



SRUTI NOTES

A Publication of SRUTI

SRUTI

The India Music & Dance Society

web: www.sruti.org; e-mail: sruti@sruti.org

Volume 13, Issue 1, February 2010

Board of Directors

President

Venkat Kilambi

President-Elect

Uma Prabhakar

Treasurer

Usha Balasubramaniam

Secretary

Ravi Pillutla

Directors

Ramaa Nathan

Sundari Balakrishnan

Sudhakar Rao

Raji Venkatesan

Sunanda Gandham

Committees

Resources & Development

Ramaa Nathan (Chair)

Uma Prabhakar

Usha Balasubramanian

Ramana Kanumalla

Seema Pai

Publications & Outreach

Sundari Balakrishnan (Chair)

Gayathri Rao

Jeya Sankaran

Rungun Nathan

Raman Visweswaran

Sunanda Gandham

Marketing and Publicity

Sudhakar Rao (Chair)

Ravi Pillutla

Raji Venkatesan

President's Note

Dear Indian Classical Music and Dance enthusiasts:

The new Board of Directors ('BOD') of Sruti wishes you and your families a very happy and prosperous 2010. I thank the outgoing President, Vidyasankar and his committee for the excellent work and programming they have done in the 2009 season. As is the tradition of Sruti, as the former President-elect, I have assumed the role President of the organization for 2010.

I would like to welcome our newly elected Board members, Uma Prabhakar as President-elect, Usha Balasubramanian as Treasurer, Ravi Pillutla as Secretary, Ramaa Nathan as Resource Committee chair and Sunanda Gandham as Director 2. Ravi Pillutla has been appointed by the BOD to serve the remaining term (2010) as the Secretary, since Seetha Ayyalasomayajula resigned due to personal reasons. All others were elected to the above positions at the General Body Meeting held on Dec 12th, 2009. I thank Seetha for all her contributions as a Board member and Secretary.

Your new BOD has already started working hard on your behalf and has already put together an exciting series of concerts in Spring 2010 and Fall 2010 calendar of events featuring some exceptional artists. We will be kicking off with Tyagaraja Aradhana on 13th March at the Delaware temple. Registration and rules for participation at this event is described elsewhere in this newsletter and has also been posted on our web page (www.sruti.org). Nrityagram, an Odissi dance group, will perform next at the Montgomery County Center auditorium on 27th March. Tickets can be purchased online at tix.com web site. This will be followed by two vocal concerts, Unnikrishnan on April 17th and Vijay Siva on May 15th. In the Fall, we will feature the renowned violinist, L Subramaniam (September 18th), following which will be a Bharathanatyam dance performance by Shijith Nambiar and Parvathi Menon (Oct 9th) and a Hindustani vocal by Veena Sahasrabuddhe (Oct 23rd). Please make a note of the dates and look out for more details on our website about these upcoming programs. We do hope you will consider attending all concerts and help make them a grand success.

Sruti is now entering its 25th year and is well poised to celebrate the silver jubilee anniversary in a grand style. We are very excited to make this a year of celebration of Indian Classical Music and Dance with quality programming and finale that would make us all proud. We solicit your help and support in raising funds and volunteering your services for these events. We will be soon setting up a committee that together with the Board will plan and execute some of the bigger concerts for the 25th year.

We now have a whole body of Sruti youth we feel are underrepresented and as announced in the General Body Meeting we are putting together a youth committee that will work with the BOD to plan out and present youth activities and at least one concert in 2010. We welcome your child's involvement and encourage you to contact the BOD.

Sruti is making preparations to go "Green" and we need you to let us know whether you need to be mailed a printed copy to your address, as the default will be to send the material to you by e-mail whenever feasible. You can inform us via e-mail, letter or in person at one of the concerts.

We are looking forward to seeing all of you at the concerts. Your attendance in large numbers encourages us to keep going and bringing quality programs to the Greater Delaware Valley.

