

VOCALESSENCE  Music Press

Sangeetham

Shruthi Rajasekar

TTBB, a cappella

Sangeetham

PROGRAM NOTE:

I've always believed that it takes tremendous courage to sing— to me, it is the most raw and exposed way of making music. My high school directors taught us to wholeheartedly embrace this vulnerability; they recognized it as a source of incredible strength. In searching for a text that embodies this message, I approached one of India's most eminent musicologists, Dr. Bala Meenakshi Sundaram (fondly known to many as BMS Mama). He penned the entire Sanskrit poem in a single inspired moment. Because of its international path to conception, *Sangeetham*, which means “music” in Sanskrit, uses elements from both the Western classical and Carnatic (South Indian classical) traditions, thus celebrating the power of the voice in lifting us up and bringing us together.

TEXT:

bAloham mAthru bhakthOham
sangeetha kalayAm preethOham
shrOthOham athi balaheenam
samastha guru kripa purnOham
nyAthOham parashrama vAnOham
jeethOham kOvida gAnoham
neythOham loka prasidhOham
mama balasyamUlam sangeetham

—Dr. B. M. Sundaram

TRANSLATION:

I am a young man with high regard for my mother
who worships the art of music.
Though the path is long and hard,
I have the blessings of my gurus
to persevere and succeed
so that my music is known to all.
The shining truth is that
the core of my being is music.

—translated by Nirmala Rajasekar

PRONUNCIATION:

Use the audio guide for help with pronunciation of the text. The guide features a recitation as well as text read in rhythm, special notes about specific vowels, consonants, combined sounds in Sanskrit, and explanations and examples of rendering the unique Carnatic features in the piece.

Shruthi Rajasekar is a Minnesotan composer and vocalist. Trained in the Carnatic and Western classical idioms, Rajasekar explores intersections of identity and music. Her composing has been honored by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights for contributing to equality in race and gender. Rajasekar's choral, orchestral, chamber, and dramatic works are performed across North America, Europe, and Asia. She is also a collaborative performer and improviser. To learn more, please visit www.shruthirajasekar.com.

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Sangeetham

Dr. B. M. Sundaram

Shruthi Rajasekar
(2017)

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Self-Possessed (♩=84)

Tenor 1
Baa - lo - ham maa - thru bhak - tho - ham

Tenor 2
Baa - lo - ham maa - thru bhak - tho - ham

Bass 1
Baa - lo - ham maa - thru bhak - tho - ham

Bass 2
maa - thru bhak - tho - ham

Piano
(for rehearsal only)

Self-Possessed (♩=84)

5 *mp*

T 1 Shro - tho - ham a - thee - ba - la - hee - nam

T 2 *mp* Shro - tho - ham a - thee - ba - la - hee - nam

B 1 *mp* Shro - tho - ham a - thee - ba - la - hee - nam

B 2 *mp* Shro - tho - ham a - thee - ba - la - hee - nam

mp

9 *mf*

T 1 baa - lo - ham san - gee -

T 2 *mf* baa - lo - ham san - gee -

B 1 *mf* baa - lo - ham san - gee -

B 2 *mf* baa - lo - ham san(g) - - -

mf

12

(opt. falsetto)

solo

tutti

T 1

tham san-gee - tha ka - la - yaam pree - tho - ham pree - tho - ham

T 2

tham ham ham pree - - -

B 1

tham ham pree - tho - ham

B 2

gee - tham ham pree - - -

8

3

3

3

16

solo

(pitch bend)

Assured (♩=94)

T 1

pree - tho - ham pree-tho - ham

T 2

tho - - - ham sam - as - tha gu - ru kri - pa

B 1

pree - tho - ham ham

B 2

tho - - - ham

3

Assured (♩=94)

8

19 *tutti* energy moves forward;
pace picks up slightly
(but not a grand accel.) (opt. falsetto)

