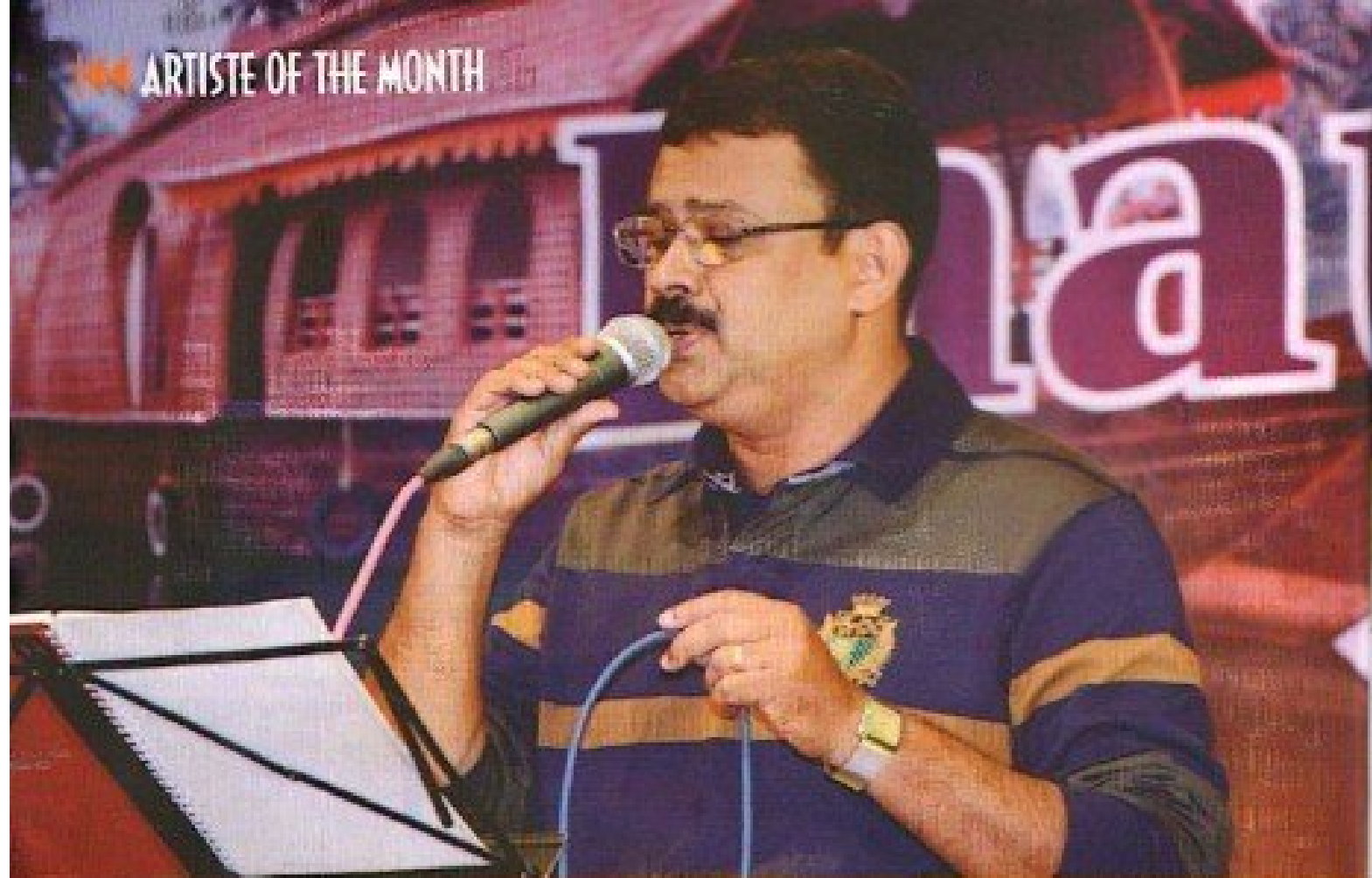




K J SEBASTIAN

MULTI FACETED SINGER

- Lakshmi V

Mumbai Malayali music lovers would remember K J Kuruvilla who was one of the foremost singers and music composers of Mumbai from 1970 to 1990. Singer Sebastian of Mumbai is the younger brother of K J Kuruvilla.