Thank you

Venkat Kilambi

From the Publications Committee

Dear friends,

Welcome to a new year of concerts and arts news. In addition to our mailings we hope to keep up a lively update of web media going. We are looking forward to keeping our website interactive and using Facebook for keeping our members informed. We cannot do this successfully without your help and feedback. We are always looking for opinions and articles, anecdotes and quiz/puzzle ideas to keep all our members engaged. An interested reader had the following comment with respect to Sruti Ranjani 2009 “The variety of articles and the photos all made for enjoyable reading. The overall get up of the magazine was very good. It was good to see the end of the year publication again after two years”. We request members to pick up their copy of Sruti Ranjani 2009 on Sri Thyagaraja Aradhana day.

Raman, our webmaster worked with our web hosting company diligently through a difficult period when our website was down. In this day and age- that can be categorized as a crisis especially as we were just getting ready to initiate online registration for the Thyagaraja Aradhana. Not all links are functional as of yet- Raman continues to work with them to restore our web pages. Sunanda Gandham has joined the committee this year. We look forward to getting fresh ideas and new perspectives.

Sincerely,

Sundari Balakrishnan (balusundari@yahoo.com)

Rungun Nathan (rungunnathan@yahoo.com)

Gayathri Rao (gayathri.rao@comcast.net)

Jeya Sankaran (sankaranj@aetna.com)

Raman Visweswaran (ramanvv@hotmail.com)

Sunanda Gandham (sunanda_akula@yahoo.com)

From the Resource and Development Committee

We have a very strong Resource and Development Committee for 2010 working hard for Sruti. Ramana Kanumalla brings with him his vast and rich experience as past President and Resource committee chair to help this year’s committee meet its goals. Uma Prabhakar and Usha Balasubramaniam are the ex-officio but very active members. We have a brand new Sruti member, Seema Pai joining us this year and who is already contributing a lot to the Resource Committee.

The Resource Committee is working on a number of issues – researching, establishing and developing relationships with various funding agencies; fund raising and grant writing for 2010 and Sruti’s 25th year celebrations. The fund raising this year is extremely crucial as we are having difficulties in getting funds through grants due to reduced endowments in the current economy. We currently need to raise \$25000 for our Spring 2010 lineup itself. We appeal to our members to consider becoming core members and helping Sruti. Please read the accompanying letter of appeal in this issue of Sruti notes.

On our end, we are applying to many more grants and are also trying to come up with various creative fund raising ideas. Please look out for information in your email, on the web and future sruti notes on how you can participate in our fund raising efforts and help sustain our organization.

Ramaa Nathan

Director of Resources & Development

Dr. Umayalpuram K Sivaraman

- Rajna Swaminathan

Umayalpuram Sivaraman sir, or Saar as we fondly call him, has been one of the most influential people in my life. I have known him now for 11 years, but I remain in awe of his art and I continue to learn from his playing in what is an endless musical journey.

Meeting him for the first time when I was 8 years old, when he came to our house in Maryland to stay for 2 months and teach my father and me, I had no idea I was going to learn from the greatest mrudangam maestro in the world. Sure, my parents said so, but ultimately I was just a kid at the time, and to me he was just a friendly but rather strict grandfather-figure. Sometimes I would even give the amount of homework I had as an excuse to delay my class. Though my parents would be outraged at such excuses, Saar was very calm and patient, allowing me to take interest and learn at my own pace. It was not until I reached some of the more advanced levels of learning that I began to realize the significance of being his disciple. Outside of class, he was very affectionate toward my sister Anjna and me, always joking and trying to make us laugh. When Saar and Mami came together for a visit, it was like having another set of grandparents to pamper us. When I made summer visits to Chennai for lessons, I used to spend the entire day at their house, having a 2-3 hour class in the morning, eating lunch with the two of them sitting on the floor of their kitchen, watching whatever was on the television in the afternoon with Mami, observing Saar when he practiced, and soaking up the atmosphere of rigorous devotion to music.



