



Concert in aid of Centenary Scholarship Fund held

A concert by Chennai-based group, Themes and Variations, in aid of the Centenary Scholarship Fund, was held on the 3rd of March, 2018, at the College Campus.



The Centenary Scholarship Fund, one of the various initiatives undertaken this year to mark 100 years of medical education at CMC, has been set up to help promising young women from disadvantaged backgrounds in Vellore to pursue health-related courses.

Themes and Variations, curated by pianist Pratibha Williams Santwan, is a group made up of accomplished musicians based in Chennai. The repertoire for the fund-raising concert, for which they gave their time and talents freely, included Western classical instrumentals, vocal selections, contemporary excerpts from musicals, and arrangements of popular songs.

The programme opened with 'Gratias agimus tibi' ('We give thanks to Thee for Thy great glory') from Puccini's 'Gloria' – a dramatic tenor sung by Ebenezer Arunkumar,



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with Santwan on the piano. This was followed by Mozart's beautiful aria, 'Il mio tesoro', from 'Don Giovanni'. Rendered with extraordinary technique, Arunkumar displayed great facility with coloratura singing, while maintaining sustained lyricism.

Santwan executed Schubert's 'Impromptu' Op.90 No.4 dexterously on the piano, maintaining a fine balance between melody and accompaniment. Matthew Dilip's 'Medley of Musicals' on the piano, interspersed with his own variations, was a delight, as was his duet with Santwan - Schubert's duet, the 'March Heroique'.

M. Yuvan's display passages in Vivaldi's 'Flute Concerto in C' played on the recorder, with piano accompaniment, was greatly enjoyed by the audience. This was followed by 'Allegro' by Sammartini, 'Minuet' by Barsanti and a vivacious rendition of 'The Bee' by Schubert, arranged for the recorder. His own composition 'Footbeats' in swing style was intriguing, with the theme based purely on the notes of the blues scale.

Well-known favourites sung by Arunkumar and Roshni Sharon – 'Think of Me' (from 'Phantom of the Opera'), 'Part of Your World' (from 'The Little Mermaid'), 'On the Street Where you Live' (Nat King Cole) and 'Bridge Over Troubled Water' (Simon and Garfunkel) - were a treat for the audience. Sharon's powerful soprano endowed her singing with a rare intensity and brought complex personalities to life, both in her solos and in the duets with Arunkumar – 'Vivo per Lei' and 'I hate you, then I love you' (Celine Dion and Luciano Pavarotti).

What better way to end the program than with 'Thank you for the Music' (ABBA), 'Time to Say Goodbye' (Andrea Bocelli and Sarah Brightman), 'The Prayer' (Celine Dion and Andrea Bocelli) and finally 'Go Now in Peace', a blessing song by the ensemble. With songs sung in Latin, Italian, French and English, it was an eclectic programme and an enchanting evening, enjoyed by young and old alike.

For further information about the Centenary Scholarship Fund, please contact the Development Office (dev.office@cmcvellore.ac.in)