

January 12, 2007

Spotlight on Varali



S.P.Ramh.

M. RAMESH

Memorable concert

S.P.Ramh's concert will be remembered for two factors. First, the Lalgudi disciple showed a iconoclastic tendency, singing a long ragam and tanam in Surutti as the main piece of the concert and following up with Tyagaraja's 'Geetarthamu' in full, rather than singing a pallavi, and then, not singing a niraval. Considering that Ramh had time, it is surprising that he missed the niraval part. Odd, yes, but the Surutti piece made for a good listening. Second, the irate mridangist, D.A.Srinivas, paused during his thani to tell a couple of chatters at the back that their chatting was disturbing. "How can I play if you keep on talking?" he demanded. Earlier, Ramh sang a lovely Varali alapana followed by 'Ka Va Va.' Swaras came at 'Pazhani Malaiyil.' The piece showed Ramh's maturity. The artiste has been getting less attention than he deserves. A.G.A.Gnanasundaram, another Lalgudi disciple, played brilliantly. The concert had a long tail, with a number of thukkadas and a tillana.