Despite my being a young girl, during class Saar still treated me just as he would treat any male student and didn’t deprive me of getting to know his strict, disciplinarian side. As I got older and advanced further in my lessons, he raised his standards for discipline higher and higher. He takes his duty as a guru and role model very seriously. He once told me, “If you are playing at 100, then I must play at 1 million. If you happen to reach 1 million, I must go beyond that to 1 billion – so that you still respect me.” Even today, he says, “I’ve been hearing

The opinions expressed by the contributors of articles and reviews are published in a spirit of openness of communication and freedom of expression. They do not necessarily reflect the views of Sruti’s Board or its members.

good things about you. But you must never pay attention to that or be content where you are – you must keep going further and improving to your highest potential. Do you understand?” Though the unbeatably stellar example he sets causes me constant frustration, the discipline I imbibed from him keeps me going, keeps me humble, and reminds me that music is a vast ocean to explore and discover. Even at the height of his accomplishments to date, Saar remains a picture of humility, always attributing his successes to the blessings of his parents and of God – particularly, Vinayaka.

Rajna Swaminathan, disciple of mrudangam maestro Padma Vibhushan Dr. Umayalpuram K. Sivaraman, is an accomplished young artist in the field of Carnatic percussion.

Thyagaraja Aradhana- March 13 2010

Salem Shriram- Main Artist

Salem Shriram, according many music pundits in Chennai, is one of the brightest prospects among upcoming vocalists. Shriram is one of the prime disciples of Sri. Calcutta K. S. Krishnamurti. Shriram also learnt under Sri. TVG and Salem Ms. K. Meera. Shriram is a grade “A” artist of the All India Radio, Chennai. Shriram has been regularly performing in the Chennai December Music Season for several years, now performing at the Sub-senior time slots at all important venues including the Music Academy. Outside of India, Shriram has performed in several places in the USA, including the Cleveland Thyagaraja festival.



Shriram has received several awards for his performances during the December season, including the best Junior vocalist awards at Sri. Krishna Gana Sabha and the Music Academy. Shriram's concerts have received accolades from popular critics like Sri. Subbudu and Sri. SVK, and his reviews have appeared in many newspaper dailies.

Shriram has had the unique opportunity to perform in front of past Sangita Kalanidhis, including Dr. M. S. Subbulakshmi and Dr. Semmangudi Srinivasa Iyer, who have appreciated his music.

Shriram was a recipient of the CCRT Central Govt. scholarship for advanced training in classical music. Shriram also received scholarship from Tamil Iyal Isai Nadaga Mandram, Chennai for advanced training in Classical music. Shriram has received several titles, including the "Sangeeta Sri", awarded by the Rasika Ranjani Sabha, Trichy. Shriram sings with a high degree of classicism, with no frills or fancy additions.

Sandhya Srinath- Violin

Sandhya started training from an early age from Late Shri V. Janakiraman of AIR, Delhi. She went on to get advanced lessons from Lalgudi G Jayaraman and Prof. T.N. Krishnan. She is a Gold Medalist in M.A./M.Phil in Carnatic Music at the Delhi University. She has given many solo performances and has accompanied many senior and top class musicians and dancers. She is an "A" grade artist of All India Radio and Doordarshan. Sandhya has also performed at various festivals in India,



USA and Canada, gaining commendable acclaims and has been awarded several prestigious awards (Best Young Violinist, Chennai, India in 2000 and Individual Artist Award from PG Arts Council, MD, USA in 2003, the Maryland State Arts Council Individual Artist Award for the Year 2008 to mention a few). She has several CDs, Tapes to her credit and has given lecture-demonstrations at various Universities. Sandhya has led many instrumental ensembles, jugalbandis with Hindustani and western musicians. She is a highly sought after artist in United States, Canada, and India. She teaches Violin *Jaya-mangala* School in Maryland.

