



# SRUTI

## The India Music and Dance Society

1783 Talbot Road, Blue Bell, PA 19422 • www.Sruti.Org

### Presents

### A Delightful Doubleheader

Mahishasura Mardhini

A Spectacular Dance ballet  
By

Pasumarthy Venkateswara  
Sarma

and party

Carnatic Vocal Concert  
By

Malladi Brothers

Accompanists  
Embar Kannan (Violin)  
Neyveli Narayanan (Mridangam)



**Saturday, November 17, 2007**

**2:00 PM Dance Ballet, 4:30 PM Vocal Concert**

*at Calvary Vision Center*

*550 E. Township Line Rd., Suite 200, Blue Bell, PA*

Tickets: Doubleheader: Members \$20, Non-members \$30, Seniors/Students \$15.

Individual Program: Members \$15, Non-Members \$20, Seniors/Students \$10.

For more information, contact Ramana at (610) 322-3180, Srinivas at (215) 364-2089,

Venkat at (610) 631-2291, or Nataraj at (610) 687-4565

Carnatic Vocal Concert by Malladi Brothers is supported by a grant from the Philadelphia Music Project, an artistic initiative of the Pew Charitable Trusts, administered by the University of the Arts.

## About Mahishasura Mardhini

**'Even the good and the righteous can succeed against evil forces only when they come together in an organized endeavour!'**

'Mahishasura Mardhini', a Kuchipudi dance drama by Sri Bala Tripura sundari Kuchipudi Natya Kalakshetram, Hyderabad, India depicts this theory through their dance drama based on the narrative from 'Devi Mahatyam' of 'Markandeya Purana' about how Durga was created as a warrior goddess to fight the mighty buffalo-headed demon, Mahishasura whose demonic onslaughts go unstoppable in all the three worlds because of the boon he gains from Brahma that no man or god will defeat him. In order to defeat Mahishasura, the Holy Male Trinity (Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva) creates a dazzling beam of energy of their collective powers that transforms into one female goddess, Durga. Armed with weapons bestowed upon her by the pantheon of gods, Durga slays Mahishasura after a grueling battle lasting nine days.

## About the Artists

**Pasumarthy Venkateswara Sarma** is known for personifying powerful villainous characters with supercilious glances, heavy gestures and movements, and is famous for his role as Keechaka in his *Kuchipudi Nritya Natika Keechaka Vadha*. Kumarasambhavam, Mahisasuramardhini, and Varudhini Pravarakhya are other ballets that the maestro has choreographed, drawing inspiration from the Kuchipudi Yakshaganas and the masculine roles of the anti-heros. Venkateswara Sarma perfectly blends the villain and the jester and, above all, a gripping tale in a unique manner. His performances are thoroughly appreciated by audiences in spite of their repeated presentations, a good example being *Keechaka Vadha*. The maestro has numerous well trained students to his credit, who actively participate in nritya natikas under the production of "Sri Bala Tripura Sundari Kuchipudi Natya Kalakshetram". Sri PV Sarma has had extended training under the legendary Kuchipudi exponent Padmabhusan Dr. Vempati Chinna Satyam. He has received many honors. He has been felicitated with the title 'Natya Kala Ratna' in the year 1999 at Hyderabad.

**Malladi Brothers Sreeram Prasad and Ravikumar** were born with a legacy and rich tradition accrued through their grand father Late Malladi Srirama Murthy and through their father, a great Harikatha exponent of his time in Andhra Pradesh. Both the brothers received musical training from their father - vocalist, Malladi Suri Babu, himself a disciple of the Late Voleti Venkateswarulu. Sangeetha Kalanidhi Nedunuri Krishnamurthy, realizing the potential of Malladi Brothers took them under his guidance to represent his rich style of music. Malladi brothers possess a large repertoire of Carnatic compositions and possess a vibrant and powerful voice. The brothers have been the most sought after young maestros. They have traveled extensively all over India and abroad promoting and preserving the rich traditional music they represent. Malladis have several audio publications to their credit.