Even as a child Sebastian was very fond of music and since then he has been a great admirer of the evergreen singer Padma Bhushan Dr K J Yesudas. He followed his passion and trained himself to become a singer. As a young boy he was a member of Choir in St. George Church, Alappuzha and later became a lead singer in the choir. In his early days when he was in Kerala he was an active singer of devotional songs for St George Church, singer for All India Radio programmes and for stage performances.

"My brother was my Gura right from my childhood. What I am today, is only because of him, K J Kuruvilla,"

Sebastian says humbly. "My brother was a very lovable person and the care which I got from him cannot be explained nor put in words." Kuruvilla's wife Shanta Kuruvilla and daughter Shruti Kuruvilla are now settled at Ernakulam in Kerala, he says.

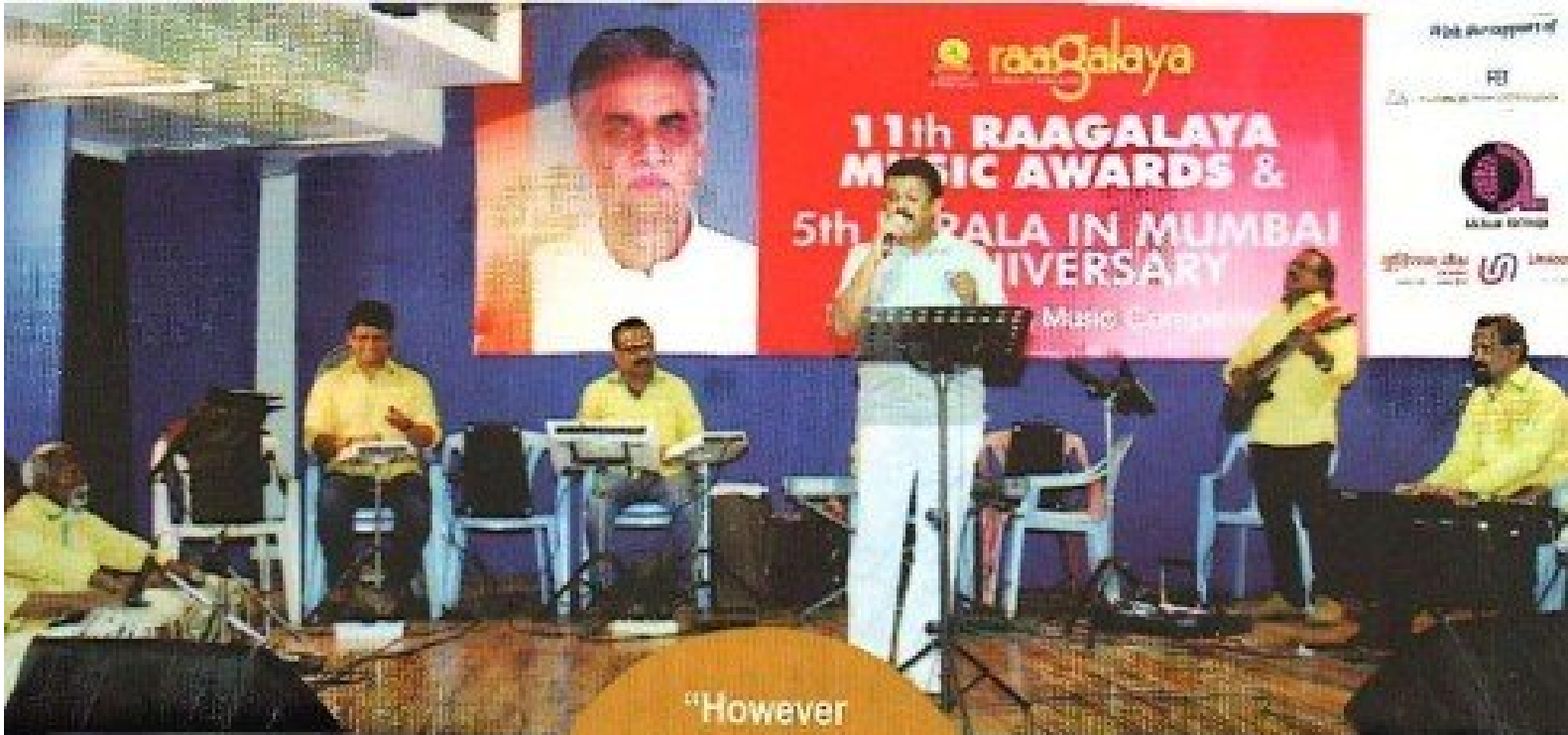
Currently settled in Mumbai, Sebastian performs for various organizations and institutions through Raagalaya, Universal Melodies, Saptaswara orchestras etc. He is a member of Kerala Catholic Association and a member of their Symphony Orchestra. He also sings devotional songs for church, Ayyappa Samajams and performs in Malayalam light music programmes, including film songs in

