A poem for Ganesha Chaturthi

Arranged by
J. Sethuraman

Adapted from Adi Sankara’s
mahaganēśa pañcaratna stotram

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anādiviśavāśinas-
Omnipresent you always are
Oh Lord Ganapathy!
tavādyā janmavaibhavam {sadaiva janmavaib-
havam}
Still, today’s your birthday {Everyday’s your
birthday}
Oh Lord Ganapathy!
nūmō vayam mudā’dhunā
Praise we do, with glee today
Oh Lord Ganapathy!
pravāśitā jagattale|
Scattered ’round the universe-
Oh Lord Ganapathy!
bhavatpadāvalambino
Falling at your lotus feet
Oh Lord Ganapathy!
bhavatsvarūpamohino
’Ntranced by your graceful frame
Oh Lord Ganapathy!
bhavatkrūpāsamāhino
Seeking for your powerful grace
Oh Lord Ganapathy!
vīnāyakā ratā bhrame||
Leaderless, we roam about
Oh Lord Ganapathy!
mudākarāttamodakam
Enjoy you do the modakams
Oh Lord Ganapathy!
sadāvimuktisādhakam
Source are you of moksha-bliss
Oh Lord Ganapathy!
kalādharāvatamsakam
Mere ornament the moon to you
Oh Lord Ganapathy!
vilāsilokarākṣakam|
Protector of the fourteen worlds
Oh Lord Ganapathy!
anāyakaikanāyakam
The only Lord of the leaderless
Oh Lord Ganapathy!
vīnāsītebhadaityakam
Demon, destroyed, the pachyderm
Oh Lord Ganapathy!
natāsubhāśunāsakam
Remove worries of devotees
Oh Lord Ganapathy!
namāmi tam vīnāyakam||
We bow to you, Oh! Ganesha
Oh Lord Ganapathy!
A Poem for Ganesha Chaturthi

(Arranged by J. Sethuraman, adapted fr. Adi Shankara’s *Mahaganeshapancharatna Stotram*, music by M. Froelich.)

This song is in 5 sections, with the first, third and fifth to be sung/improvised by a soloist on a phrygian scale (with raised 7th scale degree); and the second and fourth sections to be sung by the soloist, and echoed by a congregation. The total time of the song comes to approximately 5 minutes, but it is encouraged for the soloist to make extensive interpretations of the solo sections, and to take liberties with duration tempo. He/she may sing the syllable “ah”, or the three syllables “Ga-ne-sha” during these sections.

Notes and rests in parentheses apply if the song is to be sung in English.

Accompaniment is a simple drone bass with open fifths and octaves, and can be played on piano, organ, any stringed instrument with triple stops, or combinations of instruments in the range. Percussion is not written in, though any percussion would go well, especially with the second and fourth sections.