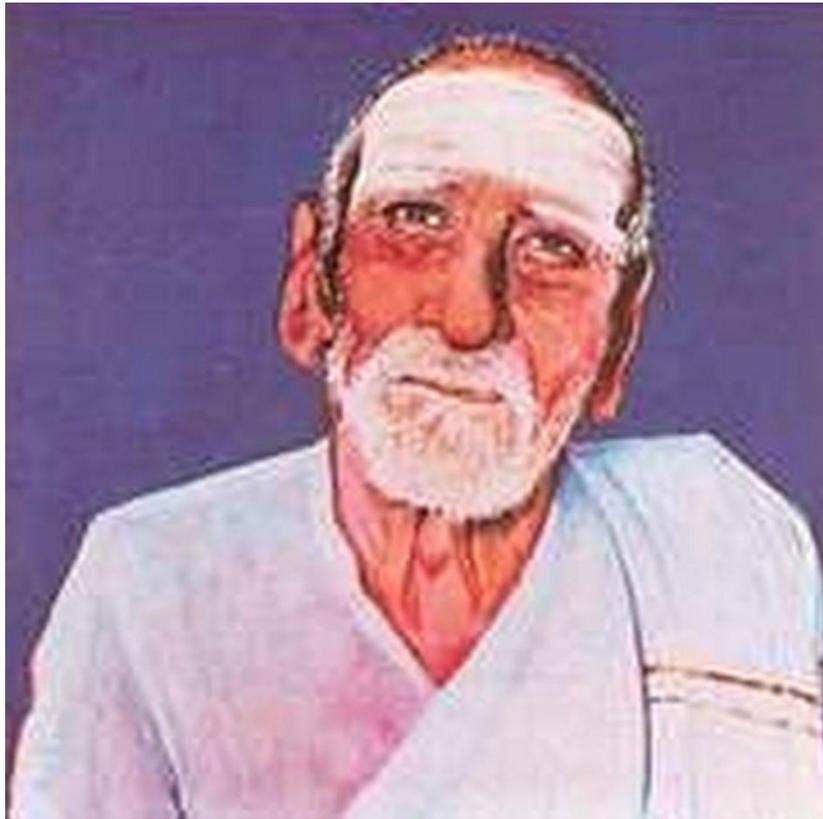


Tamil Thyagayya Papanasam Sivan

Anand

The Club

9-5-2020



Papanasam Ramayya Sivan
Sept. 26, 1890- Oct. 1, 1973

Papanasam Ramayya Sivan

- Ramayya was born in Polagam, a village in Tanjore District of British India on Sept. 26, 1890.
- His maternal grandfather and mother were proficient in carnatic music and Thyagarajar kritis.
- His father died when he was seven years old and the family moved to Tiruvananthapuram , the Dharma Rajya for free meals. Ramayya studied Sanskrit and learned little bit of carnatic music from local Bhagavathars. He had no formal education in Tamil but learned it by listening to Thevaram, Thiruvasakam, Arutpa, and Thiruppugazh from a scholarly musician Neelakanta Sivan.
- In 1910, he moved back to Papanasam after his mother died. There he practiced a nomadic life with Ramalinga Adikal's Arutpa in his bag- going from temple to temple and singing bhajans. One day people noticed Ramayya singing joyfully songs on Lord Siva with full of Vibhuti on his body. They remarked "Papanasam Sivan Vandhutaan (Lord Sivan of Papanasam has arrived)" and Ramayya became, Papanasam Sivan. After this incident, Ramayya started signing his name as Papanasam Ramayya Sivan.
- In 1912, he heard Konerirajapuram Vaidyanatha Iyer singing Gopalakrishna Bharathi's "Thiruvadi Saranam". It made him realize music was not for the ears, rather for the soul. It was a turning point in his life. Then he associated with the same musician for seven years which influenced his style of compositions later.
- In 1919, elders got him married to Lakshmi Ammal. They had three daughters and two sons.
- In 1922, he moved to Mylapore, Chennai. He composed kritis and joined Bhajans at Kapaleeswarar Temple which lasted 50 years until 1972. He taught Carnatic music at Kalashetra from 1934-1939.
- By now he was well known in Madras circles. The movie era has begun in Madras and he was sought after by movie producers to compose music and lyrics for Tami cinema. He wrote 950 songs from 1935-1950 for seventy films which helped popularize carnatic music among general public. The songs were mostly in Tamil but he also wrote in Sanskrit and a mix of two (manipravalam). His priorities were- bhakti, music and language, in that order.

- He acted and sang in four films. He was a music director for 14. For some films he was the composer and orchestration was done by the studio artists such as G.Ramanathan.
- He mentored many singers including M K Thyagaraja Bhagavathar, PU Chinnappa and MS Subbulakshmi. Sivakavi, Haridas, Sevasadanam were some of the super hit films. Haridas ran for 110 weeks in a single theater mainly for MKT Bhagavathar songs, composed by Papanasam Sivan. MKT used to insist the producers to sign up Sivan before he signs his contract for their films.
- As a composer of 1000 kritis (mostly in Tamil), he was influenced by the Carnatic music trinity, Tamil music trinity and Gopalakrishna Bharathi. Bhakti was the driving force behind his compositions. Randor Guy, the movie historian, observed that Sivan visited temples and holy places and in inspired moments of ecstasy, created his compositions.
- He worked for 7 years and published a dictionary, “Sanskrit Basha Saptha Samudhra”.
- Despite his proven skills such as composer, lyricist, singer, actor and music director, he remained a humble man with simple lifestyle. On one occasion, he went to a big event and received Isai Perarignar title with a torn shirt. Titles, fame and fashion meant little to him.
- Indian Government gave him Padma Bhushan. Academies awarded him the titles Sangeetha Kalanidhi, Shiva Punya Gaana Mani etc. Common man called him “Tamil Thyagayya”.
- He made carnatic music, hitherto dominated by Telugu, comprehensible to Tamils by writing kritis in Tamil. He made carnatic music accessible to common man by promoting it in cinema. He paved way for music directors to try light music based on carnatic style. In his own way, he contributed to Tamil Isai Movement.
- He donated most of his earnings to charities and building a temple.
- After a brief illness, he declared his journey was over and died on October 1, 1973. He was 83.
- Palace road where he lived in Mylapore was renamed as Papanasam Sivan Road in his honor.
- Ref: Wikipedia, Dr. Rukmini Ramani’s lecture on her father (transcript by Sumitra Vasudev), a blog describing M.V.Ramana’s article and Randor Guy’s cinema reviews in The Hindu newspaper.

Papanasam Sivan Filmography:

[Pavalakkodi](#) (1934)

[Naveena Sadaram](#) (1935)

[Naveena Sarangadhara](#) (1936)

[Kuchela](#) (1936)

[Ambikapathy](#) (1937)

[Chithnamani](#) (1937)

[Sevasadanam](#) (1938)

[Yayathi](#) (1938)

[Mathru Bhoomi](#) (1939)

[Thyaga Bhoomi](#) (1939)

[Thiruneelakandar](#) (1939)

[Sivakavi](#) (1943)

[Haridas](#) (1944)

[Valmiki](#) (1946)

[Pankajavalli](#) (1947)

[Bilhana](#) (1948)

[Naattiya Rani](#) (1949)

-Wikipedia

- .Papanasam Sivan Film Songs (70) Playlist-
Right click and Open hyperlink-

1934-1939: 30 songs

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLvCCTBtu2H3yu846UiOko7zH8gheDF5Dw>

1943-1948: 40 songs

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLvCCTBtu2H3ywScYVOpuVlbkWr29D6pol>