

Krithis of Thanjavur Sankara Iyer

He is a modern composer who is 97 and still with us. I have translated 25 Krithis of his

He was perhaps the only composer to write about modern people and events

Krithi Praising saint Vivekananda

Nara janmam kanda dhera

a..Prayer Krithi when the tidal waves attacked Chennai he wrote

Mahadeva Shiva

b.Prayer Krithi after Gujarath earth quake

Porutharulvaaye Bhooma devi

3.He was one of those rare composers who wrote a krithi, to save the world and also praing for progress of our country

Ranganayakiye un charanam

This 81 year old Thatha does sashtanga namaskaram to this 97 year old great composer cum vocalist as well as a Hari Katha exponent

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Amritha varshini Thaye

By

Thanjavur Sankara Iyer

Translated by

P.R.Ramachander

Ragam Amritha Varrshini

Thalam Roopaka

Pallavi

Amritha varshini Thaye, arul purindhu

Pozhivaaye mazhayaye

Oh mother Amrithavarshini, Bless us,

And pour the rain

Anu pallavi

Umayal ulla anaithu uyirayum

Vaazha vaikkum mazhaye

Oh Rain which makes all beings,

In which Parvathi is there to live

Charanam

Mazhai, mazhai endru engi thavikkum

Maandhar manam kulira cheivaye

THazhaikkum payirkkum vaazhvu alippaye

Dharanikku nee neer irakkuvaaye

Make cool the minds of those people,

Who shout Rain, rain and suffer because of it

Also give life to the crops that flourish

And get down water to the earth

Balasubramaniyan Padhame(Tamil)

By

Thanjavur Sankara Iyer

Translated by

P.R.ramachander

Ragam Vishnu priya

Thalam Aadhi

Pallavi

Balasubramaniyan Padhame thunai

Padum vedhathil mei porul aanavan

Feet of Balasubramanya is our help

He is the one who is the true meaning of singing Vedas

Anupallavi

Neela mayiludai murugan,

Nammai nitham kaathiduvaan

Vishnu priya marumagan

The Muruga who has a blue peacock,

He will protect us daily

The dear nephew of Vishnu

Charanam

Parrvathi Parameshwara Kumaran

Panniru kannudai Aarumughan

Paar pugazhum Pazhani aandavan

Pamararkalum nambi vanangidum

The lad of Parvathi and Parameshwara

The Shanmukha with twelve eyes,

The Aandava of Pazhani, praised by the world,

He is the one whom even poor have faith and salute

Eliyenai, innum, innum sodhikkalaamaa(tamil)

By

THanjavur Sankara Iyer

Translated by

P.R.Ramachander

Ragam Saaveri

THaalam adhi

Pallavi

Yezhil udai, hamsanadham engum,

Inimayudan kathril kalanthu vanthathu

The sound of swan which is pretty

With sweetness mingled in wind and came

Anupallavi

Pizhai illaamal suswarangaludane

Pa ni sa ni pa ma pa ni pa ma endru

Without mistakes along with good sounds,

Like Pa ni sa ni pa ma pa ni pa ma

Charanam

Arohanam, avarohanam aaudavum

sa ri ma pa ni sa sa ni pa ma ri sa

Prathimadhyam chathusruthi

Rhium poruthamai kakakli neeyum kalandhu

Arohanam, avarohanam aaudavum*

sa ri ma pa ni sa sa ni pa ma ri sa

Prathimadhyam chathusruthi

Rhium poruthamai kakakli neeyum getting mixed

*having no base in music , I cannot dare to translate it

Geetha vadhya(Tamil)

By

THanjavur Sankara Iyer

Translated by

P.R.Ramachander

Ragam Natakapriya

Thalam AAdhi

Pallavi

Gita vadhya natana nataka priya rasike , san

Oh connoisseur who likes song, musical instruments , dance and drama well

Anupallavi

Vedha roopini, vishvasini,

Nadha swaroopini Prakasini

Oh Goddess whose form is Vedas, who believes

Whose form is music and who shines

Charanam

Mara koti Sundarangi , maye, mathangi, Marakatha chaye

Saara sakshi , sarva saakshi , Sadhu jana rakshaki, katakshi

She who limbs are crore times prettier than Manmatha

She who is illusion , the daughter of Mathanga, whose shadow is like emerald,

Who is witness to the essence , witness to all, protector of poor, Please look at me

Madhuram, Madhuram(Tamil)

