



Profile of Author

Adi Sankara Perumal pursued his B.A. Music at the Annamalai University, Chidambaram, India during 1995 - 1998 and his M.A. Music during 2005 - 2007 at the Madras University, Chennai, India.

He is specializing in both Practical Music and Musicology.

Adi Sankara is working as a Lecturer in Vocal Carnatic at the renowned Mahatma Gandhi Institute, Moka, Republic of Mauritius.

REVIEWS & COMMENTS

"I greatly admire the enthusiasm of Thiru. Adi Sankara Perumal in his efforts to bring out such a document. This book in English would be an inspiring and attractive introduction to the Saivite culture of the Tamizh country. And when we realise that the author is a citizen of Mauritius, our admiration goes up. Now we look forward to research writings on music from this young Post-graduate in music."

- Dr. N. Ramanathan (Musicologist, India)

"Adi Sankara's work is a valuable contribution to the world of Tamil culture and his book is another attempt to look back the singing tradition of South India. This book is supplemented with an audio CD of beautifully selected traditional devotional music. Singing with Saivite Saints will be a useful, enjoyable and educational tool for students and music lovers."

-Dr. B. Balasubrahmaniyan (Adjunct Instructor-Wesleyan University, USA)

"Thank you for taking us back to our source and the roots of our venerable Saiva traditions. 'Singing with Saivite Saints' explains and throws light on the origin and purpose of our Saiva Bhakti. I have heard Adi Sankara singing our Tirumurai, Tevaram, Tirumantiram and Nachintanai, have accompanied him on some of his yatrai and can testify to his unbounded love for God, Gods and Guru, expressed through music and teaching."

- Mr. M. Mardemootoo csk (Senior Attorney, Mauritius)

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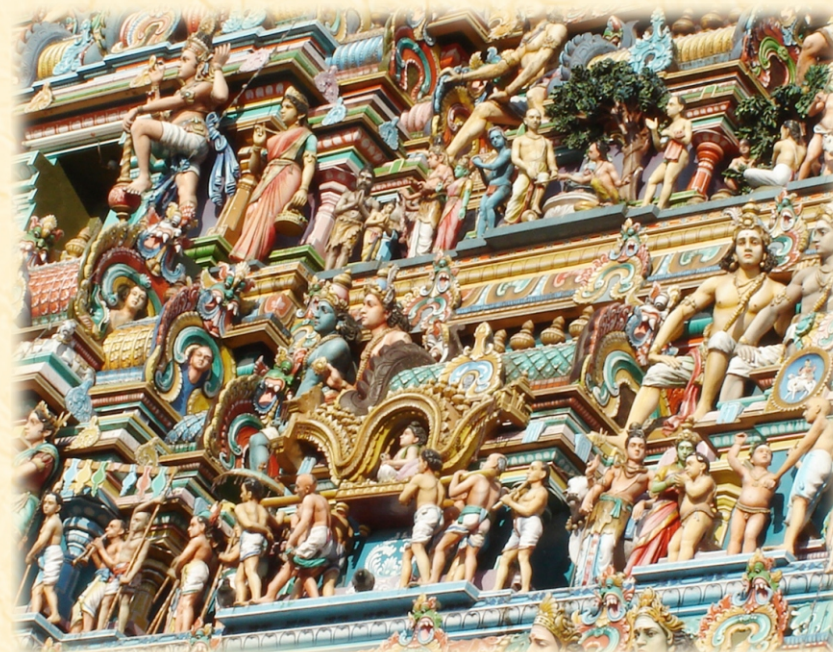
AS PRODUCTION

Singing with Saivite Saints

Adi Sankara Perumal

Singing with Saivite Saints

from Tirumurai to Natchintanai



Adi Sankara Perumal



Language in India 18:11 November 2018

**SINGING WITH
SAIVITE SAINTS**

From
Tirumurai
To
Natchintanai
Adi Sankara Peruman



AS PRODUCTION

Dr Adi Sankara

Singing with Saivite Saints

Language in India 18:11 November 2018

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DEDICATION

*I dedicate this book to
my loving
Father and Mother
Pragassen and Vimala
for having always been there for me.*
— Adi Sankara

Special Thanks to

Mr. MOOGOME PERUMAL
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FAMILY
L'ESPERANCE, PITON, MAURITIUS

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FOREWORD

Many blessings from the Kauai Aadheenam Pitham of the Kailasa Parampara on the publication of “Singing with Saivite Saints: From Tirumurai to Natchintanai.”