Rajna Swaminathan- Mridangam



Rajna Swaminathan, started learning mrudangam from her father Dr. P. K. Swaminathan at the age of 5 and came under the direct tutelage of Sri Umayalpuram K. Sivaraman at the age of 8. During spring 2009, Rajna toured USA in an all female ensemble featuring Smt Lalgudi Viji (violin), Smt Sikkil Mala (flute), Smt Jaishree Jairaj (veena) and Smt Bhagyalakshmi (Moresing). Rajna debuted in Chennai during summer 2005. She received great approbation from dignitaries and musicians. Rajna performs regularly during the Chennai December Music Festival. Rajna received the "Best Junior Mrudangam Artiste" award from Music Academy, 2007. She is the youngest and the first female to get this award. Rajna performs mrudangam for Dance programs. During 2006, Rajna won a Maryland Traditions Apprenticeship Award, using which she learned the nuances of playing mrudangam for dance. Rajna is freshman at the University of Maryland College Park.

Nrityagram Dance Ensemble presents PRATIMA: REFLECTION

The internationally acclaimed Nrityagram Dance Ensemble from Southern India returns to the Philadelphia area after 7 years to present Pratima: Reflection. This is an evening-length work choreographed in the classical lyrical dance style of Odissi by Surupa Sen, the Artistic Director of Nrityagram Dance Village. Odissi is characterized by fluidity of the upper torso and grace in gestures and wristwork juxtaposed with firm footwork. In addition to the “plie” position that is commonly observed in a number of the dance forms of India, Odissi incorporates the “tribhangi” wherein three deflections of the body are used - at the neck, the upper torso and the hip. This characteristic formation of the body lends a particular grace to the performance of the dance form. In addition, Odissi has the distinction of preserving the elevations and jumps (utplavanas) described in the Natya Sastra, the ancient Indian treatise on Dramaturgy.

Ensemble member profiles

Surupa Sen (Artistic Director, choreographer, soloist) was the first student at Nrityagram, where she began her Odissi

training with the late body language genius and architect of Odissi, Guru Kelucharan Mahapatra. She also studied with Protima Gauri, founder of Nrityagram, and *Abhinaya* with Smt. Kalanidhi Narayanan. As a child she studied Bharatanatyam, to which she attributes her pre-occupation with form and line.



Asian Cultural Council.

Surupa has performed in solo recital and ensemble all over India, North America, Europe, the Middle East and the Far-East.

Pratima: Reflection is an evening-length work that explores the relationship between the dancer and her dance as she seeks to find an image of herself through the essential truths – of Creation, Contemplation, Separation and the Duality of the human spirit.

Bijayini Satpathy (Director of Odissi gurukul, soloist) joined the Orissa Dance Academy in Bhubaneswar at the age of 7, where she trained for 13 years under the tutelage of Guru Kanduri Charan Behera, Guru Pagal Swain, Bichitrnanda Swain & Aruna Mohanty.



An insatiable thirst for knowledge led her to Nrityagram in 1993 where she flourished under the guidance of Protima Gauri, and through her collaboration with Surupa Sen.

Bijayini has performed alone, and with the ensemble, all over the world and has received national and international recognition including the 2003 *Mahari Award* given to the best Odissi dancer of the year and the *Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar 2007* given by the Sangeet Natak Akademi to the best in performing arts in India.

Pavithra Reddy (dancer) came as part of the outreach programme in 1990, from a village near Nrityagram. She has learned Odissi under the tutelage of Surupa Sen and Bijayini Satpathy and been a part of the ensemble since 1993. She had her solo debut in 2003 & now teaches dance in our village and city outreach programme.

Rasmi Raj (dancer) studied at Orissa Dance Academy in Bhubaneswar for 5 years before she came to Nrityagram for advanced training. Here, she has learned with Surupa Sen and Bijayini Satpathy. Rasmi has been with Nrityagram for six years and is the youngest dancer in the ensemble.

Manasi Tripathy (dancer) is from Srujan dance academy in Bhubaneswar, where she trained for 11 years before coming to Nrityagram. Now she trains under Surupa Sen and Bijayini Satpathy. She is the newest dancer in the ensemble.

