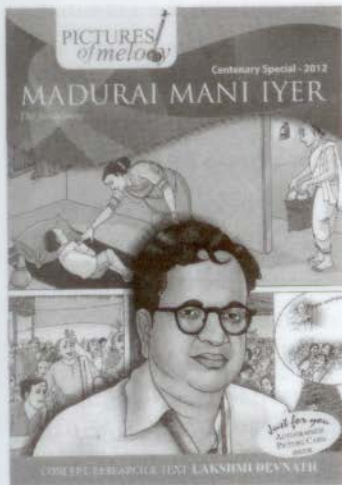


Book Review



Madurai Mani Iyer, The joy of song

Concept, Research and Text - Lakshmi Devnath

Price - Rs.125

Writing story books for children is indeed a very challenging feat in today's context as children are lured by the television media and spend hours on end surfing channels. To package a book in a way that attracts children is a herculean task, especially when the subject is something related to our arts and culture.

Lakshmi Devnath, a well known researcher and writer has really done a great service by bringing out a series of interesting story books on various luminaries of music. Earlier books on M.S.Subbulakshmi and G.N.Balasubramaniam and now a book on Madurai Mani Iyer are a treasure trove of interesting information for children, written in a simple and lucid style. The pattern of presentation is like that of the Amarchitra Katha with suitable pictorials to elucidate each instance that is portrayed.

This story book makes the reader understand the life and contribution of Madurai Mani Iyer and all the values his music stood for. It tells the younger generation how amidst several hardships, Mani rose to great heights by virtue of his strong will power and determination. It also depicts through different instances how rasikas were immensely fond of his music and listened to him with utmost passion and devotion. Varied interesting incidents which occurred in his life have been depicted interestingly. Also, the technical terms used in the book find suitable explanations.

Lakshmi's effort to educate and enlighten the younger generation about the doyens Mani Iyer, who adorned the Karnatic arena from 1912 to 1968 is truly commendable and noteworthy. Priced moderately at Rs.125, this book would be an ideal gift to give to children on any occasion. For more information on the series, visit www.lakshmidenvnath.com



Lakshmi Devnath