By

THanjavur Sankara iyer

Translated by

P.R.Ramachander

Ragam Karaharapriya

Thalam aadhi

Pallavi

Madhuram, Madhuram, Sri rama namam,

Manathirkku inbam alithidum namam

Sweet , sweet is the name of Rama,

The name that grants joy to the mind

Anupallavi

Ethu vandhu nammai ethirtha pothum

Veeramum alithidum avan thirunamam

Whichever comes and opposes

His divine name would also give valour

Charanam

Enniya karumangal inithe mudiyum,

Rama nama Mahimai athuve aagum

Vinnavarum pugazhum taraka manthram

Innarul purinthu rakshikkum namam

All jobs we think would end sweetly,

That is the greatness of name of Rama

The Taraka(crossing) name praised by devas also

The name that will give sweet blessings and protect

Maha Ganapathi nee va va

By
Thanjavur Shankara Iyer

Translated by
P.R.Ramachander

Ragam Nattai
Thalam SANkeerna Chapu

Pallavi
Maha Ganapathi va, va,
Manam magizhndu nee va va

Anupallavi
Mahadevanin kumarane va,
Maha vignangal neekida va,

Charanam

Yella inbamum alithida nee va,
Ezhai yeliyenai kathida nee va,
Chollal ishai malai chuthinen nee va,
Sodhanai cheyyathu viravil nee vaa.

English translation

Pallavi

Please come, Please come the great Ganapathi,
Please come with a well pleased mind

Anupallavi

The son of Lord Shiva, please come,
Please come to remove great obstacles

Charanam

You please come to give all pleasures,
You please come to protect this poor man,
Please come as I have made a garland of words,
You please come without testing me.

Mahadeva Shiva(Sanskrit)

By

Thanjavur Shankara Iyer

Translated by

P.R.Ramachander

Raga Revathi

Thala AAdhi

Pallavi

Mahadeva Shiva Shambho ,
Mara koti Sundara prabho, sri

Anupallavi

Sahasrakoti jana palana ,
Sadhu samrakshana pavana

Charanam

Sarveshvara , Karunakara murthe,
SAMA gana Priya Veda purthe,
Parameshvara gangadhara keerthe,
Pathitha pavana Sri Pasupathe.

English translation

Pallavi

Oh great God, Oh Shiva, Oh Shambhu,
Oh God who is as pretty as billions of god of love

Anupallavi

Oh God who looks after thousands of billions of people,
Oh pure one who looks after saints

Charanam

Oh God of all , Oh merciful god ,
Oh God who likes singing of Sama Veda,
Oh divine God , Oh God famous as one who carries Ganga,
Oh Lord of all beings who makes the fallen ones pure.

Mal marugan(varnam)

By

Thanjavur Sankara Iyer

Translated by

P.R.Ramachander

Ragam Hindolam

Thalam AAdhi

Pallavi

Maal marugan murugan shanmughan
manam kathu arul dayalan

Anupallavi

Vel aninthu vilangubhavan ,
Mayil yeri vandhu arulbhavan

Charanam

Anban avan azhagan

English translation

Pallavi

The nephew of Vishnu, Muruga , the six headed one,
The merciful one who protects our mind

Anupallavi

He who shines with a Vel,
He who comes riding on a peacock and showers his grace.

Charanam

He is a friend and he is pretty

Manoranjitham(Tamil)

By

Thanjavur Sankara Iyer

Translated by

P.R.Ramachander

Ragam Manoranjitha

Thalam aadhi

Pallavi

Manoranjitha raga manam veesa

Maal muruganai paadi panivom

For the scent of Manoranjitha tune to waft,

WE will sing and salute nephew of LordVishnu

Anupallavi

Manodharmamudan maghizhnthu , dhinamum

Mayaigal vilangida mayil vahananai

Become happy with freedom of mind, Daily

To become clear of the illusion , the one who rides on peacock

Charanam

Valli devayanai manalanai, velanai,

Vadivel azhakanai,vandhanai cheivom

Telliya tamizhil pinju varisaigal,

dEva senathipathi divya gaanamai

The consort of ali and devasena, the one who holds the vel,

The pretty one with Staff and Vel , we will salute

In clear Tamil language with immature sentences

The commander of devas using divine songs

Mana malar(Javali)

By
Thanjavaur Shankara Iyer

Translated by
P.R.Ramachander

Ragam Churutti
Thalam Aadhi

Pallavi
Mana malar alithu mayyal kondan ,
Mayil udai Muruga , Mal Maruga

Anupallavi
Thanathu yendru yennidam ini ondrum illai,
Dayai purinthu innum nee varavillai

Charanam
Unathu azhagil mayangi unmatham aanen,
Un ninaivu andri veru ondrum kaanen,
Kanavugal pala kandukalam kazhithen,
Kaanalaam yendru yengi ilaithen

English translation

Pallavi
I gave my flower like mind to you and fell in love with you,
Oh Muruga who has the peacock, Oh nephew of Lord Vishnu

Anupallavi
I do not have anything now , which is mine,
And you have not merciful and have not come even now

Charanam
I was enchanted because of your beauty ,
I do not have anything except thought about you,
I spend my time seeing several dreams,

And I have become thin with the intense wish to see you.

