

Sir,

I have the honour to present to you Shri Madurai Mani Iyer, a foremost exponent of vocal music of the Karnatic School.

Born on 25th October, 1912 at Madurai, Shri Mani Iyer was fortunate to have a musician father like Shri Ramaswamy Iyer, and an uncle, Sangeetha Vidwan Madurai Pushpavana Iyer, who was famous in the art of Karnatic music.

Shri Madurai Mani Iyer began his training in music from an early age of eight under Shri Madurai Rajam Bhagavathar and became a disciple of Gayaka Sikhamani Harikeshavattur Muthiah Bhagavathar in 1922.

Shri Madurai Mani Iyer evolves a peculiar pattern in the *Swara* rendering and his *Apurva-Ragas*, effortlessly executed, possess a high degree of purity. While adhering to the time honoured "*Sruthi*" and melody aspect of Karnatic music he is noted for breaking into its unexplored regions.

For his pre-eminence in music and for his life-long devotion and service to its cause, I pray, Sir, that you may be pleased to grant him recognition as Musician of the Year, in the field of vocal music of the Karnatic School, and to award him a Shawl, a gold *Shrinkhal* and a *Sanad* in token of that recognition.