T1
8 sam - as - tha gu - ru kri - pa gu - ru kri - pa gu - ru

T2
8 pur - no - ham gu - ru kri - pa sam - as - tha gu - ru

B1
gu - ru kri - pa sam - as - tha gu - ru sam - as - tha

B2
gu - ru

Piano

22

T1
8 gu - ru gu - ru kri - pa sa sam - as - tha gu - ru kri - pa

T2
8 pur - no - ham sam - as - tha gu - ru kri - pa pur - no - ham

B1
sam - as - tha sam - as - tha gu - ru

B2
sam - as - tha pur - no - ham gu - ru

Piano

25

T 1

8 pur - no - ham sam - as - tha gu - ru kri - pa sam - as - tha gu - ru

T 2

8 sam - as - tha gu - ru kri - pa pur - no - ham sam - as - tha gu - ru kri - pa

B 1

8 sam - as - tha gu - ru kri - pa pur - no - ham sam - as - tha gu - ru

B 2

8 sam - as - tha gu - ru kri - pa sam - as - tha gu - ru

28

T 1

8 sam - as - tha gu - ru kri - pa pur - no - ham

T 2

8 pur - no - ham pur - no - ham

B 1

8 pur - no - ham pur - no - ham

B 2

8 sam - as - tha gu - ru kri - pa pur - no - ham

31

T 1

T 2

B 1

B 2

f (Grace note on the beat)

nyaa - tho - ham pa - ra - shra - ma vaa - no - ham

nyaa - tho - ham pa - ra - shra - ma vaa - no - ham

f ham

f

35

T 1

T 2

B 1

B 2

f

nyaa - tho - ham pa - ra - shra - ma vaa - no - ham

nyaa - tho - ham pa - ra - shra - ma vaa - no - ham ham

nyaa³ - tho - ham vaa - no - ham

nyaa³ - tho - ham vaa - no - ham

f

39

T 1

T 2

B 1

B 2

jee - tho - ham ko - vi - da gaa - no - ham ham ham

jee - tho - ham ko - vi - da gaa - no - ham ham ham

jee - tho - ham ko - vi - da gaa - no - ham ham

42

T 1

T 2

B 1

B 2

ham ham ham ham

ham ham

ham

tho - ham

ham ham jee - tho - ham jee -

46

T 1

8

jee jee tho ham (m)aa aa aa

T 2

8

jee jee jee tho ham (m)aa

B 1

jee jee tho - ham (m)aa

B 2

tho - ham jee - tho - ham ham ham (m)aa

46

8

46

8

49

T 1

8

rit.

T 2

8

rit.

B 1

mp ne - tho - ham lo - ka pra - si - dho -

rit.

B 2

mp ne - tho - ham lo - ka pra - si - dho -

rit.

49

8

49

8

49

8

53 Arrived (♩=80) *mf*

T 1 ma-ma

T 2 *mp* ne - tho - ham

B 1 ham ne - - - tho - ham

B 2 ham ne - tho - ham

Arrived (♩=80) *mf*

57 (optional) improv percussion begins

T 1 ba - la - sya-mu - lam san - gee - tham ma-ma

T 2 *mf* (staggered breathing) ma-ma ba - la - sya-mu - lam san - gee - tham

B 1

B 2

59 *(staggered breathing)*

T 1
ba - la - sya-mu - lam san - gee - tham ba - la - sya-mu - lam san - gee - tham

T 2
ba - la - sya-mu - lam san - gee - tham ma-ma ba - la - sya-mu - lam san - gee - tham ma-ma

B 1

B 2

61

T 1
ba - la - sya-mu - lam san - gee - tham ma-ma ba - la - sya-mu - lam san - gee - tham ma-ma

T 2
ba - la - sya-mu - lam san - gee - tham ma-ma ba - la - sya-mu - lam san - gee - tham ma-ma

B 1
mf
ham ham ham ham ham ham ham

B 2
mf
ham ham ham

63

T 1

8

ba - la - sya-mu - lam san - gee - tham ma-ma ba - la - sya-san - gee - tham

T 2

8

ba - la - sya-mu - lam san - gee - tham ma-ma ba - la - sya-mu - lam san - gee - tham ma-ma