Lynne Fernandez (lighting director, Executive Director Nrityagram) has been with Nrityagram since 1993. Among the first practicing light professionals in India, she has worked as actress and light designer with leading directors like Barry John, Joy Mi-

chael, Ranjit Kapoor, and Lillete Dubey. Her work in theater has also been featured internationally – at the Edinburgh Fringe festival, the Westend (London) and off-Broadway, New York.

Distance learning in the field of Classical music

By Srinath Bala

In the current era, where time is ever shrinking and distance is ever increasing, the internet is a boon and must be used for global reach. Globalization thus enables businesses across the world to seamlessly integrate and provide services and goods to customers worldwide. In the realm of Indian Classical Music, a few initiatives such as one-to-one skype online lessons and phone based teaching has helped, albeit the time difference is still a big deterrent. Online schools offering degrees have devised entire courses that have objective rating criteria and are benefiting students and teachers alike. With these factors in mind, esishya (www.esishya.com) was designed and developed to use an e-learning methodology that is well suited for classical music. This is an innovative, interactive, and online initiative that will strive to spread Indian classical music globally. We offer a combination of different class modes, keeping in mind the needs of the sishyas.

Being a Mridangam artist and teacher (student of Sri. R. Ramesh & Maestro Sangeetha Kalananidhi Umayalpuram K. Sivaraman) for over 15 years has helped in developing this service and bringing it to a commercial stature.

Esishya has some of the finest gurus in the classical music field. These artists are known to be good performers but also have a penchant for teaching and are known to be effective communicators.

News and Notes

Padma Awards 2010- India's civilian awards

Umayalpuram K.Sivaraman, the renowned mridangam vidwan has been selected for the **Padma Vibhushan** award, the second highest category of India's civilian awards. Dr. Sivaraman was recently presented with the honorary Doctor of Letters (D.Litt) degree by the University of Kerala.

Among other notable awardees in the "art" category:

Padma Vibhushan:

Zohra Segal, the nonagenarian theater personality who started her dancing career with the legendary Uday Shankar in 1935.

Padma Bhushan:

Prof. (Dr.) Nookala Chinna Satyanarayana- Carnatic musician, musicologist and great teacher; Kuzhur Narayana Mararpercussion acharya from Kerala; Mallika Sarabhai- Performing Arts; Kumudini Lakhia- Kathak guru from Ahmedabad, Hindustan classical vocalist Pt Chhannulal Mishra.

Padma Sri:

Odissi guru Mayadhar Raut, Manipuri dancer Haobam Ongbi Ngangbi Devi, musician Pt Raghunath Panigrahi, Pandit Ulhas Kashalkar Hindustani music vocalist.

(Continued overleaf)

The eminent educationist and art patron, Mrs. Y.G. Parthasarathy, President Bharat Kalachar (Chennai) has been selected for the Padma Sri award.

Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards

The passing of the dynamic chairman of the Sangeet Natak Academy, Sri Ram Niwas Mirdha on January 29 was deeply mourned by the Arts community. The General Council of Sangeet Natak Akademi, the National Academy of Music, Dance and Drama, New Delhi at its meetings held on 12 February 2010 elected six eminent personalities in the field of performing arts namely Lalgudi Jayaraman, Shreeram Lagoo, Yamini Krishnamurti, Kamlesh Dutt Tripathi, Pandit Jasraj and Kishori Amonkar as Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellows (Akademi Ratna). The Fellowship of the Akademi is a prestigious and rare honor restricted to a select few at a given time. The General Council of the Akademi also selected 33 persons from the fields of Music, Dance, and Theatre for the Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards (Akademi Puraskar) for the year 2009.

In the field of Music, eight eminent artists namely Abdul Rashid Khan and Vasundhara Komkali for Hindustani Vocal Music, Lachman Singh Seen (Tabla) and Ali Ahmad Hussain (Shehnai) for Hindustani Instrumental Music, Parassala B Ponnammal for Carnatic Vocal, U Srinivas (Mandolin) and Dandamudi Sumathi Rama Mohan Rao (Mridangam) for Carnatic Instrumental Music, and L. Ibohalmacha Singh (Nata Sankirtana) for Other Major Traditions of Music have been selected.

