

Today's Program

Guru Vandanam: 4pm

TBA

Main concert: 5pm

Smt Chitra Krishnamurthy (Vocal)

Sri Balaji Jagannathan (Violin)

Sri Janakan Suthanthiraraj (Mrudangam)

Next Month's Program

(Date and Venue TBA)

Guru Vandanam

*Ramesh Shanmugasundaram
(Student of Smt. Prema Ananthakrishnan)*

Main Concert

Smt Malathi Nagarajan (Veena)

Our Greetings!

As the new organisers of Sydney Music Circle for 2007/2008, we would like to extend our greetings and warm wishes to everyone. We are looking forward to an enjoyable and eventful year.

Sponsors

Sponsors contribute \$40 towards hall rental costs. Please contact us to sponsor a future program. The sponsors for this month are:

1. Smt. Rohini Shandilya
2. Smt. Rama and Sri. Murali
3. Mr. Sukruth Mysore
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Thank you to all the music lovers who have generously donated towards Sydney Music Circle.

SMC Organisers:

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Alternatively, you can email us on:
sydneymusiccircle@yahoo.com.au



Sydney Music Circle



Sunday
August 26th 2007

Visit us at:
www.smc.does.it

Artists Profiles

Chitra Krishnamurthy has had extensive concert experience, having given several concerts in Mumbai, Bangalore, Calcutta, Hong Kong and Sydney. She started learning music from the age of seven with Smt Meera Nathan in Mumbai. Later she had advanced tuition with Smt M. S. Sheela in Bangalore for a number of years.

Chitra is a graded artiste of All India Radio and has given several performances on both radio and television. She is the recipient of many prizes from prestigious institutions (including the *Shanmughananda Sabha* in Mumbai) and won the inaugural 'on the spot pallavi' competition held in Bangalore. She also has been teaching vocal music for several years.

Balaji Jagannadhan hails from Jamshedpur, Bihar, where he made his first public stage appearance at the age of 11. He studied both vocal and violin from Smt Bangalore R. Thangam. A connoisseur of both Carnatic and Hindustani styles of music, Balaji has accompanied many local and visiting artistes in concerts in Sydney. He also teaches violin to a few young students.

Janakan Suthanthiraraj had his initiation in Carnatic music from his father, Sri R. Suthanthiraraj - a popular teacher of mrudangam and flute. From 2000, Janakan began to have advanced tuition in mrudangam under Sri M. Ravichandhira of Melbourne. He has had the opportunity to accompany on the mrudangam, kanjira and marsing many local and international artistes such as A. Kanyakumari, Rajesh Vaidya, Ghatam Karthik and Prof R. Venkataraman.. A passionate musician, Janakan teaches mrudangam to a number of students.

"Greatness of Music"

Among the fine arts, music is considered to be the highest form. Wherever people live, music is also prevalent. In every country musicians are given the highest respect. The reason is that only through music can one forget the numerous difficulties that crop up in everyday life and attain peace. Not only humans, but all living beings in this world attain peace through music. Of all the pleasures one can desire in this world, peace of mind takes the foremost place.

Music comprises of three components: Geetham, Vadhyam and Nrithyam. These are inter-related and are essentially based on sruthi and laya. Geetham is mentioned first since the innumerable names of our creator are echoed from our mouth by way of prayer in utter sincerity. Next comes Vadyam (instrument). This reason is instruments are based on sruthi. Even as we worship our deities, we can unconsciously sing through some sruthi. Third comes Nrithya which means abhinaya. Even as we sing, we can see the spontaneous movements of our body including the hands, face and eyes.

In every living creature sruthi and laya are inter-twined. Sruthi and laya are like a magnet. Sruthi means sound, laya means time beat. Although, voice and beat differ in every person, when all congregate the voice and beat are kept in unison. This we can see wherever bhajans and marches (drills) are held.

It may be mentioned that scientists have found that by singing particular ragas or playing them on the instruments in pristine manner, certain diseases can be cured. Similarly plants also respond in their growth more vigorously. All creatures including the most poisonous serpents succumb to the charm of music. Those who have mastered the fine arts are able to make rapid progress in their lives through the assiduous cultivation of their particular art.

In life, we are naturally happy when things go well and get depressed when difficulties confront us. But mental peace is something beyond the state of happiness and sorrow i.e. this is when we forget everything and attain Ananda.

It is to attain this state that humans take to music and dance. This is a common sight in music concerts and bhajans where people congregate to join the chorus, a certain state of ananda is attained.

It is therefore, acknowledged that the practical medicine for getting mental tranquillity is absorption in chaste music. The bliss attained through Carnatic music has been noted and acknowledged by several eminent exponents through their personal experience.

Reference: Karnataka Sangeetha Sasthra (2004)
Author: Sangeetha Vidwan A.S. Panchapakesa Iyer

Verse of the Month

sa.msaara duhkha dagdhaanaa.m uttamaanaamanugruhaat |
prabhuNaa sha.mkareNatra giitavidyaa prakaashitaa ||

संसार दुःख दग्धानां उत्तमानामनुग्रहात् |

प्रभुणा शंकरेणत्र गीतविद्या प्रकाशिता | |

"Lord Shankara has bestowed the classical forms of music to ease the righteous people from their miseries in life"

Reference: Sangeetha Saara (14th Century AD)
Author: Vidhyaranya