

MS in Disneyland Format

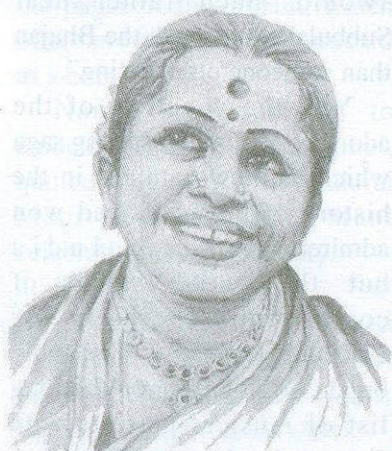
Fantasia is the title of a Disneyland masterpiece from the flamboyant portfolio of Walt Disney, the legendary movie maker. Unlike his numerous other classics, this 1936 film was an abstract cinematic extravaganza where Disney flashes an array of colour fantasies in a move to interpret some of the renowned western classical aria.

The ingenious way the master of megaphone juxtaposed the two aspects of fine arts to highlight the aesthetic possibilities of each was as revealing as it was spell-binding. That had made many a novice see and appreciate the meaning and depth of each!

The one single phrase by which this wonder movie could be readily described was "Picture of Melody".

What a startling coincidence that Heritage Publishing House of Chennai, should have planned a series of stories in pictures of celebrated musicians under that very title!

A la "Amar Chitra Katha", the series conceptualised and reduced to visuals by Lakshmi Devanath, is an ambitious project to bring out picture portraits of



renowned musical geniuses who have enriched the musical heritage of India.

Rightly and most appropriately too, the pride of being the first name to begin the series goes to M. S. Subbulakshmi, the inimitable melody queen, after listening to whose music poet Sarojini Naidu surrendered her title "Nightingale of India" to her. More significantly, when Mahatma Gandhi was told that MS was not available to join his last evening prayers to render the awe-inspiring Darbari piece "Hari tum haro", averred that he "would much rather hear Subbulakshmi speak the Bhajan than someone else singing".

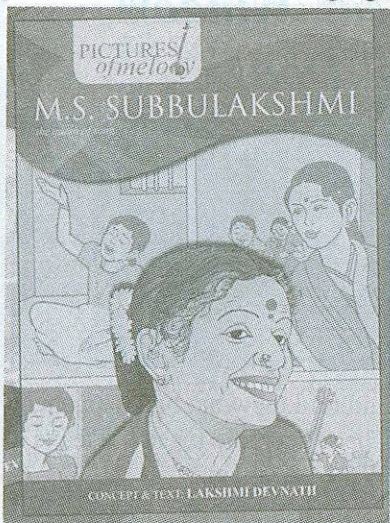
Yes, the vocalism of the adorable MS is an inspiring saga which has few parallels in the history of music. It had won admirers not merely in India but the entire world of cognoscenti. The script by Lakshmi Devanath is admirably organised, focusing on the long list of musical masters who figured in the canvas of her



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illustrious career and the personalities who lent dignified poise to her very presence, last but not the least her self-effacing husband, the irrepressible Sadashivam. The chain of sequences is as harmonious as it is fascinating. But the drawings that go to embellish such a dainty

narration falls short in its representative appropriation, save some oleographic reproduction. The somewhat garish visuals diminish the tuneful mood worthy of the rhythmic mode of Subbulakshmi's blissful singing,



which has mesmerised more than one generation of listeners. Her CDs on Vishnu Sahasranama, Bhaja Govindam and Venkatesha Suprabhatam are ever fresh and heard in every devout household yesterday, today and will be heard tomorrow and ever after! Yet one must concede that those

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shortcomings can't detract the importance of the publication and the popularity of the loveable musical personality whose musical effervescence haunts right through the pages of this album, which offers an autographed picture card as a bonus.

Names earmarked to embellish future 'Chitra Katha', numbers include GNB, Madurai Mani and Palghat Mani celebrating their centenary.

Reasonably priced at Rs.125/-, the album is published by Heritage Publication, Chennai. Swathi Soft Solutions, Chennai, are the distributors.

Heritage Publication Chennai -SNC