**Embar Kannan** has come to be recognized as a leading violinist of today. Trained under the renowned Kanyakumari, he has lived up to the expectations of a promising violinist of great potential. Embar Kannan is highly accomplished as a violinist and is in the forefront of violinists of the younger generation. His bowing technique is of high quality, marked by sweetness and clarity. Kannan is the recipient of many awards and honors for both his solo and his accompanying skills. He is an A grade artist of the All India Radio (AIR) and has played solo concerts and violin duets with his guru.

**Neyveli Narayanan** hails from a family of Music connoisseurs. Narayanan was initiated into the art of Mridangam playing at the young age of seven, under the guidance of Sri. S.K. Ganesa Pillai. He made his debut at the age of 11 and ever since, he has been rising in his art by furthering his horizons and making a mark in the field of Carnatic music. An intensive training under the Maestro Late Thanjavur Sri Upendran brought about a great amount of professionalism in Narayanan's playing. Narayanan is now blessed with the rare opportunity of being one of the disciples of the Mridangam Legend Padmashri Umayalpuram Sri K. Sivaraman. This great influence has brought in a great amount of clarity, precision, and perfection in Narayanan's style. Narayanan has accompanied almost all the veterans of Carnatic music.

## Directions to Calvary Vision Center, 550 East Township Line Rd., Blue Bell, PA.

### FROM PHILADELPHIA AND SOUTH:

Take Rt 76 West out of Philadelphia (11mi)  
Take Exit 331B - Plymouth Meeting - merge onto Rt 476 N (4mi)  
Bear right at the toll booth  
Take ramp onto Exit 20 - Germantown Pike West  
Follow Germantown Pike West (1mi)  
(Pass the Plymouth Meeting Mall, go up the hill)  
Turn RIGHT onto Walton Rd  
Turn LEFT onto Township Line Rd at the 2<sup>nd</sup> traffic light (Commerce Bank)  
Make the first LEFT into Calvary Vision Center  
Church entrance is suite 200 - the glass wall around the back of the building

### FROM PA TURNPIKE - EAST or WEST:

Take Exit 333 toward Norristown  
Turn slight left at the ramp toward Norristown  
Take the Plymouth Rd ramp  
Turn LEFT onto Plymouth Rd  
Turn RIGHT onto Germantown Pk West  
Follow Germantown Pike West (1mi)  
(Pass the Plymouth Meeting Mall, go up the hill)  
Turn RIGHT onto Walton Rd  
Turn LEFT onto Township Line Rd at the 2<sup>nd</sup> traffic light (Commerce Bank)  
Make the first LEFT into Calvary Vision Center

### FROM RT 476 S:

Take Rt 476 S  
Merge onto I-267 West at Exit 20 toward Norristown  
Take Exit 333 toward Norristown  
Turn slight left at the ramp toward Norristown  
Take the Plymouth Rd ramp  
Turn LEFT onto Plymouth Rd  
Turn RIGHT onto Germantown Pk West  
Follow Germantown Pike West (1mi)  
(Pass the Plymouth Meeting Mall, go up the hill)  
Turn RIGHT onto Walton Rd  
Turn LEFT onto Township Line Rd at the 2<sup>nd</sup> traffic light (Commerce Bank)  
Make the first LEFT into Calvary Vision Center  
Church entrance is suite 200 - the glass wall around the back of the building

### FROM RT 309:

Take SKIPPACK PIKE/RT 73 Exit  
Follow Rt 73 West  
(Pass Shady Grove School on right)  
Turn LEFT onto Walton Rd (3-way traffic light)  
Continue Straight through stop sign  
Turn RIGHT onto Township Line Rd  
Make the first LEFT into Calvary Vision Center  
Church entrance is suite 200 - the glass wall around the back of the building