

Music by Dr. Srinivas Reddy

7th August, 2014

The session was shifted to the open-air theatre impromptu, on Dr. Reddy's expressing interest in holding it outdoor. This was done after a quick check of the weather. Dr. Reddy sat on the stage on a sheet of cloth and opened his sitar to play. The students and faculty attendees followed suit by taking off their footwear and sitting on the ground.

After Dr. Reddy was briefly introduced, he spoke on the problems plaguing India, viz. lack of basic amenities such as water and electricity to many. He urged the students to be thankful for what they have. He lamented about the declining interest in the country's traditions, arts and crafts and asked the students to be aware and respectful of our fine arts such as music and dance, which are steeped in tradition and have come down to us from the Vedas. Dr. Reddy also talked about the gurukul tradition and said that student and teacher are equals, and the teacher is happiest when a student exceeds the teacher in competence.

Dr. Reddy then played a Hindustani raga on the sitar for about 15 to 20 minutes and everyone was in raptures. When one of the students asked for a raga in Carnatic music Dr. Reddy hummed a few starting notes and made everyone hum along with him, while praising the students for doing well in matching the tone of

voice. Dr. Reddy ended the session by wishing the students all the best and he was thanked with a thunderous applause.

