



# Tamil Cultural and Academic Society of Durham (TCASD) Celebrates Annual Academic Awards 2019

Tamil Cultural and Academic Society of Durham (TCASD) celebrated their Annual Academic Awards on December 07th 2019 at OPG, Pickering, Ontario. It was a full-house event with 50 award recipients, their parents, well-wishers of TCASD and its members. TCASD has been celebrating the Academic Awards for the past seven

years in Durham, motivating and encouraging the children to participate in Academic competitions. TCASD recognized the TYLP – Tamil Youth Leadership program participants who completed the whole session for the year of 2019

Parents and members are very appreciative about the TCASD Academic

Competitions and Awards as these activities keep their children active and motivate them to achieve in their academics and community involvement. Such events have contributed to building positive self-esteem and determination among the Tamil youth.

TCASD had young children conduct the show as the masters of ceremonies

which also acted as an opportunity for them to practice their public speaking and leadership abilities.

TCASD appreciates and thanks all its supporters, volunteers and well-wishers while wishing them Happy New Year 2020!

(Seen here are some pictures of the event)



# Santhiyaragam Golden Super Singer 2019

Contributed by  
Saba Kurunathan

When they announced my name: Saba Kurunathan as the title winner of the Santhiyaragam Golden super singer for 2019, I could not believe for a moment though it was an obvious choice of the audience.

When I was driving back home I was thinking how I got involved in participating in the Santhiyaragam music contest. Santhiyaragam is a talent show. Unlike the other talent shows, this was initiated to bring out the hidden singing talent of the seniors over 55 years old in the Tamil community.

It was a noble idea of Indrani Nagenthiram, CEO of Villa Karuna Home for seniors. Villa Karuna Senior home was established in 2003 by Indrani Nagenthiram in Toronto. I was told that Santhiyaragam had been conducted successfully since 2016. Every year the number of participants increases as well as the talent. When I went for the first audition, I noticed that at least three music professionals participated in the event. One was a retired music teacher; the other two were talented singers who had participated in many public performances. There were a few

who had participated in the same program in previous years.

The first audition for the 2019 event began in early March 2019. The Santhiyaragam team visited most of the Tamil Seniors' Associations in Toronto, Mississauga and Brampton in search of people with the hidden singing talent and selected those who could be trained to participate in the contest. I was told that there were about 40 contestants who had applied. Some were eliminated at the first Audition. Some left voluntarily for several reasons. If I can remember correctly 24 people participated in the first round where we were asked to sing one devotional cinema song. This was followed by four rounds of elimination processes based on the performance of songs under different categories. The judges selected four contestants for the grand finale and an additional one from the wild card selection. Fortunately, I was one of the top four contestants.

The judges were well known music professionals led by Mr. Anton Felix, Mr. Anantham Philip Antony, Mr. Babu Jayakanthan, Dr. Varagunan Mahadevan, Mrs. Usha Kulendran, Mrs. Vijiyaluxmy Seenivasagam and New York Raja. Krithiga Chan-



Santhiyaragam Golden Super Singer event 2019, picture shows from left to right CEO Indrani Nagenthiram with title winner Mr. Kurunathan Saba, 1st runner up Mr. Sivarajah and 2nd runner up Mr. Yogarajah

drasekhar, a well-known vocal trainer also helped the participants. The judges helped train the participants to perfect their talents. They spent several hours of their valuable time for which the participants should be extremely grateful. Their judgment process was exemplary.

Santhiyaragam had a dedicated team to communicate and coordinate the process.

They were Para Veerkathiyar (2019 title winner), Kiruba Ganesh, Inthu Pararajasingham, Vasa Nathan and

Janani Jayasuthan.

This program helped me to bring out my hidden singing talent and fulfill my dream of singing. When I was young, my mother always told me that success is the result of hard work and perseverance.

I wish to share my sincere appreciation to Indrani Nagenthiram, CEO of Villa Karuna Seniors home and the Board of Directors for their commitment and wish that they continue this program in the future.