

Sisters in synchronicity



Lata and Gita

Sisters Lata and Gita presented a lively Bharatanatyam recital at the YGP auditorium of Bharat Kalachar on January 9. They performed to recorded music, as against the 'live' orchestras the Chennai audience are accustomed to. They began with 'Bho Shambho', a kriti by Swami Dayanand Saraswathi, in praise of Lord Siva. The depiction aptly conveyed feelings of wonder and awe.

The varnam in raagamaalika was dedicated to Lord

Krishna. Each dancer performed different stanzas. The brisk theermanams, choreographed by Lata and Gita, revealed their grasp of laya. The episodes of Krishna giving succour to Draupadi and the incarnation of Vamana were performed by both sisters with good effect.

However, a discordant note crept into another sanchari where the nayika's anguish was interpreted as her attempts at suicide. The portrayal of the heroine trying to

hang herself, or taking poison was too down to earth and could have been depicted in a more refined manner.

A mother's concern of her daughter's immature behavior was effectively depicted in 'Yethanai Sonnalum' with different nuances. 'Varugalamo', the popular kriti by Gopalakrishna Bharathi that conveys the longing of a devotee to obtain a vision of the Lord was portrayed with involvement. These two items were solos.

'Aimpulungal', composed by Dr Krishnaswamy, was the concluding number. Performed by the duo this conveyed joy at its various levels. Though the dancers are skilled at mime, in places, especially in some sancharis, the depictions were so rushed, they appeared to be merely voicing dialogues. This could have been avoided if the articulation of ideas was slower and more controlled.

The dancers' synchronised movements and coordination reflected the hard work invested in the performance. The recorded music, which featured talented vocalists like Rajkumar Bharathi, Chitra and Kutralam Nagarajan, added to the enjoyment of the concert.

— VIDYA SARANYAN