

Isai Methai G Ramanathan

Anand

The Club

6-27-20



Isai Chakravarthy G Ramanathan (?- 1963)

G Ramanathan

- Born as Gobalsamy Iyer Ramanathan in Pichandarkoil near Srirangam
- To my knowledge, birth date is not on public record
- He was a singer, actor and music director
- He was a music director for over 100 films (1936-1964)
- He was a genius known by many titles- Isai Methai, Isai Chakravathy, Sangitha Samraat, and Wizard of music. He was one of the Trinity of early Tamil film music along with C R Subbaraman and S.V. Venkatraman. However CRS and SVV acknowledged GR as the true genius. Similarly Naushad Ali complimented GR.
- He studied up to 5th grade. Lost his mother when he was young and father couldn't afford his higher education. He learnt carnatic music on his own by Kelvi Gnanam and played harmonium to his brother's Katha Kalatchepamam and dramas. With association of MK Thyagaraja Bhagavathar, he became a music director and introduced carnatic music based songs in mythological dramas. Later it became his style and philosophy.
- He began his career as full time music director for films starting from Sathyaseelan (1936). He worked mainly for Modern Theaters and Coimbatore Central Studio. His song "Manmatha Leelaiyai Venrar Undo" secured him an ever lasting place in music world. Even the stalwarts of carnatic music acknowledged GR after this song. He went on to create hundreds of immortal melodies for Tamil cinema (Haridas- Manthirikumari – Uthamaputhiran-Pattinathar). The musical Haridas ran for two and half years continuously, a testament to his music and MKT Bhagavathar.
- He received an award for music for the film Veerapandia Kattabomman in Cairo in 1960
- Ramanathan earned the nickname Raga-nathan for popularizing Carnatic Music
- He died on November 20, 1963. (Ref: Thendral magazine from USA)

Following links give my selection of songs (100) from 1936- 1964.

1. G Ramanathan I- 50 songs (1936-1957)

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLvCCTBtu2H3xQ7UicHebrTiLmGukXazoK>

2. G Ramanathan II- 50 songs (1957-1964)

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLvCCTBtu2H3yUII4A0s_t20g8RzRF2BFs