In the field of Dance, eight eminent practitioners namely Ananda Shankar Jayant (Bharatanatyam), Prerana Shrimali (Kathak), Kalamandalam Rajan (Kathakali), L. Bino Devi (Manipuri), Geeta Mahalik (Odissi), Vyjayanthi Kashi (Kuchipudi), Daksha Sheth (Creative & Experimental Dance) and Kala Krishna (Other Major Traditions of Dance -Andhranatyam) have been selected. Leela Venkataraman has been selected for her overall contribution to the performing arts.

Other Awards in the news:

Naatya gurus V.P. and Shanta Dhananjayan have been selected for yet another honor- the prestigious **International G.D. Birla Art & Culture Award** for 2009-10. The Vice President of India, Dr. Mohamed Ansari will give away the awards in an investiture ceremony on 8th March 2010 at his residence. In addition, Delhi based Sree Shanmukhananda Sangeetha Sabha is honoring the Dhananjayans with Naatya Ratna award on 26th February 2010 at the inauguration of their 60th year Art festival.

V Ramnarayan, Editor-in-Chief, Sruti- India's premier magazine for the performing arts, was honored with the Music Forum's Media Award 2009 on 16 January 2010 at the NCPA in Mumbai.

Celebrations:

Thyagaraja Aradhana was celebrated in Thiruvaiyaru with the usual sense of devotion. The annual music and dance season in Chennai came to an end unofficially on January 1 and Tiruvaiyaru was the next destination- the saint Thyagaraja Aradhana (Jan.2 to 6, 2010) continues to be a unique event. For some it is a pilgrimage and for others a place to rejuvenate.

The Cleveland Thyagaraja Aradhana officially commences on Thursday, April 1 2010 and will end with the dance competition on Sunday April 11 2010. The glittering group of artists will receive this years awards- Smt. Sudha Raghunathan-*Sangeetha Rathnakara*, Sri Kalyanasundaram Pillai-*Nrithya Rathnakara*, Smt. Charumathi Ramachandran- *Sangeetha Kala Sagaram*, Sri D. Pasupathi- *Acharya Rathnakara*, Sri S. Vaidyanatha Krishnan, convener of Sri Thyaga Brahma Gananjali, Coimbatore- *Seva Rathna*, Smt. Radha Viswanathan- *Kala Chandrika*, Kum. Roopa Mahadevan (San Jose, CA)- *Kala Rathna*, Toronto Sri B. Gowrishankar-*Best Teacher Award*. Please visit www.aradhana.org for schedule and information.

The 80th birthday of **Prof. T. R. Subrahmanyam** (also fondly known as TRS) was celebrated with great éclat and gusto on two separate occasions- Reported by Rajagopal.

TRS's family organized one celebration on the 30th December 2009 at Woodlands hotel, with felicitation speeches and music programs. The music program included two concerts. One was a short electric guitar recital by Sri. TRS's grandson-Nikhil Rajagopal. The second concert was by Priya Sisters. Two audio C.Ds of Sri. TRS's concerts were released by SAFE Ramabhadran and the 1st copy was received by Pappu Venugopal Rao (Secretary, Music Academy).

The other celebration was organized by TRS's dedicated disciples who are a legion. It took place at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan on Jan 3rd where encomiums were showered on TRS by luminaries including Lalgudi G. Jayaraman and Dr. M. Balamuralikrishna. Students gave short recitals of TRS compositions.

