



## **ANNUAL REPORT JUNE 2021: CHANTING**

### **FROM LISA SOEDE , DIRECTOR CHANTING**

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Progress in the Chanting division of the TSYP has grown substantially since November 2020. Lockdown has given people the opportunity to realise the many benefits of chanting to our overall wellbeing. It has been a comfort to many in these times of stress and uncertainty. We have done our very best to keep up with the growing demand for this wonderful tool of yoga. The pace has been fast and furious.

The edit team of Maggie Shanks, Becky Sperring, Matthew Cornwall and Jane McCallum have done an incredible job as can be seen by the expanding repertoire of chants available on the website. A special thanks to all of you for your professionalism, speed and accuracy. Of course, we also want to acknowledge the contribution of our dear teacher Radha for her eagle eye in the final edits. She is missed by all of us on the team and we feel privileged to have worked with her in this way for the past few years.

The four Vedic Chant Foundation courses have also made considerable progress. The Tutors, Sarah Waterfield (on-line course), Maggie Shanks (face to face course), Roxanna Ziolkowska (blended course) and myself, Lisa Soede (blended course), have all gone through our training, submitted our course plans and three of the courses are up and running. The fourth begins in September. All courses were filled which is another example of how very popular chanting has become in the past year or so. Many congratulations to the Tutors and best of luck on the remaining days of the courses.

Plans for the next Vedic Chant Teacher Training are also underway. Currently various plans are being considered in terms of location, structure and content. The course is due to begin September 2022. All is on course for this start date. Thank you to Sarah Waterfield, Michelle Tarling, Head of Education and Helen Saaler, Treasurer, for their valuable input to date.

The Sunday Saṅga-s have continued at pace throughout Lockdown. In fact, there were 12 saṅga-s between November 2020 and June 2021. Special thanks to Maggie Shanks, Helen Macpherson, Bea Teuten who have helped to lead the sessions. Thank you to Meredith Bell for your contribution as Welcomer. Finally, thank you to all the volunteer chanters who have added so much to the events.

We also had Yoga Sūtra chapters 3 and 4 presented on Zoom by Radha which were very well attended and expertly transmitted. We are deeply indebted to her for her incredible service to her teacher, TKV Desikachar, and to passing the teachings on to her students.



Of course, since Radha's passing on May 14<sup>th</sup> we have also had two memorials to her. Going forward we will decide how best to honour her. We know she wants us to chant and teach! With this in mind, there is an event planned in September for the Kaṭha Upaniṣad run by Gill Lloyd and Helen Macpherson which will honour Radha in a special way.

It has been quite a year.