



SRUTI
The India Music and Dance Society
1436 Joel Drive, Ambler, PA 19002
Presents



Carnatic vocal concert
by

RAMA RAVI

Nanditha Ravi - vocal support
B.V. Raghavendra Rao - violin
Prakash Rao - mridangam

Saturday Nov 16, 10:30 AM



Carnatic vocal concert
by

Papanasam
Ashok Ramani

S. Varadarajan - violin
Srimushnam Raja Rao - mridangam

Saturday Nov 16, 4:30 PM

These concerts are presented as part of Composers Day celebrations at the Colonial Middle School, 716 Belvoir Road, Norristown (Plymouth Township), PA 19401. Other activities of the day include presentations of kritis of various composers by local groups of singers. Please see attached flyer for program details and directions to the venue.

Sruti concerts are supported in part by The Philadelphia Music Project, Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, and The Philadelphia Foundation.

Artist Profiles

RAMA RAVI is one of the leading artists in the field of South Indian Classical Music. She received training at Kalakshetra under the guidance of renowned gurus like Mysore Vasudevacharya, Budalur Krishnamurthi Sastrigal, M.D. Ramanathan and T.K. Ramaswami Iyengar, and subsequently learnt from the late D.K. Jayaraman. She is a leading exponent of the Dhanammal School, having also learnt from T.Viswanathan the subtleties, nuances and modes of expression characteristic of this school. She has gained considerably from the guidance given by the late T. Brinda, T. Mukta and T. Sankaran.

Rama was the Head of the Department of Music at S. R. College, Tiruchirappalli, for two years. She has performed extensively in Sangeet Sammelan recitals and on Doordarshan National Programs, and at prestigious organizations like the Chennai Music Academy and Sri Krishna Gana Sabha. Rama has received many honors and awards including the Muthuswamy Dikshitar Bicentenary Fellowship in 1975 from the Sangeet Natak Academy and the M.D. Ramanathan award for 'Best Musician' from the Music Academy in 1984. Rama is known for her uncompromising classicism, unswerving adherence to tradition, and a style of singing marked by dignity and refinement.

NANDITHA RAVI had her early training in music from her grandmother Mrs. Thulasi Subramaniam, followed by advanced training from her mother, Mrs. Rama Ravi. She has also been learning from Vidwan Bombay S.Ramachandran and Mrs. D.K.Pattammal. Nanditha Ravi is a graded artiste of All India Radio, Chennai and has won many prizes in music competitions held by The Music Academy and The Indian Fine Arts Society, and the Chembai Memorial Endowment award from Krishna Gana Sabha. She regularly accompanies her mother, Smt. Rama Ravi in concerts and also gives solo performances.

B. V. RAGHAVENDRA RAO was initiated into music by his father at the young age of 5. He later learnt to play the violin from Sangeetha Kalanidhi T. N. Krishnan, and received invaluable guidance from Dr. M. Balamuralikrishna. He has won several prizes and awards from various organizations. He has performed all over the world, including U.S.A., Canada, France, Germany, Sri Lanka and the Middle Eastern countries, and has accompanied several leading artists. He has performed at the Lincoln Center along with Dr. Balamuralikrishna and received rave reviews.

PRAKASH RAO was initiated into the art of playing the mridangam by the late Sri K. Sudarshanacharyulu. Since 1982, Prakash has been under the tutelage of Sri Vellore Ramabhadran. He has received advanced training from Sri Umayalpuram K. Sivaraman and the late Kanjira V. Nagarajan. Recently, he has received intense training from Sri Palghat T. R. Rajamani, son of the legendary Sri Palghat T. S. Mani Iyer. Prakash has accompanied several senior vidhwans including Lalgudi G. Jayaraman, B. Rajam Iyer, T. K. Govinda Rao, and dancers such as the Dhananjayans and Smt.Kamala.



ASHOK RAMANI is one of the leading young Carnatic musicians in India. He started training at a very young age with his mother Dr.Rukmini Ramani, daughter of the renowned composer Papanasam Sivan. He subsequently learnt under the tutelage of Dr.S.Ramanathan and from Calcutta K.S.Krishnamurthy, Bombay Ramachandran and Palghat K.V.Narayanaswamy. He is also an accomplished mridangam player and was a disciple of Kumbakonam Sri.Rajappa Iyer.

Ashok Ramani has performed in all major sabhas in India and in concert tours abroad. As a young artist and a concert musician, he has received many awards and honors, including Best Junior Vocalist award by The Music Academy, Madras, *Isai Peroli* conferred by Karthik Fine Arts in December 1999, Youth Excellence award by Maharajapuram Vishwanatha Iyer Trust in 1998, *Isai Bharathi* in 1994, Best Vocalist award by Indian Fine Arts Society in 1994 and *Yuva Kala Bharathi* awarded by Bharat Kalachar in 1994. Ashok Ramani has composed, edited and released a CD-ROM on the life history of Papanasam Sivan, with rare audio and visual clippings of Sivan and over fifty songs by popular artists.

SRIMUSHNAM V. RAJA RAO, one of the highly acclaimed mridangam players today, comes from a family of illustrious musicians. His father Sri. S.Venkataramana Rao, his grandfather Sri. S.Sanjivi Rao and great-grandfather Sri. Sethumadhava Rao were all mridangists/Musicians. Raja Rao had his initial training in mridangam from his father S.Venkataramana Rao and further training under Kumbakonam M.Rajappa Iyer. He is also a leading exponent of the kanjira and mohersing. He was trained in vocal music by Papanasam Sivan, K.S.Krishnamurthy and Mayavaram Sri.Vaidyanatha Iyer. Raja Rao started performing at the age of seven and has accompanied all the leading Carnatic Musicians, as a top ranking artist in All India Radio. He has performed in many countries in Europe, North America, Asia and the Middle East, accompanying leading musicians such as Maharajapuram Santhanam, Mandolin Srinivas, M.L. Vasanthakumari, T.N. Seshagopalan, N. Ramani, Chitravina Ravikiran, P. Unnikrishnan, to name a few. He has received many awards and honors including Best Mridangist Award by Madras Music Academy, *Sangeetha Ratnakara* by the Aradhana Committee of Cleveland, *Sangeetha Kala Choodamani* by the Academy of Indian Music, Melbourne, Australia and *Kalaimamani* by the Government of Tamil Nadu.

S. VARADARAJAN, a highly accomplished violinist from Chennai, started learning violin at the age of nine from Sri. Kanchi Janardhanam. He has been receiving advanced training from Sri T. V. Gopalakrishnan for the past 15 years. He played his first Concert at the age of 12 and has since been accompanying various artists in all Sabhas in Chennai and all over India, and in concert tours all over the world. He has accompanied well-known musicians such as T V Gopalakrishnan, K V Narayanaswami, T N Seshagopalan, T V Sankaranarayanan, P Unnikrishnan, Sanjay Subramaniam, Bombay Jayashree Ramnath and Nityasree Mahadevan. He was conferred with the title of *Yuva Kala Bharathi* by Bharat Kalachar in 1999, Best Junior Violinist in the Music Festival conducted by Academy of Indian Music & Arts and Narada Gana Sabha in 1989, Spirit of Youth Award for Best Violin Artiste from Music Academy in 1989, Best Senior Violinist Prize in 1999, 2000 & 2001.