

NEWSLETTER

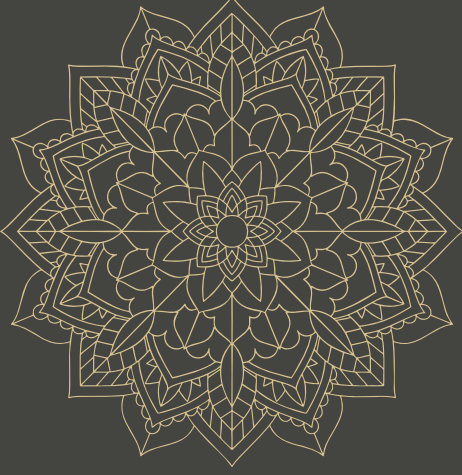
A Snippet of our travel so far

High Points of GCMA

Monthly Concerts by Members

2023: Health Insurance Scheme

First Annual Generalbody Meeting



314, TTK Road, Alwarpet, Chennai - 18, Tamilnadu
gcmatrust@gmail.com | www.gcma.in

Namaskaaram!

It gives us immense pleasure to share our second edition of GCMA's Newsletter. We would like to share our continued achievements and other updates since our first edition.

As you all know, a need for a common voice for Carnatic musicians fraternity resulted in the birth of GCMA in 2019. Since then, GCMA has been growing from strength to strength and have been the face of many carnatic musicians.

GCMA's Mission

To protect the interests of Carnatic artists irrespective of age, caste, creed, sex, nationality, etc. and provide them avenues and opportunities for leveraging benefits, both financial and otherwise. To work towards preserving and safe guarding the honor and reputation of the art form.

Office Bearers

The first set of office bearers of GCMA are:

President: Vid. Sudha Ragunathan

Vice Presidents: Vid. S Sowmya | Vid. P Unnikrishnan | Vid. Nirmala Rajasekar

General Secretary: Vid. Tanjavur Murugaboopathi

Joint Secretaries: Vid. VK Manimaran | Vid. VVS Murari

Treasurers: Vid. R Suryaprakash | Vid. SV Ramani

State Secretaries: Vid. Nithyasree Mahadevan |

Vid. Mysore Manjunath | Vid. Vaikkom Venugopal |

Vid. Malladi Ravi

NEWSLETTER

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Annual General Body Meeting

GCMA's first ever **Annual General Body Meeting (AGM)** was conducted on February 20th, 2023, at the Hotel Maris, Cathedral Road, Chennai. The event was attended by approximately 100 members and was also graced by some of the members of the advisory committee and senior musicians, such as **Late Guru Sri. Karaikudi Mani, Haridwaramangalam Sri. AK Palanivel, Vid. Suguna Varadachari, Tiruvarur Sri. Bhaktavatsalam, Sri. Nagai Muralidharan, Sri. MA Krishnaswamy, Sri. Sanjay Subrahmanyam** and many other musicians.

Vid. Vasudha Ravi as the master of ceremonies invited three members (**Kum. Samanvitha, Kum. Nanditha Kannan and Smt. Bhuvanaja Iyengar**) to commence the AGM with a prayer song.

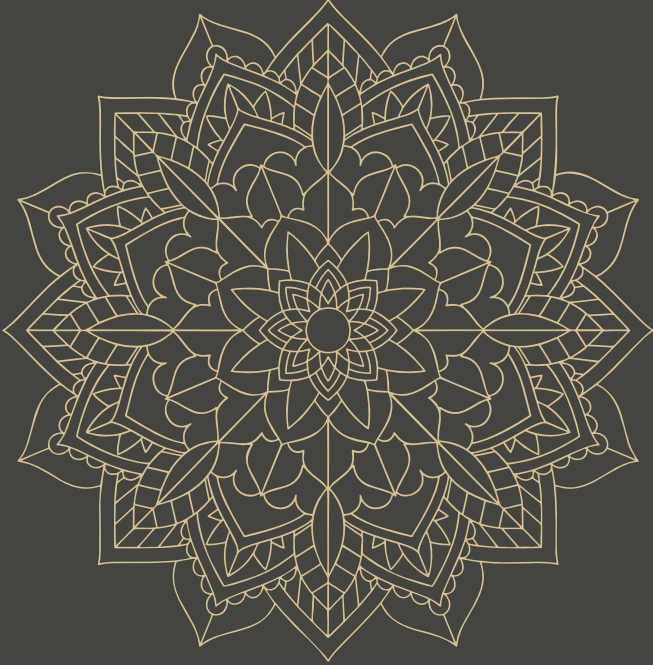
Sri. R Suryaprakash, the Treasurer, delivered the welcome address, inviting members to be a part of the AGM and make it an interactive and meaningful event.

