

M A R G I  
(Regd No. 94/71 - Act XII of 1955)

Annual Report  
and  
Accounts  
1990

## ANNUAL REPORT

The Managing Committee takes pleasure in presenting the Twentieth Annual Report and the Audited Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31.12.1990, before the General Body of Margi.

### Annual General Body Meeting 1989

The Annual General Body meeting for the year 1989 was held on 30. 03. 1990 at the Margi Kathakali Vidhyalaya, Fort, Trivandrum.

### Meetings of the Managing Committee

The Managing Committee met 4 times during the year and at these meetings, decisions regarding the various activities of Margi were taken (Dates of meeting 30.03.1990, 27.06.1990, 29.09.1990 and 28.12.1990)

### Instruction Programme in Kathakali, Koodiyattom

#### Chakiyarkoothu and Nangiarkoothu

The Margi Kathakali Vidyalaya, which was started in 1974 for imparting rigorous training in all branches of Kathakali in the GURUKULA SAMPRADAYA, functioned with Padmashree Kalamandalam Krishnan Nair as the visiting Professor. The Professors are Inchakkattu Ramachandran Pillai (Veshom) Kalamandalam Haridas (Pattu) Kalamandalam Raman Namboodiri (Chenda) Kalanilayam Babu (Maddalam), R.L.V. Somadas (Chutty) etc. Shri Margi Vijayakumar and Oyoor Ratheesan were the other teachers. There were 19 students in all, undergoing training in the various disciplines of Kathakali viz. Veshom, Pattu, Chenda, Maddalam and Chutty. Shri R L V Somas functioned as Manager for co-ordinating the functions of the departments as well as for arranging programmes.

Margi suffered a great loss in the demise of Padmashree Kalamandalam Krishnan Nair during August 90. Shri Krishnan Nair did a great service to the cause of Kathakali teaching by serving as Visiting Professor

in Margi for 10 years, despite his old age and other commitments. During this period the Margi students benefited phenomenally under the tutelage of this all time great artiste.

A function was held to condole the demise of this Kathakli maestro. The Minister for Cultural Affairs Unveiled a portrait of Shri Krishnan Nair at this function. The Minister for Tourism was also present.

It is our earnest hope that the memory of late Kalamandalam Krishnan Nair will continue to inspire the students of Margi for all time to come.

The Koodiyatom Vidyalaya, which was started in May 1980 for teaching Koodiyattom in the Gurukula System, functioned with Moozhikulam Kochukuttan Chakiyar and Kalamandalam Unnikrishnan as Professors for Veshom and Mizhavu. There were 4 students undergoing training in Koodiyattom, Chakiyar Koothu, Nangiyar Koothu and Mizhavu.

The trainees in both the schools were progressing satisfactorily; those at the senior fellowship levels, in particular, have considerably improved their standards of performance; vastly benefitting from the intensive training which they received from Shri Kalamandalam Krishnan Nair etc. and the improved performance opportunities which they get in Margi.

#### Performances Staged at Margi

The performances staged at Margi are, in reality, extensions of the training which the artistes receive at the Vidyalayas. The emphasis in the training and performances is on maintaining the highest traditional values so that these arts are nurtured and are presented to the discerning public in all their time honoured beauty and classicism. This approach is fast gaining ground and will be of great benefit in the larger perspective of the future of these arts, which constitute the unique and essential theatre of Kerala.

The list of themes staged at the Margi Ankanam and Natyagriham during the year is given below:

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| 11.01.90  | : Kathakali   |
| 12.01.90  | : Kathakali   |
| 16.03.90  |   |
| to        | : Koodiyattam (Asokavanikankom)   |
| 19.03.90  |   |
| 01.08.90  |   |
| to        | : Koodiyattom (Asokavanikankom)   |
| 02.08.90  |   |
| 06.08.90  |   |
| to        | : Kathakali Nalacharitham Ist day (New production)                        |
| 08.08.90  |   |
| 15.10.90  | : Koodiyattom - Asokavanikankom - Chitrayodhi<br>(Purappad)               |
| 16.10.190 | : Koodiyattom - Asokavanikankom - Chitrayodhi<br>(Nirvahanam)             |
| 17.10.90  | : Koodiyattom - Arokavanikankom (Bagavathan-<br>jukeeyam - Udyanavarnana) |
| 14.11.90  | : Kathakali - Banayuddhom I part (new production)                         |
| 15.11.90  | : Narakasuravadhom I part   |
| 05.12.90  | : Koodiyattom - Asokavanikankom   |
| 06.12.90  | : Koodiyattom - Asokavanikankom   |
| 08.12.90  | : Kathakali - Bakavadhom (Jathugrihaparvam)                               |
| 09.12.90  | : Kathakali - Bakavadhom (Ghatolkachafananam)                             |

