

CITY S

MUSIC CAUSERIE
K. Sundar Rajan

School-girl Subbulakshmi excels

Though veteran vocalist Rajalakshmi Santhanam occupied the centre stage in the RR Sabha concert during the last festival it was the Delhi schoolgirl Akkarai Subbulakshmi's violin support that won the laurels. The way she was able to touch the core of the ragas like Nattai, Madhyamavati and Thodi was truly amazing. In the neravals she was able to express on the instrument the sahitya excellence.

She began giving solos even at the tender age of eight years. O.V. Subramanyam (father of OST and OS-Arun) has shaped her vocal music. Her performances at the Vijay TV have won appreciation. The command she exhibits in her bowing and the nonchalance with which she plays any intricate song or pallavis puts her as a violinist of class and with more experience and opportunities she should turn out to be a topclass violinist. She is certainly Delhi's pride and critics have written good reviews about her performance. She has visited Russia under the Indo-Russian Cultural programme in 1997. Her father S. Swamynathan, an officer in the Indian Bank, New Delhi, runs the Swara Raga Sudha Violin School and taken a big hand in her daughter's training. RR Sabha should be congratulated on promotion of this talented youngster, for only an exposure at Chennai, cultural centre of India, gets the wonted certificate, for any artiste from most knowledgeable rasikas.

Since coming under the tutelage of Sulochana Pattabhiraman and S. Rajam after a terse course in pallavi rendering from Chengleput Ranganathan, Prema Rangarajan has vastly improved as her RR Sabha concert showed. Having been in Delhi, she is yet to make her mark in the highly competitive music world of Chennai and roundabouts. But it is for sure that Sulochana's ward will scale heights. She holds a Master's Degree in Sanskrit from Delhi University.

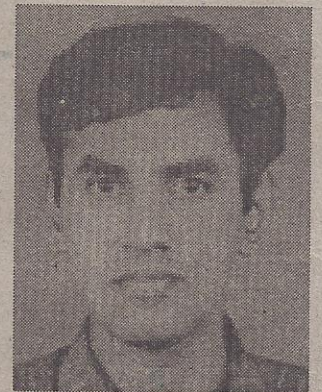
Violin accompanist Bhagyalakshmi who is also under the training of Sulochana after initial training from



Schoolgirl Akkarai Subbulakshmi'



Chittoor Gopalakrishnan and vocal music from the well known Calcutta Krishnamurthy, plays in a subtle manner, the hallmark of a good accompanist, showing her prowess only during tonal and arava rendering.



Prasad



V Bhagyalakshmi

last RR Sabha series Prasad Venkataraman earned the commendation of select rasikas for the correct pathanthara he has acquired. He has a good voice and grip on laya. His initial training was from his Mother Choodamani and the internationally famous Sudha Raghunathan who is his sister Sangita Kalanidhi T.M. Thyagarajan, Sulochana Pattabhiraman and Calcutta K.S. Krishnamurthy are among his long and illustrious mentors. An Engineer by profession-graduate working as a Software Engineer in a software company, Chennai, he has won several prizes in music competitions held at different centres. His versatile learning is revealed in the number of firsts to his credit in the composition of the Trinity Dasars. Sivan and Gopalakrishna Bharathi. He is one of