

Friday Review Chennai and Tamil Nadu

PAPPU VENUGOPAL RAO

CONFERENCE The morning sessions at the Music Academy deal with interesting subjects

Photos: V. Ganesan.



T. Unnikrishnan

Vocal quality

On December 20, T. Unnikrishnan dealt with “Voice Culture in Hindustani and Carnatic music.” He traced the importance of voice culture from the days of Natya Sastra and later treatises. Musicians should not just read it as theory, but understand the necessity to retain quality voice. He enlisted some techniques of voice production. One should use the anatomy and physiology of voice. The three components of voice production are resonatory, phonatory and respiratory; which help in relaxing the muscles and ligaments of the larynx, give energy for singing and ability to manipulate effectively to get the required voice. He drew a distinction between amateur singing, professional singing and folk singing.

Though not trained, professional singers have their own ways of maintaining their voices and the folk singers have their natural ways of modulations. He talked mainly of three voice registers. He explained with demonstrations both in the Carnatic and Hindustani styles and offered tips to gain ability to sing in three octaves. By constant practice, careful tonal placement, pranayama and adherence to the basic principles of voice culture, a singer will easily be able to sing any kind of music, he said.