Malayalam and Tamil.

Sebastian, son of late John Kurishingal and late Mrs. Annakutty John, was born and brought up in Alappuzha District. He did his schooling from Leo XIII High School in Alappuzha.

After completing his studies he served in the Indian Navy Music Band as a Percussionist for 15 years and later with Sharjah Police Band for about 7 years as a musician. Currently he is settled in Vikhroli and works for Mumbai Doordarshan.

He is a life member of Vikhroli Malayali Samajam and has always actively supported their activities. He is a popular singer in the musical shows of Mumbai Malayalees.



Sebastian performing on stage

Sebastian's family itself is one of music and dance. His wife Preetham is a trained Bharatanatyam dancer being a disciple of Smt Jayashree Nair of Upasana Academy of Fine Arts, Chembur. She is also a dance teacher and conducts Angel Dance Class (Bharatanatyam) in Vikhroli (East). She is employed with JSW Steel Limited.

Preetham and Sebastian have a son Ruben, pursuing BLS, LLB First year. He is very fond of music and is undergoing training in Guitar, Keyboard and has passed third grade from Trinity college of music based in London. He is learning and Carnatic Vocal under Smt. Sujatha Nair of

"However I consider the appreciation I receive from my audience when I perform as my greatest reward,"

Upasana academy. He is also very interested in Football. Ruben has won a lot of certificates and prizes in his musical field as well as sports activities. He loves to write, compose and sing songs. At this young age he has written, composed several songs and sang them in his school and college programmes

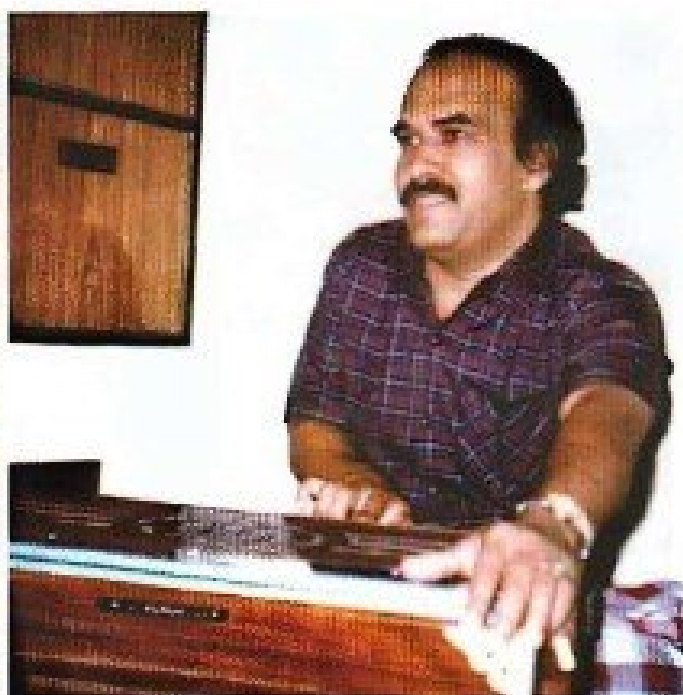
and on TV channels.

Some of them are 'Mera Bharat Mahan', 'Kithi Hasithi Milithi inn phoolo se', 'One last day' etc.

Sebastian has received a lot of prizes and awards ever since he was a child for his singing. "However I consider the appreciation I receive from my audience when I perform as my greatest reward," he says. "Mumbai audience have always welcomed me whether it be a Onam programme, Wedding Choir, Church programme, Ayyappa Samajam programme, Nair Sabha etc., I thank each one of them for their sincere support and love," he adds. ■



Sebastian with his family



Sebastian's brother K J Kuruvilla