

SRUTI BOX

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Two feathers in her cap

Whom shall I address this letter to? The subject matter is the Editor herself! ‘*Sruti*’ Janaki: the magazine’s name is always prefixed to her name and that has become her identity for all who contribute and read *Sruti*—the wonderful magazine about the performing arts. She ascends the throne of Editor-in-Chief; even otherwise she occupies a high seat as far the readers of *Sruti* are concerned. The late Dr. N. Pattabhi Raman was very lucky to have a bunch of dedicated workers who toiled without any monetary considerations whatsoever to establish *Sruti* as a magazine to reckon with. From the inception, Janaki Srinivasan adopted the *Sruti* Parivar as her family and naturally imbibed the initial ‘S’ for *Sruti* which she has been serving with integrity and complete dedication. It is hard to find such a person in this generation of workers.

Now Janaki has become synonymous with *Sruti* and is an inseparable entity altogether. Her unbiased views and impeccable language felicity are admired by thousands of readers around the globe which has also brought her the coveted honour and award of Natya Kala Visharadaha from none other than Sri Krishna Gana Sabha. Kudos to *Sruti* Janaki who is adorning two feathers in her cap this season. All of Janaki’s admirers will join me in felicitating her achievements and wish her many more.

I was delighted to see Roja Kannan—my favourite Bharatanatyam artist—featured in the cover story well elucidated by Anjana Anand in

the November 2018 issue of *Sruti*. Certainly Roja is continuing the great legacy of natyacharya Adyar K. Lakshman. Shanta and I have always admired Roja’s tenacity and commitment to her art. Youngsters must draw inspiration from her dedication and the slow and steady progress with ups and downs in life. Kudos to her for the remarkable achievements including her becoming the president of ABHAI—a prestigious chair she occupies now.

I am becoming more fastidious and obsessed now with my strong contention on the usage of ‘natya’ or ‘Bharatanatyam’ in place of the casual, common, frivolous word “dance” to describe our kind of performing arts. I feel it is the responsibility of accredited writers, journalists, and publications like *Sruti* to use the dignified and more valued terms mentioned above instead of ‘dance’.

V.P. Dhananjayan
Chennai

Congratulations

It gives me extreme pleasure to note that Janaki has taken charge as the Editor-in-Chief of *Sruti* magazine. I know that she worked hard for the magazine, right from the days of the late N. Pattabhi Raman. I have observed her way of working so efficiently and sincerely, since I used to stay in Alapana with my dear Pattabhi for many days. Even when her father breathed his last, we were with her in the hospital and without minding the loss she came to the office in three days, since she felt a lot of work was pending. When I was a contributing editor of the magazine, she used to insist that I should send articles on various

subjects. I congratulate the trustees of the *Sruti* Foundation, for having elevated her to the coveted post, which she richly deserves. Congratulations and blessings to her.

B.M. Sundaram
Pondicherry

Coverage of maestros

Hearty congratulations to Janaki for taking over the reins of *Sruti* as the chief editor. I have been following the love, care and dedication with which she has nurtured the magazine all these years. Readers had the privilege of reading the scholarly editorial remarks of V. Ramnarayan and it is hoped that he will continue to share his opinions and comments in the coming years. The December bumper issue, with nearly 50 per cent of the pages carrying advertisements, is like a souvenir. The profile of Annapurna Devi and the tributes by Sakuntala Narasimhan are very touching. I wonder why *Sruti* is highlighting the achievements and service of maestros of the past only after their death instead of during their lifetime! (*Sruti* was launched only in 1983 after several maestros had passed away. There were, and still are, some artists who are not forthcoming, but we have been trying our best to write about their life and contributions from available sources.—Editor). Please also highlight the contributions of maestros from Karnataka, Kerala and other States who have not been covered so far in your magazine.

C.P. Chikanna
Karnataka