Obituaries:

We report with sadness the passing away of Sri S. Rajam on January 29 2010 at the age of 91. This wonderfully artistic soul from Mylapore touched the lives of many. Gowri Ramnarayan writes in the Hindu "Sundaram Rajam (1919-2010) truly lived an extraordinary life. He responded vibrantly to everything that life offered him - from masaaldosai to Mamallapuram sculptures. Till the very end, he remained a dedicated teacher ready to share his lakshya gnana of a bewildering variety, and his encyclopaedic lakshana gnana." Music and the fine arts were equally his means of expression. Carnatic music lovers all over the world associate the musical trinity with the form that S.Rajam gave them. He was gregarious by nature and generous with the sharing of his life's experiences- and there were myriad colorful experiences- commencing from early movies and theater. Friday Review section of the Hindu (Feb 5) carries a number of tributes, including one by Vijayalakshmi Subramaniam- a devoted disciple. <http://www.hindu.com/thehindu/fr/2010/02/05/chenindx.htm>. The latter part of his life saw him established as a guru, a much beloved editor at Sruti- India's premier magazine for the performing arts while there was no waning of his artistic endeavors. He continued to sketch and paint nearly to the end.

(Continued overleaf)

Veena vidwan **Sri R. Venkataraman** and his daughter were found dead near a flyover on the national highway at Ulundurpet on January 5 2010. Sri Venkataraman who was recently honored with the Sangita Kala Acharya award at the sadas of The Music Academy and his daughter Devisri were travelling in a car towards Thiruvananthapuram. Followers of Carnatic music would be familiar with R. Venkataraman as one of Veena-Violin (Lalgudi Jayaraman)-Venu (N.Ramani) trio.

Our own **Shri Pattabhiramamurthi Kanumalla** passed away on December 18 2009. We will miss his smiling face at all Sruti events. We will always remember with fondness his portrayal of Saint Thyagaraja at our Aradhana some years ago.

An Appeal From the Sruti Board of Directors

Sruti, The India Music and Dance Society, is a highly regarded reputable organization, recognized not only locally in the Greater Philadelphia area, but also nationally among Indian Music and Dance Sabhas and in India amongst world ranked musicians and the media. During the last 24 years, Sruti has presented a large number of outstanding music and dance performances by the highest caliber artists in both North and South Indian classical styles. This has been made possible largely due to the generous grants received from various funding organizations including Philadelphia Music Project and Dance Advance. Several selfless volunteers have also donated their valuable time, money and talents over the years. Without all this support, Sruti would not have been able to put together such outstanding programs or reached the stature it has today.

With increasing competition in the cultural arts world, the current economic state of affairs and reduced endowments in all funding organizations, external funding from agencies is no longer the sole source of financial security for Sruti. In addition, the operating costs including artist's fees, production and auditorium costs have increased dramatically. Despite heroic efforts put in by our Resource Committee (RC) to secure grants from various funding agencies, our upcoming Spring 2010 concert schedule remains unfunded and the need for member support is extremely urgent. We need to raise at least \$25000 to fund our spring concert series. The money raised through concert tickets pays for only 25% of the actual costs. While the Sruti Board and RC continue their efforts at securing grants and ensure uninterrupted quality programming, we are also reaching out to all our supporters with an appeal. We sincerely hope that you will choose to become a Core Annual Support member and in the process generously support the Spring 2010 concert schedule. The Core Annual Support membership is currently \$500 and benefits extend to the entire family.

The benefits of Core Annual Support membership includes:

- Four seat passes to all musical events and discounted tickets for premium dance presentations.
- Recordings (CD's) of all concerts presented during the year where available.
- A tax deductibility of \$250.
- Recognition in select Sruti publications and events.

- A warm and rewarding feeling for being one of the strongest supporters of an organization that we all hold dear.
- Invitation to select post-concert dinner with the artists and the Board of Directors.

We have introduced a discounted core member pass for seniors at \$350 (with tax deductibility of \$175) that includes two seat passes (instead of four). All other benefits remain the same.

Please help us achieve our goal of raising \$25,000 for the Spring 2010 concert schedule with your pledge to becoming a Core Annual Supporter and enjoy with your family and friends, the great music and dance programs being planned. The lineup includes a vocal concert by Salem Sriram, Odissi dance by Nrityagram, vocal concert by Unnikrishnan, vocal concert by Vijay Siva, to name a few. If available, please double your pledge with your company's matching grant.

