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Tracing the life of a legend, at an evening studded with Carnatic music

Who knew a girl born in the temple town of Madurai in pre-Independence India would change the male dominated world of classical music. Tribute to the legend: MS Subbulakshmi, celebrated Carnatic vocalist and later, a film actor, was destined for greater things. Recently, on her birth centenary, a book on her life was launched in the Capital. Titled *Kunjamma: Ode to a Nightingale*, the book traces the life and times of the singer, who died in 2004. The book is authored by Lakshmi Vishwanathan. Subbulakshmi's connect with the city is special as her first Hindi film, *Meera*, was premiered here. A few words: The event was inaugurated by Jawhar Sircar, CEO, Prasar Bharati. He added a touch of humour when he addressed the gathering: "People mistake me for someone who knows culture," he said. Sircar was all praise for Subbulakshmi. "What Pandit Ravi Shankar did for Hindustani music, MS did for Carnatic music. She was the Bharat Ratna in this domain. She stands miles above others and I'd like to thank Lakshmi ji (the author) for reminding us of her contributions"



PHOTOS: MANOJ VERMA/HT

The book launch was attended by (L-R) Jawhar Sircar, Raghu Rai and his wife Gurmeet



The musical touch: A Carnatic music recital by vocalist Shubhashri Ramachandran followed, along with a performance by the book's author, that traced Subbulakshmi's life. The event also saw in attendance photographer Raghu Rai and danseuse Sharon Lowen.

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