The annual report till the year 2023 was detailed by **Sri. VVS Murari**, the Joint Secretary, highlights of which comprised of the introduction of health insurance for members, various concerts held throughout the year by member musicians such as **Megha Raga Varshini, Parambariyam series, a COVID fund-raising concert series, Navarathri series, monthly concert series, concert series in celebration of the Indo-American relationship and American Independence Day, Global margazhi festival 2022, GCMA Akhandam** as well as the financial results until financial year 2022.



NEWSLETTER

A Snippet of our travel so far



Vid. Sudha Ragnathan, the president of GCMA delivered the Presidential address and retraced GCMA's journey from its inception in July 2019 and also highlighted the need for an organisation like GCMA to unite and bring together musicians and to address the needs of the musicians' committee.

Right from the start, GCMA has been instrumental in providing support in various forms to the musical community without restricting such support only to members of GCMA, especially during the COVID lockdowns. Members have been provided with health insurance with a sum assured of Rs. 5 lakhs (possible reduction to Rs. 3 lakhs going forward) despite the fact that the annual premium payable of Rs. 35,000 exceeds the annual membership fees payable by a member of Rs. 1,000, because of the benefits of a "group insurance". Members were then briefed on the procedure to avail this health insurance for the year 2023-24.

The President also thanked the patrons who have been generously extending their support in monetary as well as other forms from all over the world thereby significantly helping GCMA have a wider and better impact.

Sri. P Unnikrishnan, Vice President, briefed the members about the upcoming election process. He explained that consequent to the completion of 3 years, an election to constitute a working committee is expected to be held, the details of which would be sent to members in coming days.



NEWSLETTER

A Snippet of our travel so far



Sri. P Unnikrishnan also invited all members to contest in the elections for any post of their choice. The contesting posts are:

1. General Secretary
2. Joint Secretary (3 positions)
3. Regional secretaries (One for each of 4 states)
4. Treasurer (2 positions)

Once the contesting posts were announced, Vid. Sudha Raganathan passed a resolution confirming **Sri. P Unnikrishnan** and **Sri. KV Gopalakrishnan** as the **election officers** who would be responsible for overseeing the process and ensuring a transparent and fair election.

Next, as a part of the secretarial address, **Tanjavur Sri. Murugaboopathi**, the General Secretary shared the organisation's vision and future plans, including collaboration with other organisations.

True to its name, GCMA's Vice President, **Vid. Nirmala Rajasekhar** also sent a video message from Minneapolis, MN, USA highlighting GCMA's role in being truly a global organization involving carnatic musicians from across the globe and also having support from music connoisseurs across the globe.

Cleveland Sri. VV Sundaram in his recorded message expressed his support and praise for the organisation and also extended his desire to collaborate with and support GCMA in various projects.



NEWSLETTER

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Next, **Vid. Neyveli Shankar Prasad**, a member musician and a support team member briefed the audience about the ongoing development of a website for GCMA and also revealed the first look of the website.

The AGM had a large membership drive (covering new and renewals), managed by **Vid. Rithu Rajendran**, **Vid. Saveeta Sriram** and **Vid. Veena Venkatramani**, with a total of over eighty musicians renewing as well as becoming a new member adding more strength to the organisation.

The event also saw some thought-provoking questions by senior artistes. **Guru Karaikudi Sri. R Mani** expressed his desire for more musicians to understand the importance of percussion and rhythm and support percussion artistes. **Sri. MA Krishnaswamy**, **Sri. Prapancham Balachandran** and **Sri. Tiruvarur Bhaktavatsalam** expressed their desire for GCMA to assist with the revival of All India Radio staff artist appointments, which was stalled for over 30 years. They also requested GCMA to intervene and enhance the awareness at more forums about the requirement to support AIR and also take it up with appropriate Govt authorities. In response, the President promised to look into the matter.

Finally, **Vid. Nithyasree Mahadevan**, the State Secretary of Tamilnadu delivered the vote of thanks to all the members, donors and patrons and various other people who extended their support and were instrumental in making the first AGM a grand success.

The event ended with a sumptuous lunch at Hotel Maris.



NEWSLETTER

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Health Insurance Scheme

GCMA advanced the term of membership from July to April to align with financial year as per advice of auditors, insurance experts and as per the consensus of committee members.

Star Health Insurance - The insurance provider. Even though membership of GCMA is only 1000 rupees per year, members whoever opted for the insurance coverage are being given health insurance worth 35000 rupees.