We are delighted to review this Saivite Song Book and applaud Adi Sankara Peruman’s effort to “capture and portray the sense of devotion, surrender and oneness that the Saivite saints felt for Lord Siva.”

Contrary to the understanding of many, Siva is not the God of destruction, but rather the God of love. As Saint Tirumular aptly wrote: *“The ignorant prate that love and Siva are two. They do not know that love alone is Siva. When men know that love and Siva are the same, love as Siva they ever remain.”*

Om Namasivaya.

SATGURU BODHINATHA VEYLANSWAMI

Jagadacharya Nandinatha Sampradaya
Kauai Aadheenam, Hawaii, USA

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REVIEWS AND COMMENTS

Thank you Adi Sankara for taking us back to our source and the roots of our venerable Saiva traditions.

Singing with Saivite Saints -From Tirumurai to Natchintanai explains and throws light on the origin and purpose of our Saiva Bhakti, is an invaluable tool for both students of Music and Fine Arts and seekers following the steps of our Nayanmar for spiritual advancement. We are guided through the great moments in the life of our Saiva Samaya Acharyas, and several other prominent saints, reviewing detailed accounts of their respective pilgrimages, their paths of devotion, and their diving outpourings to the Glory of Our Great Lord and Supreme God Siva... and the whole superbly depicted with graphics of temples, murals and Sanctuaries visited by the author.

Adi Sankara's book, besides exposing his sincere love of our Saiva Samayam, demonstrates his deep understanding of the intricacies and greatness of our noble music traditions; Adi Sankara had the unique opportunity of rendering and singing the appropriate songs at each stage of his pilgrimage to the different abodes of our Lord and Supreme Mahadeva.

I have heard Adi Sankara performing and singing our Tirumurai, Thevaram, Tirumantiram and Nachintanai, and have personally accompanied him on some of his *Yatrai* and can testify to his unbounded love for God, Gods and Guru, through music and teaching.

I am confident that our children and lovers of music at the Mahatma Gandhi Institute, Mauritius, where he is presently lecturing, and all abroad, institutions and individuals, will benefit immensely from his searches, talent and accomplishments.

aum namasivaya **Me Manon MARDEMOOTOO CSK**

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REVIEWS AND COMMENTS

'*Singing with Saivite Saints*' is an account on the musical / poetical compositions, created in the Tamizh country, on the theme of Siva with emphasis on their composers. The main thrust is on the compositions from the Twelve Tirumurai-s. Brief biographical details of the saints and citing of select songs/verses with reference to the context of their composition, constitute the book. Meaning of the cited songs have also been provided. The post-Tirumurai songs have been taken from those of Muthut Thandavar, Marimutthap Pillai, Thayumanavar, Muthusvami Dikshitar, Gopalakrishna Bharati and Siva Yogaswami. The period covered is from Seventh Century to the Twentieth.

I greatly admire the enthusiasm of Thiru Adi Sankara Peruman in his efforts to bring out such a document. Accompanied by beautiful photographs of the paintings of the Saints and of the related shrines, this book in english would be an inspiring and attractive introduction to the Saivite culture of the Tamizh country. And when we realise that the author is a citizen of Mauritius, our admiration goes up. Now we look forward to research writings on music from this young Postgraduate in music.

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Musicologist

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REVIEWS AND COMMENTS

Adi Sankara Peruman's *Singing with Saivite Saints* on the saint singers and composers of South India from the 7th through the 20th century, explores the richness of Saiva philosophy, Tamil culture, Tamil bhakti literature and the evolution of South Indian Music. Adi Sankara's work is a valuable contribution to the world of Tamil culture and his book is another attempt to look back the singing tradition of South India.

Singing with Saivite Saints reviews the ancient Pann Systems, precursors to the South Indian raga system. Peruman highlights the importance of the Tevaram songs, an early inspiration for musical composition since these songs were sung at the Saiva temples frequented by the Karnatak composers.

Singing with Saivite Saints will be a useful, enjoyable and educational tool for students and music lovers.

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AUTHOR'S NOTE

Aum Tiruchitrabalam! Temples of South India have always fascinated me.

