



A brief note on the program, Homage to a Guru in honor of K. K. Antony

Fr. Joseph J. Palackal, C. M. I. has the following to say about the brief biography of Antony Master:

“This write up was prepared by Fr. Cherian Kuninethodath, C. M. I. for the cultural program, “Homage to a Guru” that was conducted under the auspices of Kalabhavan, at Fine Arts Hall at Eranakulam, on September 19, 1987. The purpose of the program was to honor the memory of Antony Master and to raise funds for his family. Fr. Abel agreed to the title of the program that I proposed. Antony Master was my teacher, too. I took lessons from him in Karnatic classical music; he gave me voice training and made me sing for recording for the first time the song that he set music to Fr. Abel’s words: Winnil ninnu samaagathmaayoru daiwa kumaranitha from Aaghoshamaaya Pattuqurbana (Solemn High Mass in Malayalam).

I served as the Master of Ceremony for the program which consisted of performances of Antony Master’s compositions by the Kalabhavan Ganamela troupe, and a performance of mimicry by the Kalabhavan team led by Jayaram (later, the celebrity film actor). The plan was to bring all those artistes and students associated with Kalabhavan and Antony Master, including Shri K. J. Yesudas. I went personally to Tharangini Studio at Thiruvallom to extend the invitation to Shri Yesudas to attend the program and to make a contribution to the fund. Shri Yesudas was not in town; I met the Secretary of the Studio who, if I remember correctly, was the son of Mr. Satyan, the famous film actor. Unfortunately, nothing came out of that visit. Jolly Abraham flew from Madras to pay homage to his teacher. The Ganamela started with his singing the most famous song of Antony Master, *Parisudhaatmaave neeyezhunnalli varanameyent hrudayathil*. The auditorium was full; many civic and religious leaders (Fr. Jacob Arenatt represented the Archdiocese of Ernakulam) along with artistes and music lovers attended the program. We were not successful in collecting a substantial fund for the family, but the program turned out to be a memorable event for everyone who attended.”