



## BOOKS ON MUSIC LEGENDS BIG HIT WITH CHILDREN

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Twelve-year-old Sahana loves M.S. Subbulakshmi. So much so, she can reel out the entire life history of the great musician. Thanks to Lakshmi Devnath, an ardent music lover who has come out with a series of books on the lives of Carnatic legends in an animated series for children.

“Great lives have great lessons. And what better way to convey to children than through an animated series,” asks the 52-year-old author, who has also come out with a new book on vocalist G. N. Balasubramanian.

What started as a casual review for websites in early 2000 became a profession for this Carnatic music graduate. When she used to visit bookstores for references, she found music books only for adult reading. Then she wrote books on music for children as simple stories. “I zeroed in on animated series of our musicians only this year with my first book on MS,” explains the lady who will release books on vocalists such as Madurai Mani Iyer, T. Brinda, Ariyakudi Ramanuja Iyengar and mridangam player Palghat Mani Iyer this year.

“All these books are self-published as I am yet to find publishers,” laments the author with a wry smile. However, her other book, a biography of Lalgudi Jayaraman, has been lapped up by Harper & Collins. Her first book, Poorva, published in 2007 by EastWest Books, is set to be republished this year.

Despite being a trained Carnatic singer and veena player, Lakshmi has decided on being only a rasika. “My second daughter is a disciple of Lalgudi and am happy to see her perform on stage,” said the mother of two.