

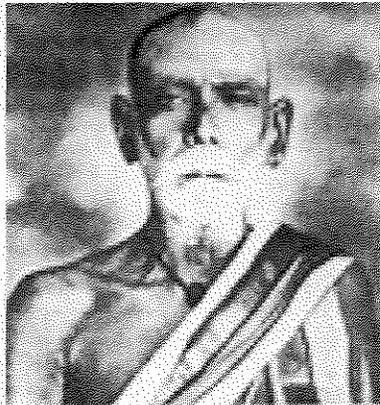
Jiya Ganesh
3rd Grade
1st Place

PIONEER IN INDIAN CLASSICAL MUSIC

STORY OF MY GREAT GREAT GREAT GRANDPA

- Jiya Ganesh

My life as an American Indian, revolves around many traditions that we blend with east and west. "Who am I?" "How did I get here?" pondering to know it all between a continuous whirlwind of activities and the colors in my wardrobe. My sister and I eagerly wait for our bedtime stories to **peek into the past**, sometimes they are mythological, other times about hereditary traditions and ancestors.



One such day, while we looked through many of the photo albums - I saw a special and a very popular picture that's been like a hall of fame in music. Yes! I have a very deep *musical lineage* to the pioneer in carnatic music - the great "Koteeswara Iyer" and his grandpa "Kavi Kunjara Bharathi". I was in awe, wide eyed - I began to draw my family tree to learn that he's my great great great grandfather from my dad's maternal side.

Iyer was living when the British ruled. Imagine what clothing he would wear? What type of house would he have? My father also told me that he was able to inspire and connect a lot of people with diverse backgrounds in India through his music compositions.

Between many Indian composers, who chose to write on a particular melody scheme or subject - I noted my grandpa explored the variety to make his compositions in all of the 72 raga melody schemes - where every raga has 12 unique note positions.

I have enjoyed learning and composing music since the age of 5. Between the uncertainties in the world, music gives happiness and hope bringing people closer. In my pursuit to make this world a better place, I have an idol to look upon for inspiring composition and great music.