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**Choral tribute**

The Handel Manuel Chorus will perform on April 27, the maestro's 90th birth anniversary



**POPULAR CONDUCTOR Handel Manuel**

On April 27, 6 p.m., The Handel Manuel Chorus celebrates the 90th birth anniversary of music maestro Handel Manuel in a service at the Emmanuel Methodist Church, Jeremiah Road, Vepery. It will be a concert offering a bouquet of Alleluias (praise to God) and Amens (So be it) from Baroque, Classical and Modern periods. Damayanthi Santwan will be at the piano and Sharada Schafter, one of the senior most associates of Handel Manuel, will conduct the chorus.

Excerpts from the great choral works of Beethoven, G. F. Handel, Kirke Mechem and Randall Thompson will be presented. All the excerpts will have either "Alleluia" or "Amen" as the theme.

The evening will also feature instrumental pieces such as classical music for two flutes, clarinet and guitar featuring S. Balakrishnan, Surender Schafter and Ahlauyu S.V' Naid.

A prodigy at the piano and the pipe organ, Handel Manuel turned conductor when he was only 23. From then on he performed as pianist, organist and conductor in India, Europe and America, with radio and television broadcasts in England, France and Germany to his credit. Little did

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audiences around the world realise he was a high-ranking government official in India (with the AIR and Doordarshan, Chennai) till his retirement. He wrote several popular musical pieces and as a director was responsible for staging well-known musicals in the city. He was awarded a Padma Shri in 1983.

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