



SRUTI

The India Music and Dance Society

Vol 8 No 2

Newsletter

August 1993

Dear SRUTI supporter,

Greetings. Much water has flown under the bridge (although not literally as in the mid-west !) since our last newsletter. We have had a very successful spring season programming and are planning some exciting programs for the Fall. More about them anon.

The most exciting news for the good of SRUTI is, of course the recognition as a non-profit organization by the Internal Revenue Service under section 501(c)(3). The Resources committee and especially Dr.P.Swaminathan must be commended for their efforts in this regard. We would also like to thank Mr. Kumud Gandhi, CPA, who volunteered a lot of his time guiding us through this process.

The recognition as a non-profit organization enables us in the short run to effect some savings on a few items of expenditure. However, the major advantage lies in enabling us to compete for grants from the government and major corporations. We also earnestly appeal for generous donations from well-wishers and patrons of SRUTI like yourselves. All contributions will be fully tax deductible as allowed by law. We sincerely hope that you will open your hearts and let your generosity flow through your wallet/pocketbooks/checkbooks onto SRUTI's bank account.

As you will doubtless agree, and we have stressed this point repeatedly, the primary factor dictating the organizing of a program should be a high quality of the program with the financial burden treated in a responsible manner. A healthy bank balance will enable us to bring these quality but high priced programs on a consistent basis. Our audio system, good as it is, needs updating and the whole recording/ copying of concerts music needs new equipment. A computer is a must for bringing out SRUTI RANJANI and also printing flyers/ newsletters etc. So once again, we entreat you to be generous in donating whatever amount you feel comfortable with and help SRUTI reach greater heights. All donors will be gratefully acknowledged.

Review of events so far: The first program of the year 1993 as in the past, was the Thyagaraja Aradhana. A large number of artists participated in this celebration on February 27. One can sense the perceptible improvement in the quality of music offered over the years at these celebrations. K.S.Mani(violin) accompanied by Satish Pathakota (mridangam) gave a delightful mini concert.

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On April 3, The Aparna group from Los Angeles, led by Ramya Harishankar, presented a dance program Maya Manusha. The highlights of the Spring season were the mandolin concert by the young genius U. Srinivas on May 2 and the deeply moving and thoroughly traditional music of Sangita Kalanidhi Palakkad K.V.Narayanaswami on June 5. The next issue of SRUTI RANJANI will review these programs in greater detail.

Fall programs: And now for the forthcoming Fall programs. We are excited to bring for your enjoyment what may turn out to be the two of the greatest programs by SRUTI. On Saturday, September 18, we will present an instrument ensemble led by the legendary violinist Lalgudi Jayaraman with his children Vijayalakshmi and Krishnan (both on violin). They will be accompanied by the mridangam maestro Tiruchi Sankaran, the Ghatam vidwan Vicku Vinayakaram (the only Indian musician to win a Grammy award) and V.Nagarajan on the Kanjira. (See attached flier for more details.)

On Saturday, October 23, SRUTI will present a unique dance drama, the first of its kind in the Delaware Valley. "Sanghamitra", which depicts the conversion of Emperor Ashoka the Great to pacifism after a bloody battle and spread of Buddhism in India and S.E. Asia due to his efforts, is a tale of epic proportions and timeless value. It has particular significance in this age of war and violence all over the place. The Bharata Kalanjali led by the famous V.P and Shanta Dhananjayan accompanied by about 15 other artists will present this tale as a coherent dance drama. (The venue and time for this program will be notified later.)

Both programs involve deep commitment and large financial outlay. We feel confident that the effort will be more than compensated by the high quality of these programs. We depend on your strong support, encouragement and financial help in pulling off successfully these high risk, high profile programs. In particular for the Sanghamitra program we are soliciting donations of \$100.00 or more. Each donor will be given two complimentary reserved seats for the program.

Please mark the dates on your calendar, plan to attend and pass the information along to your friends.

Resources committee report: As mentioned above, the resources committee played a significant role in obtaining the non-profit status for SRUTI. They are actively pursuing funding sources from the City of Philadelphia, State governments and corporations.

Library committee report: The library committee brought out a very interesting souvenir at the time of the Thyagaraja Aradhana. The next issue of SRUTI RANJANI is due for distribution at the Lalgudi concert. The recording and copying of SRUTI concerts are also the responsibility of this committee and they have done a commendable job of them.

Once again thank you for your continued support of SRUTI. We look forward to seeing you on September 18 and all other SRUTI events.

A final word: The tenure of this managing committee will come to an end at the end of this year. It is never too early to start looking for candidates to fill the positions of the committee. We would encourage members of SRUTI who would like to actively participate in managing the organization to attend our meetings in order to acquaint themselves with the various organizational functions.

Best regards.

Managing Committee