Manathirkku ukandathu

By
Thanjavur Sankara Iyer

Translated by,
P.R.Ramachander

Ragam Sindhu BHairavi
Thalam AAdhi

Pallavi
Manathirkku ukandathu murugan roopam,
Maya yai neekuvathu avan thirunamam,

Anupallavi
Dinamum kappathu avan kai vel,
Vinayai yum theerkkum Kadhira Vel

Charanam
Ennum ennam yellam niraiverum,
Pannum poojayinaal phalan undagum,
Mannil naam padum thuyar theerum,
Maraa inbam manthinil cherum.

English translation

Pallavi
The form of Muruga is pleasing to the mind,
And his divine name is one that removes illusion.

Anupallavi
The Vel in hand is the one that protects us daily,
And his shining Vel removes all Karma

Charanam
All our thoughts would bear fruit,
The worship that we do would yield result,
All the sorrows that we suffer in this earth would go away,
And unchanging happiness will accumulate in our mind.

Nathajana palini(Sanskrit)

By
Thanjavur Sri Shankara Iyer

Translated by
P.R. Ramachander

Ragam Nalina kanthi
Talam AAdhi

Pallavi
Natha jana palini , nalinakanthi navarasa kala rasike, Ambike

Anupallavi
Mada Matha gaja gamini Shive,
Mamava sathatham Janani, maaye

Charanam
Parama krupakari bhaktha Manohari,
Pankaja Nethri , parama pavithra,
Marakatha varna Sri Parameshwari,
Madhurya vaag vilasini , Shankari

English translation

Pallavi
Oh goddess who looks after her devotees,
Oh connoisseur of nine arts with pretty shine, Oh mother

Anupallavi
Oh consort of Shiva who walks like an exuberant elephant,
Oh goddess of illusion who is always mother to me

Charanam
Oh shower of divine mercy , Oh pretty one to her devotees,
Oh Lotus eyed one , Oh divinely pure Goddess,
Oh Parameshwari with the colour of emerald,
Oh Consort of Shankara who shines with sweet words.

Nara janmam , kadai thera(tamil)

(About Swami Vivekananda)

By

Thanjavur Sankara Iyer

Translated by

P.R.Ramachander

Ragam Saranga

Thalam Rupaka

Pallavi

Nara janmam kadai theru,

Narendrarai pani maname

To make the birth of man a success,

Oh Mind pray Narendra(Vivekananda)

Anupallavi

Orukkalum thalarathu, ulagukku nalam puriya

To never get tired and do good to the world

Charanam

Mel naattil chendru madha perumayai naattiyavar

Vaanorum pugazha , ulagil vaazhnthu, vazhi kaattiyavar

Naan yendra agandayai neekki arul pozhinthavar

Naangu marai unarntha nambi , vedantha swamiyai

He who went abroad and established greatness of religion,

He who lived in the world with devas appreciating and showed us the way

He who removed our self pride and showered blessing on us

He who realized the Vedas and the expert of vedanthas

Pariipoorna Chandra(Sanskrit)

By

Thanjavur Shankara Iyer

Translated by

P.R.Ramachander

Raga Poornachandrika

Talam Aadhi

Pallavi

Pariipoorna Chandra vadani , pathitha pavani , parma Kalyani

Anupallavi

Sari samana devamu lethani ,
Sala nammitheni , Sarasa lochani

Charanam

Nija swaroopini , niranjani , janani,
Nithya mangala pradhayini, Nalini,
Gaja gamini nee karuna korithini,
Kaavave Sri Kamakshi, Bhavani

English translation

Pallavi

Oh Goddess with full moon face ,
Oh purifier of the downtrodden,
Oh Greatly auspicious goddess

Anupallavi

Oh Goddess with a pleasant eyes,
I strongly believed that ,
There is no goddess equal to you

Charanam

Oh Goddess , with true form, Oh spotless goddess, Oh mother,
Oh daily granter of auspiciousness, Oh pretty lotus like goddess,
Oh Goddess who walks like an elephant, I am asking for your mercy,
Please protect me , Oh Kamakshi , Oh Bhavani

Padha sarojamula (telugu)