During my graduate studies in Carnatic Music at the Annamalai University, I was greatly attracted to the Chidambaram Temple and nearby *Sivasthalams*. I was always eager to know the importance of the sixty-three *Nayanmar*, who find a place in most *Sivakshetras*. After coming to India in 2005 to pursue post-graduation, I discovered more and more temples and their *puranams*.

Music and spirituality have been parallel paths to attain oneness with God. Singing in praise of Lord Siva or even hearing these songs brings us so much closer to the Supreme. The *Panniru Tirumurai*, the twelve-book compendium of devotional writings of Saivite saints, has immensely contributed towards the propagation of music in South India. The *Pann* system of music is the preceptor of the modern *Raga* scale of South Indian music. The Oduvars still sing the *Tirumurai* in the traditional *Pann*. By their devotion, willpower and hard work, the authors of the twelve *Tirumurai*, reached the ultimate goal in life – merger with Siva.

Following the *Panniru Tirumurai* are the works of *Mummoorthigal*, the trio who had composed inspiring songs on Lord Siva, despite their difficult situation. These songs are wellknown nowadays. Later, Thayumanavar contributed immensely by way of beautiful hymns to Lord Siva. Then came the 'Musical Trinity' who by their modern musical style and using the *Raga* system of music have performed great compositions on Lord Siva. Gopalakrishna Bharathi's *Charitrams* and Siva Yogaswami's *Natchintanai* are today being better exposed to the audience by many artistes, who sing them in concerts. Compositions on Lord Siva, from the 7th Century to the 20th Century, have held an important place in the repertoire of South Indian musicians.

x Singing with Saivite Saints I am much pleased to place before the reader this

th book titled, 'Singing with Saivite Saints - From Tirumurai to Natchintanai'. I have tried my best to capture and portray the sense of devotion, surrender and oneness that the Saivite saints felt for Lord Siva. I was inspired to write this book by including composers from the 7 to the 20th centuries and I have attempted to trace the path they walked towards Siva. Using stories I have heard and with recent pictures of temples at which they sang, my hope is to inspire others to visit these same places and to sing these same songs that have brought me so much joy.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

A book of this dimension requires much assistance in many ways. At this point, my heart is overwhelmed with deep gratitude for the blessings, in the form of the 'Foreword', from His Holiness Satguru Bodhinatha Veylanswami, Gurumahasannidhanam of Kauai Aadheenam, Hawaii and 163 preceptor of the Nandinatha Sampradaya's Kailasa Parampara.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to Mrs. Sheela Venkatakrishnan who guided me and helped me at every stage of the book.

I would like to place on record my appreciation to Kulapathi M Mardemootoo csk, Senior Attorney, Republic of Mauritius; Dr. N. Ramanathan, Retired Head and Professor of Music Dept, Madras University and Erudite Scholar and; Dr. B Balasubrahmanian, Adjunct Instructor, Music Dept., Wesleyan University, USA for their reviews and comments.

I would also like to thank Mr. K. P. Nagarajan for having rendered able assistance in various areas connected with the book.

I wish to thank all those wonderful persons who have helped me in one way or another, to write and publish this book. Finally, I thank my family for their constant support towards completing this book.

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SAIVITE COMPOSITIONS IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER

7th PANNIRU TIRUMURAI 7th Century Gnanasambandar Tevaram 4187 hymns 7th Century Appar Tevaram 3066 hymns 8th Century Sundarar Tevaram 1024 hymns 9th Century Manickkavasagar Tiruvasagam 1058 hymns 9th Century 9 Poets Tiruvisaippa Tiruppallandu 301 hymns C.a 200 BCE Tirumular Tirumantiram 3047 hymns 11th Century 12 Saints Anthology of Devotional poems 1391 hymns 12th Century Sekkizhar Periya Puranam 4286 hymns

ADI MUMMOORTIGAL (EARLY MUSICAL TRINITY)

Muthu Thandavar 1560 – 1640 AD Arunachala Kavirayar 1711 – 1779 AD Marimutha Pillai 1712 – 1787 AD

THAYUMANAVAR 1705 – 1742 AD 1452 verses

MUSICAL TRINITY (LATER MUSICAL TRINITY)

Syama Sastri 1762 – 1827 AD Tyagaraja 1767 – 1847 AD Muthuswami Dikshitar 1775 – 1835 AD

GOPALAKRISHNA BHARATI 1810 – 1896 AD

SIVA YOGASWAMI 1872 – 1964 AD

Pollappillaiyar in Tirunaraiyur Temple

