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Traditional aural treat

Ranjani 1 Rich Branch Court North Potomac M.D.20878, U.S.A. Carnatic classical vocal-Washington Prithvi Mohan - Price not mentioned.

WASHINGTON PRITHVI Mohan, a student at the University of Maryland, U.S., has creditably equipped himself with the various aspects of Carnatic music and his skills are indicated in his audio album released by Ranjani, U.S.

A student of Lalitha Sivakumar and D. K. Nagarajan, Mohan's style of singing reflects the style of D. K. Pattammal and D. K. Jayaraman.

The Dikshitar kriti, "Sadachaleswaram" in Bhoopalam with due focus on the Sadharana Gandharam and the fluent swaras for the madhyama kala sahitya in the charanam, reflect his traditional training.

In the rasika circles the raga Bowli is often referred to as

Bhoopalam. Bowli sports the Antara Gandhara and in the avarohanam the Kakali Nishadam is included, whereas Bhoopalam has only the Sadharana Gandharam in both the ascending and descending scales. Ritigowla has been well scripted by the vocalist and the violinist M. A. Krishnaswami.

A Muthuthandavar song in Nalinakanti with a brisk chittaswaram and Jayachamarajendra Wodeyar's "Sri Jalandara" with an even more lively chittaswaram, add to the momentum of the concert.

Mohanam has been elucidated with considerable awareness of the raga's inherent charm followed by Papanasam Sivan's immortal creation "Kapali."

The swara sequences sung without much ado, provide the launch pad for the laser precision tani avartanam by the talented percussionists, Neyveli Skanda Subramaniam on the

mridangam and Kovai Viswanathan on the ghatam.

The viruttam in Revati "petra thai tanai," the moving lyrics of Vallalar Ramalinga Swamikal and Thanjavur Sankara Iyer's "Mahadeva" also in Revati conclude the album in a devotional vein.

Devotional music — Bhajans on Satya Sai Baba — Veenarutham — Dr. Y. Bhagavati — Price not indicated.

Devotional hymns on Bhagwan Satya Sai Baba of Puttaparti have been played with melody on the veena by Y. Bhagavati of Singapore.

Although there is a vacuum, in the sense, that one cannot enjoy the lyrical substance of the songs, the soothing veena music and the orchestral backdrop with a number of instruments sensitively arranged by Prapancham Ravindran who is a reputed percussionist, lyricist and music director, are condu-

cive to happy listening — **S.P. Kandhar Sashti Kavacham** (VCD/CD, Rs. 75) produced by Compcare Software Pvt. Ltd. (91-44-22442911), is a visual treat. The hymn, set to popular tune, is enhanced by animation and graphics. It comes with pictures of Subramanya temples and abhishekams performed. Narration in Tamil and the music of Kunnakkudi Vaidhyathan make viewing a pleasure.

Sri Paadam is a compilation of classical songs sung by Nithyasree Mahadevan. Produced by AVM Audio, the CD is priced at Rs. 200 and is marketed by Super Audio (Madras) Pvt. Ltd.

The Jewels of Oothukkadu comprises songs by Oothukkadu sung by Aruna Sayeeram, Bombay Sisters, Maharajapuram Santhanam and T. N. Seshagopalan. Produced by AVM Audio and marketed by Super Audio (Madras) Pvt. Ltd., the CD is priced at Rs. 200.