SRUTI Membership

SRUTI membership is for the entire family, which constitutes the husband, wife, dependants and their children. Dependants are defined as those living with the main family throughout the year and do not cover visiting parents and grandparents. Membership fees are subject to review and change by the elected board of directors at the beginning of each calendar year.

Annual Membership

- \$35 for the calendar year (January – December), renewable every year
- Discounted tickets for concerts when offered
- Eligible to purchase all concert recordings*

Life Membership

- One time fee of \$150
- Discounted tickets for concerts when offered
- Eligible to purchase all concert recordings*

Tickets and Passes

SRUTI events are ticketed and open to both non-members and members. Tickets can be purchased on the day of the concert at the venue. For most events, children of age 12 and below are allowed to attend free of charge. Ticket prices are listed on the website (www.sruti.org) and on concert flyers. Members can buy tickets for individual concerts or avail of the benefit of the Season pass for the entire year.

Season Pass (open to all members)

- \$125 for adults, \$100 for seniors and \$75 for students (with valid school/college ID)
- Valid for most events in the calendar year, except for specified concerts, as determined by the board of directors.

SRUTI- The India Music and Dance Society presents
Sri Thyagaraja Aradhana 2010

on Saturday, March 13, 2010, at the Hindu Temple of Delaware
760 Yorklyn Road, Hockessin, DE 19707

Program

08:00 AM Puja

08:15 AM Group Renditions :

Utsava Sampradaya Kritis & Pancharatna Kritis

10:15 AM Individual Participations—1st session

01:30 PM Concert of the day— Vocal Concert

Salem Shriram accompanied by

Sandhya Srinath- violin, Rajna Swaminathan- mridangam

04:00 PM Individual Participations—2nd session

Admission* : \$10 per individual & \$20 per family of four

* Includes one lunch coupon for individuals and up to four lunch coupons per family. Additional lunch coupons will be available for purchase (\$5 per coupon).

www.sruti.org for information and directions



SRUTI- The India Music and Dance Society
in collaboration with

Montgomery County Community College *presents*

The Nrityagram Dance Ensemble

Saturday, March 27 2010 at 8 P.M.

Montgomery County Community College Science Center Theater
340, DeKalb Pike, Blue Bell, PA

Book Tickets Online: <http://sruti.tix.com>

Reserved Seating Tickets (\$20, \$25, \$35)

Students and Senior citizens with valid ID receive \$5 off on their ticket

Sruti Core Members receive \$10 off on their ticket

Discounts may be redeemed at box office for tickets bought online

For information :

www.sruti.org, rajivenkate@yahoo.com

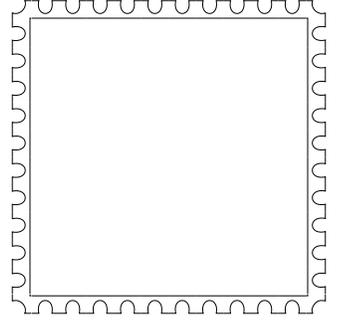
Venkat Kilambi at 610-631-2291, Raji Venkatesan at 610-630-1878

Nrityagram website: www.nrityagram.org



SRUTI

The India Music & Dance Society
3055 Highley Road,
Audubon
PA 19403



Upcoming Sruti Events

- | | |
|------------|--|
| 03/13/2010 | Sri Thyagaraja Aradhana - Main Artist Salem Shriram - Vocal. |
| 03/27/2010 | Nrityagram Dance Ensemble. Pratima:Reflection Choreographies in the Odissi Style. |
| 04/17/2010 | Carnatic vocal concert by Unnikrishnan |
| 05/15/2010 | Carnatic vocal concert by Vijay Siva |
| 09/18/2010 | L. Subramaniam , Ambi Subramaniam- violin duo and party |
| 10/09/2010 | Bharatanatyam performance: Shijith Nambiar and Parvathi Menon with live orchestra. |
| 10/23/2010 | Hindustani vocal concert by Veena Sahasrabuddhe |