Benefits of the health insurance include -

1. Coverage from day one
2. Cashless admission in hospitals across India
3. Coverage sum upto 3 lakhs
4. Coverage for pre existing conditions included
5. Coverage for conditions such as cataract, Hernia, fistula, stone, uterus related issues to name a few which are not included in many other insurance policies, especially when done individually. Because of "group insurance", GCMA members are getting these benefits.

A total of about 140 musicians have availed the insurance coverage since March 2023. An identification card from Star Insurance was issued and mailed to all the members who availed the insurance policy.



NEWSLETTER

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Memories from AGM

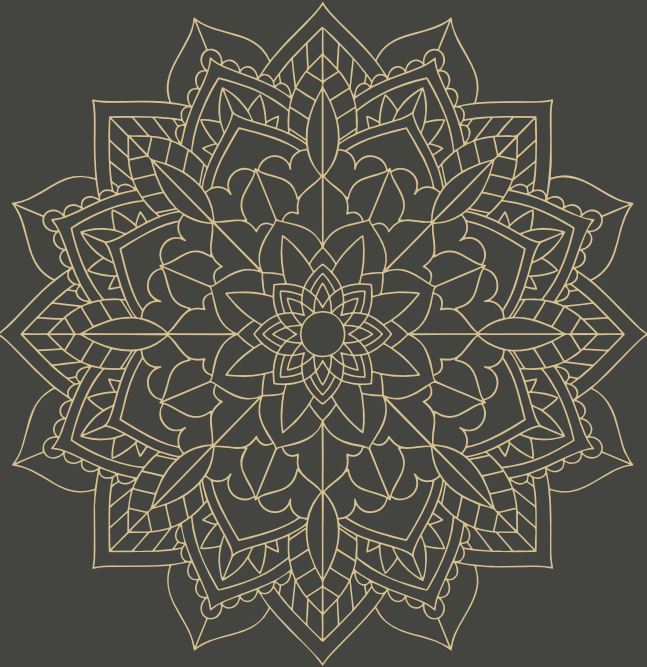


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Musical Events - Monthly Concert February 2023



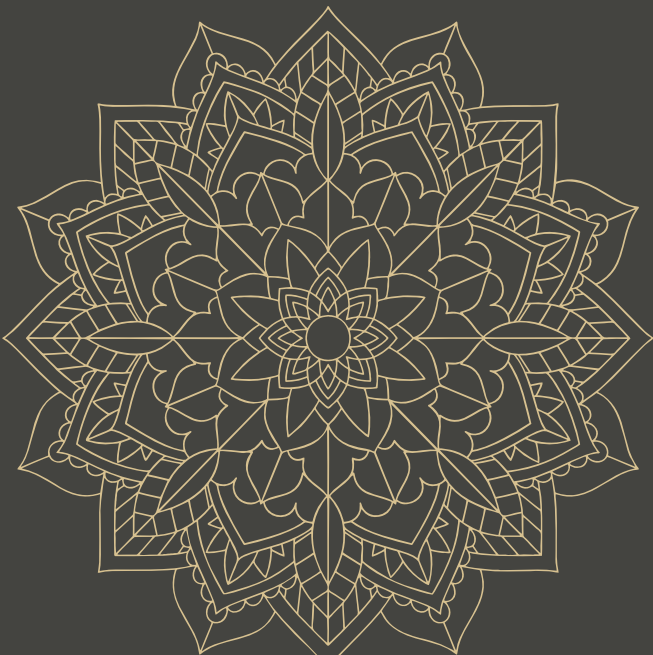
Vid. Veena Venkatramani

Vid. Kishore Ramesh | Vid. Adarsh B

Vid. Shruti S Bhat | Vid. VSP Gayatri Sivani

Vid. Kumbakonam Swaminathan

Vid. Nerkunam Dr. Sankar



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Musical Events - Monthly Concert March 2023



Vid. Akshay Padmanabhan | Vid. R Raghul
Vid. Akshay Ram | Vid. S Sivaramakrishnan

Vid. Allam Durgaprasad | Vid. MA Krishnaswamy
Vid. B Sivaraman | Vid. Dr. S Karthick



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Musical Events - Monthly Concert April & May 2023



Dr. Usha Rajagopalan &
Vid. Meera Sivaraamakrishnan
Vid. Madipakkam Suresh | Vid. Papanasam Sethuraman

Vid. KS Vishnudev | Vid. BU Ganeshprasad
Vid. Kishore Ramesh | Vid. Anirudh Athreya



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Thank You



Team Social Media (GCMA)