(20 Programmes)

#### Other Performances

**Promotion of Tourism:** During the year, Margi arranged 64 performances for outside agencies. A few of these were for the benefit of overseas tourists from other parts of India, staged at the Asoka Beach Resort, Kovalam, Nishagandhi Auditorium etc under the auspices of the Tourism Department of Kerala, which, in recent years, is implementing several cultural programmes for acquainting tourists with the rich cultural heritage of our State. Margi also participated in the Tourism Week Celebrations of the Government under the classical arts section (Kathakali, Koodiyattom, Chakiarkoothu, Patakam & Nargiarkoothu)

**Zonal Cultural Festivals:** Margi presented Kathakali, Koodiyattom and Nangiyarkoothu at the Zonal Cultural festivals held at New Delhi, Bhubaneswar and Allahabad.

#### Project 'Nalacharitham'

The project, consisting of a very detailed presentation of the popular Nalacharitha attakatha, by drawing extensively from ancient and rare literary sources on the subject, has been sanctioned by the Department of Cultural Affairs, Government of India. Work on the project has been completed and an exhaustive performance manual has been prodigiously compiled and printed.

#### Projects 'Narakasuravadhom and Bakavadhom'

The department of Cultural Affairs, Government of India, has conveyed approval to this project. Work on the same is in progress.

#### Ford Foundation Grant

The Ford Foundation has sanctioned a project for support of certain areas in Koodiyattom, linked with the Sanskrit theatre; the object being revival of Acts, which has long ceased to be performed and also for new performances texts; all in relation to 'Ascharyachoodamani' of Sakthibhadra. The project covers 3 years and work on the second years' programme is well advanced.

#### Accounts

A brief note on the Accounts for 1990 is appended.

### Acknowledgements

The managing Committee hereby conveys its deep sense of gratitude to the Government of Kerla (Department of Cultural Affairs, Tourism Department and Public Relations Department) Government of India, Department of culture; Kendra Sangeet Nataka Academy; Kerala Sangeet Nataka Academy; Travancore Deveswom Board; Indian Council for Cultural Relations and the Ford Foundation for the valued assistance and co-operation extended to Margi in carrying out its programmes.

The committee also wishes to thank all the members for the active interest evinced by them in the propagation of classical art forms.

P. RAMA IYER  
Secretary.

Trivandrum,  
12.03.1991.

## ACCOUNTS

The Audited Accounts for 1990 consisting of Income and Expenditure Account, Balance Sheet and other schedule are appended to this report.

The accounts for the year show an overall excess of Income over expenditure of Rs. 1,536/- A comparison with the previous years and a general appraisal is furnished below.

| Year | Deficit under<br>School accts: | Surplus under<br>General accts: | Overall surplus(+)<br>Deficit (-) |
|------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1986 | 47,643                         | 21,725                          | (-) 25,918                        |
| 1987 | 31,340                         | 33,548                          | (+) 2,208                         |
| 1988 | 23,405                         | 47,518                          | (+) 24,113                        |
| 1989 | 28,902                         | 29,945                          | (+) 1,043                         |
| 1990 | 26,476                         | 28,012                          | (+) 1,536                         |

The deficit in the school account arise since the Government grant for running the Kathakali and Koodiyattom schools cover only the salaries and stipends (Mainly). It does not cover even essential items of other expenditure for running the schools, such as maintenance of building, rent, electricity charges, maintenance of costumes and equipments etc. Stipends are also limited by Government to a flat Rs.175/- P.M. for instructions at all levels, while we pay Rs.300/- Rs.250/- etc. for trainees at senior fellowship levels.

The deficit is also kept down to the barest minimum as may be seen from the fact that there are no administrative overheads (No Office staff, no sitting fee for members or expenses like TA, telephone charges etc; the requirements in this behalf being met by voluntary effort on the part of the office bearers and committee members).

### Low Salaries to Staff

The current rate of salary for the senior teachers of the Margi Schools is of the order of Rs.700/- permensum and for junior teachers Rs.400/- per mensum - perhaps the lowest salary level anywhere. It is indeed unfortunate that Government have not enhanced these very low salary to reasonable levels. Varying degrees of relief have been granted to all salaried sections - but the salaries of teachers of Margi remains unchanged, not withstanding the fact that there is specific plan provision for this object and the same has not been utilised for the just and proper object for which it was made.

The position has been brought to the notice of the Government several times and had also been explained in detail to a special committee which was set up by the Government to enquire into the requirements of various cultural organisations receiving grant from Government.

It is earnestly hoped that Government will remedy this long standing and fundamental grievance of the very low paid employees of margi.