By

Thanjavur Sankara Iyer

Translated by

P.R.Ramachander

Ragam asaaveri

Thalam AAdhi

Pallavi

Padha sarojamula nammina napai,

Parakalenamma ni

Why this indifference on me,

Who believed your lotus like feet

Anupallavi

Needhu mahima vini ney, sharanathini

Nithya kalyani , niradha vani

Hearing your greatness, I became surrendered to you

Oh ever auspicious Goddess, who has ocean like voice

Charanam

Pamaruni nee parithapamu kani palimpavamma

SAMagana vinodhini sambhavi samaaja gamani , sarasa lochani

Except your pity to this ordinary person, please look after him

Poruthu arulvaye

By
Thanjavur Shankara Iyer,

Translated by
P.R.Ramachander

Ragam Sahana
Thalam AAdhi

Pallavi
Poruthu arulvaye , bhooma deviye ,
Pongum kopam yeno, podum thaaye

Anupallavi
Surakkum anbai pozhindidu vaye ,
Shodanai pothatho manila thaye

Charanam
Mannil piranthale maalvathu nijame,
Maaye , nee manam vaithaal kavalaikal oyume,
Kanniyamai vaazha kathu arulvaye ,
Karunai udan vaazha vandhu arulvaaye.

English translation

Pallavi
Oh goddess earth, please bear with us,
Why this ebbing anger, Oh mother it is sufficient

Anupallavi
Please shower the love that is produced,
Oh Mother land , Is the test not sufficient

Charanam
If we are born in this earth, death is the truth,
Oh Goddess of illusion , If you want all the worries would disappear ,
Please protect us so that we can live honestly,
Please come and shower your grace to live with mercy.

Rama Naamame

By
Thanjavur Shankara Iyer

Translated by
P.R.Ramachander

Ragam DEsh
Thalam aadhi

Pallavi
Rama namame thuthi maname ,
Kshemam urave dinam Sita

Anupallavi
Bhoomiyai , ponnai poovayarai ,
Poojithu pin punnagaamale , sri

Charanam
Vedanigal pala sodhanaigal ,
Yavume nadanai ninainthidugil , Raghu

English translation

Pallavi
Oh mind pray the name of Lord Rama,
For getting comfort daily pray Sitarama

Anupallavi
After worshipping the earth, gold and ladies ,
Without getting hurt pray Sri Rama

Charanam
Many pains , many tribulations,
If you think that he is the lord of everything ,
Pray Lord Raghu Rama.

Ranga nayakiye un charanam(Tamil)

By

THanjavur Sankara Iyer

Translated by

P.R.Ramachander

Ragam Nayaki

THalam Chapu

Pallavi

Ranganayakiye un charanam nambinene,

Rakshithiduvaaye Thaaye

Oh Ranganayaki , I believed in your feet

Please protect me mother

Anupallavi

Mangggamaai Sri Ranganathar arugile,

Maanilam uyya endru manam irangidum THaaye

Near to God Ranganatha, with auspiciousness,

When your heart will pity so that our country will progress

Charanam

Unnai nambinorkku oru kurayum undo?

Undhanai yendrum paadi magizhndhu vandhom

Than nigar illamal Dhayai puriyum THaaye

Dharani Kaathida vantharulvaaye

Would there be problems to those who believe in you?

We kept on singing about you and became happy,

Oh Mother who shows mercy , without comparison

Please come to save this world

Ranjani Mrudhu(Sanskrit)

By
THanjavur Shankara iyer

Translated by
P.R.Ramachander

Ragam Ragamalika
Thalam AAdhi

Pallavi (Ragam:Ranjani)
Ranjani, mrudu pankaja lochani

Chararam
1.Ragam:Sriranjani
Manju bhashini , manollasini , mandha aagamani, Sri Ranjani

2.Ragam:Megha Ranjani
Sama gana vinodhini , sasanka vadani ,
Mara Janani , megha ranjani

3.Ragam:Janaranjani
Pamara jana palini , shulini ,
Papa vimochani, pavani jana ranjani

English translation

Pallavi
Oh friendly goddess who has eyes like soft lotus

Charanam
1.Oh Goddess who speaks sweetly, who entertains the mind,
Who comes slowly , Oh Goddess who is friend of Lakshmi

2.Oh Goddess who likes singing of Sama Veda who has moon like face ,
Oh Goddess mother of cupid, Oh goddess who makes cloud rain

3.Oh Goddess who takes care of poor people who holds the Shoola,
Oh Goddess who saves us from sins, who is a friend of holy people

Sakala Kala Vani (Tamil Varnam)

