ganesha? Not necessary. Krishna wooed the audience with the heavy Sankarabharanam kriti 'Enduku Peddala' of Tyagaraja as the opening item. Of course, there was a swara spell at 'Veda Sastra' smartly converging on gan-

daram. The two ragas chosen for elaboration were Sriranjani and Kalyani.

The pace varied and the raga essays therefore contained both poignant reposes and aggressive passages. At times Krishna's dalliance with the tara sthaya notes sounded forced though he came out unscathed.

Electrifying swaras

Dikshitar's less heard but most beautiful 'Sri Dum Durge' came with electrifying swaras pivoted on 'Karuna Rasa Laya.' In Kalyani it was Syama Sastri's 'Talli Ninnu Nera' with niraval and swaras for 'Syama Krishna Paripalini Soolini.' There were fillers like 'Vina Rada' in balanced Devagandhari, 'Anupama

Gunampudi' in spirited Atana and a melting Mukhari with 'Priye Charu Sheele'.

Violinist R.K.Sriram Kumar executed his role with professional élan. Nevertheless, his raga alapana of Sriranjani slightly differed where his response hinged more on sobriety and continuity.

In such concerts invariably rhythm has the upper hand and the percussionists have a ball. Veterans Guruvayur Durai and T.V.Vasan on mridagam and ghatam respectively set the auditorium ablaze with their laya sallies, especially in the thani avarthanam. The audience responded with the same intensity through thunderous applause