

SHRADDANJALI – SRI RAJU ANANTHASWAMY

Report by : Mrs Geetha Gopinath



Sydney Kannada Sangha, Sydney hosted a commemorative service for the eminent singer, music director, composer of Sugama Sangeetha Sri Raju Ananthaswamy on his sad demise on 17.1.2009. Sri Raju Ananthaswamy was 38 years when he passed away in Bengaluru. He is the son of legendary late Mysore Ananthaswamy and survived by his mother and two sisters.

The commemorative service was held at Enfield Public School, Enfield on 1st February 2009. Mrs Geetha Gopinath, president of Sydney Kannada Sangha welcomed the audience with recollections of Sri Raju Ananthaswamy's training of several young children for the drama "Alibaba and 40 thieves" during his visit to Sydney in 2004 on the invitation of Sydney Kannada Sangha. The children who participated were not fluent in Kannada, but Raju expertly trained them only in 3 days and presented the drama on the 21st anniversary of Sydney Kannada Sangha.

Mrs Pushpa Jagadish who is a student of Raju Ananthaswamy's father Sri Mysore Ananthaswamy remembered him and said that he was not only a great musician but was an excellent percussionist and was highly skilled in playing the tabla. Pushpa rendered two songs of Sri Raju Ananthaswamy. Pushpa also requested that we celebrate his death anniversary every year by forming a group and sing his songs and cherish his memory.

Mr & Mrs Ramesh remembered Raju as their good friend and a class mate of Mrs Ramesh in school. She was amazed how Raju recognized her on his visit to Sydney even after a gap of few years.

Sri D V Srinivas, a student of C Ashwanth, had the opportunity of singing with Sri Raju Ananthaswamy a few years ago in Bengaluru and said he had lost a good friend. He sang a couple of songs which he had rendered with the artist when he lived in Bengaluru.

Sri Onkaraswamy Goppenahalli, executive committee member, APKO co-ordinator of Sydney Kannada Sangha remembered Sri Raju Ananthaswamy and said he was a down to earth person and was a pleasure to have him in Sydney during his tenure as the president of Sydney Kannada Sangha. He had also prepared and exhibited the CD showing few clips from his visit to Sydney.

Mrs Geetha Gopinath thanked the gathering and said that we should all make efforts to keep Sri Raju Ananthaswamy's music alive.