By

Thanjavur Sankara Iyer

Translated by

P.R.Ramachander

Ragam Hindola

THalam Aadhi

Pallavi

SAkala kala valli, sakala loka dharini

She who knows all arts, She who lifts all worlds

Anupallavi

Lalithe, Kala Rasike, Lalithe Maam pahi

Oh Lalitha , who enjoys arts

Oh Lalitha please protect me

Charanam

SAkalagama Bhooshani

Sakthi Ganapathiye(tamil)

By

Thanjavur Shankara Iyer

Translated by

P.R.Ramachander

Ragam Gaula

Thalam Aadhi

Pallavi

Sakthi Ganapathiye, Saran adainthen,

Sakalamum arulum Sura pathiye

Oh strong Ganapathi, I surrendered to you

Oh lord of Devas who grants everything

Anupallavi

Bakthiyudan unai dhinam panindhen

Paramane undhanai paadi magizhthen

Daily with devotion, I bowed to you,
Oh great, singing about you, I became happy

Charanam

Thiruvarul puriya dhinam unai ninaindhen

THiya vinaigalai kalainthu erinthen

Gurupuran Murugan arumai sodharane

Kurigalai kalaivai , Aanai mukhathavane

To get divine blessings, I daily thought of you

I threw away all the evil fates

Oh dear brother of Divine Guru Muruga

Shri Raja Rajeswari(Sanskrit)

By

THanjavur Sankara iyer

Translated by

P.R.Ramachander

Ragam Purvee kalyani

Thalam Kanda chapu

Pallavi

Sri Rajarajeswari Chinmaya roopini

Purvi kalyani

The Rajarajeswari whose form is pervaded with divinity

Who is auspicious from olden times

Anupallavi

Sri Mahadeva manasoullasini

Sritha jana palini, Nithya kalyani

She who makes the mind of Mahadeva enthusiastic,

She who takes of those who depend on her, Who is forever auspicious

Charanam

Tamarasa lochani, Tanjapura vasini,

Sasanka sama vadani, kundala dhari

SAmajavara gamani Sadaya mrudu vachani

Sangeetha sammohini

She whose eyes are like lotus, who lives in Thanjavur

She who has face equal to moon, She who wears ear globes

She who walks like blessed elephant, She who uses soft sentences

She who is attracted by music

Throw away my worries, Oh Lord with elephant face

Sharanam, Sharanam Ganapathiye(Tamil Varnam)

By

Thanjavur Sankara Iyer

Translated by

P.R.Ramachander

Pallavi

Sharanam, Sharanam Ganapathiye

Santhoshamai unai paadinen

I surrender, surrender to you , Oh ganapathi

I sang about you with joy

Anupallavi

Tharunam idhuve,Dhayai purivaaye

Thanjam Adaindhene

This is the time , Please be kind,

I have surrendered to you

Charanam

Paramananda Murthiye

OH god whose form is divine joy

Sharavana bhava guha

By

Thanjavur Shankara Iyer

Translated by

P.R.Ramachander

Ragam SAhana

Talam AAdhi

Pallavi

Saravanabhava guha , shanmuga ,
Thiruarul puriya vaa vaa

Anupallavi

Maruvum valli devayanai manala,
Karunai mazhai pozhiya va dayala

Charanam

Kundru thorum aadum kumarane vaa,
Kuraigal theerthida viraivinil nee vaa,
Endrum inbam tharum thamizh isaikka va,
Irangi engalukku jnanam thazhaikka vaa.

English translation

Pallavi

Oh Guha born out of Saravana pond, Oh six faced one,
Please come , come to shower your grace

Anupallavi

Oh husband of the loving Valli and Devayana,
Oh merciful one come to shower the rain of mercy.

Charanam

Oh Kumara who dances on each and every hill, please come,
Please come to fulfill all our wants ,
Please come to sing Thamizh which daily gives pleasure,
Please take pity on us and come to increase our wisdom.

Yaaridam murai iduven(Tamil)

By

Thanjavur Sankara iyer

Translated by

P.R.Ramachander

Ragam Malaya marutha

Thalam aadhi

Pallavi

Yaaridam murai iduven , nadha

Edhum ariyene, endhan murugane

Oh Lord whom will I appeal to ,

I do not know anything, My Muruga

Anupallavi

Par pugazhum pazhani malayil,

Uraibhavanai padham paninthene

Paadoven unnaye

I saluted the feet of Lord who lives,

In Pazhani mountain, praised by the world

I will sing about you

Charanam

Vanthu adainthorgalai , kathu arulbhavane

Vaan pugazh kondavane, varam tharubhavane

Enthan kuraigalai theerthu arulbhavane

Yen indha thamadham yezhai ariyene

He who protects and blesses those who come

Who has sky high fame, who grants boons

He who puts an end to my worries

Why this delay? This poor one does not know