

## Community

## Millennium Melodies" Attract Large Audience

PEARLAND, TX - On the special Saturday of January 1st, 2000, as noble laureate Rabindranath Tagore said, "The same sun is newly born in new land in a ring of endless dawns" to seize the moment of the new Millennium.

The majority of the Indian community visited the Meenakshi temple to get the blessings from Goddess Meenakshi. It is the place where "God, man, nature, and art have created and placed the most magnificent view that the human eye can contemplate at Houston."

The people of new committee of Meenakshi Temple Society do have a special obligation to make the good thing available to as many people as possible.

Dr. Vaduganathan and Mr. Vijayarajan took the major part of their reason for the vitality of cultural entertainment tradition and initiated the multi-lingual music program for the dream-day of the millennium.

"Millennium Melodies" ,to be sure, is a simple, sample selection of our rich musical culture. The program started with the multi-language devotional songs to pay the tribute to the Ultimate are not only to hear, to listen, to wonder, to enjoy, but to cherish the moments.

The artists who performed at the show:

**Shobha:** "To be simple is the best thing in the world, to be modest is the next best thing, but I'm not sure about being quiet" - Chestertons' words exactly applied to the soft personality of Shobha who is simple, modest, but she was not quiet on that event- and her sensational show started with the sweet song of "*Satyam Sivam Sundaram*" She has sung for Tamil feature films "*May Maatham*" and "*Thalam*" under the musical direction of A.R.Rahman.

At present, she is residing in Houston and teaching music. she is also offering short-term Bhajan courses.

**C.S.Ainkaran:** The key to understanding Ainkaran is that he still enjoys the same music that he enjoyed when he was in the cradle. He is blessed with the great influence of senior singers like Gandasala, P.B.Srinivas, C.S.Jeyaraman, Trichy Loganathan, A.L.Ragavan, A.M.Raja, T.M.Sounderajan and most honorable guru S.P.Balasubramaniam.

Ainkaran knows how to capture hearts by music, and he is doing it plenty this year, especially 11 shows with P.Susheela. He residing in Kenosha, Wisconsin.



C.S.Ainkaran and Shobha "Engey En Punnagai" From Thalam

**Mani Sastry:** Her music speaks to us so naturally like an actual language, one that developed about the same time as speech. it is not only meaningful but also very powerful.

She is raised with the knowledge of the classical carnatic music that guides and shapes her life. She is residing in Austin, TX.

**Madhu Sudhanan:** His music is so fresh as the mountain air, so bright as the summer sky, a treasure to cherish forever. He is widely acknowledged as a professional singer, whose work has transforming power from Keerthana's to movie-songs. He visited here recently to attend the 12th convention of TANA.

With the lead of Vincent (keyboard), Udhay (tabla), Ramki (Murdangam) Abdul (drums) Khan (guitar) and Aiyappa Raj (keyboard) made the great impact to bring out Millennium Melodies.

The team worked together to make the magic melody come true on the stage with the last tributary piece of music - Jana Gana Mana. It came as a great moment that transports the crowd across thousands of miles and all the years they have lived.

All the proud people on the stage as well as on the auditorium had a satisfied feeling that it was the day, it was the moment, it was the joy, it was celebration, and it was the special from Happy Houston. Because every great work of art or music has two faces - one toward its own time and one toward the future. In that way "Millennium Melodies" stands for the cultural entertaining perfection forever.

-Sumathi Ram-