B 1

ba - la - sya-san - gee - tham ba - la - sya-ham

B 2

ba - la - sya-ham ham ma-ma

65

T 1

8

ma-ma ba - la - sya-mu - lam san - gee - tham ma-ma

T 2

8

ba - la - sya-mu - lam san - gee - tham ma-ma

B 1

ma-ma ba - la - sya-mu - lam san - gee - tham ma-ma

B 2

ba - la - sya-mu - lam san - gee - tham ma-ma

cresc. poco a poco

cresc. poco a poco

cresc. poco a poco

cresc. poco a poco

67

T 1

ma-ma ba - la - sya-mu - lam san - gee - tham ma-ma *f*

T 2

ba - la - sya-mu - lam san - gee - tham ma-ma ba - la - sya-mu - lam san - gee - tham ma-ma *f*

B 1

(staggered breathing)

san - gee - tham ma-ma ba - la - sya-mu - lam san - gee - tham ma-ma *f*

B 2

(staggered breathing)

ba - la - sya-mu - lam san - gee - tham ma-ma ba - la - sya-mu - lam san - gee - tham ma-ma *f*

69

T 1

ba - la - sya-mu - lam san - gee - tham ma-ma ba - la - sya-mu - lam san - gee - tham ma-ma

T 2

ba - la - sya-mu - lam san - gee - tham ma-ma ba - la - sya-mu - lam san - gee - tham ma-ma

B 1

ba - la - sya-mu - lam san - gee - tham ma-ma ba - la - sya-mu - lam san - gee - tham ma-ma

B 2

ba - la - sya-mu - lam san - gee - tham ma-ma ba - la - sya-mu - lam san - gee - tham ma-ma

71

T 1

8

ba - la - sya-mu - lam san - gee - tham ma-ma ba - la - sya-mu - lam san - gee - tham ma-ma

T 2

8

ba - la - sya-mu - lam san - gee - tham ma-ma ba - la - sya-mu - lam san - gee - tham ma-ma

B 1

ba - la - sya-mu - lam san - gee - tham ma-ma ba - la - sya-mu - lam san - gee - tham ma-ma

B 2

ba - la - sya-mu - lam san - gee - tham ma-ma ba - la - sya-mu - lam san - gee - tham ma-ma

(G# is intended to be approximate/light/lifted)

73

T 1

8

ba - la - sya-mu - lam san - gee - tham ma-ma ba - la - sya-mu - lam san - gee - tham ma-ma

T 2

8

ba - la - sya-mu - lam san - gee - tham ma-ma ba - la - sya-mu - lam san - gee - tham ma-ma

B 1

ba - la - sya-mu - lam san - gee - tham ma-ma ba - la - sya-mu - lam san - gee - tham ma-ma

B 2

ba - la - sya-mu - lam san - gee - tham ma-ma ba - la - sya-mu - lam san - gee - tham ma-ma

75

T1
8
ba - la - sya - mu - lam san - gee - tham ma-ma ba - la - sya - mu - lam san - gee - tham ma-ma

T2
8
ba - la - sya - mu - lam san - gee - tham ma-ma ba - la - sya - mu - lam san - gee - tham ma-ma

B1
ba - la - sya - mu - lam san - gee - tham ma-ma ba - la - sya - mu - lam san - gee - tham ma-ma

B2
ba - la - sya - mu - lam san - gee - tham ma-ma ba - la - sya - mu - lam san - gee - tham ma-ma

77

T1
8
ba - la - sya - mu - lam san - gee - tham san -

T2
8
ba - la - sya - mu - lam san - gee - tham ma-ma ba - la - sya - mu - lam san - gee - tham ma-ma

B1
ba - la - sya - mu - lam san - gee - tham ma-ma ba - la - sya - mu - lam san - gee - tham ma-ma

B2
ba - la - sya - mu - lam san - gee - tham ma-ma ba - la - sya - mu - lam ma-ma

79

T 1

gee - tham ma-ma ba-la - syamu - lam san - gee-tham

T 2

ba-la - syamu - lam san - gee - tham ma-ma ba-la - syamu - lam san - gee - tham

B 1

ba-la - syamu - lam san - gee - tham ma-ma ba-la - syamu - lam san - gee-tham

B 2

ba-la - syamu - lam ma-ma ba-la - syamu - lam san - gee-tham

82

T 1

p tender Baa - lo - ham ham

T 2

p tender Baa - lo - ham ham san - gee - *(pitch bend)*

B 1

p tender Baa - lo - ham ham ham

B 2

p tender ham san - gee - *(pitch bend)* - tham

