

## Today's Program

### **Guru Vandanam: 5.30pm**

Sri Ajay Balakrishnan (Vocal)  
Sri Sanjay Ramaswamy (Violin)  
Sri Nirmal Ayyar (Mrudangam)

### **Main concert: 6pm**

Smt Rajyashree Josyer Shrikanth (Vocal)  
Sri G. Venkatesha Josyer (Violin)  
Sri Sridharan Sankaran (Mrudangam)  
Sri Janakan Suthanthiraraj (Kanjira)

## Next Month's Program

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> August, 4:30pm**

### **Guru Vandanam**

*Shambavi Shiva*  
(Student of Sri Sridharan)

### **Main Concert**

*Smt Chitra Krishnamurthy*

## 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 would also like to thank the previous organisers for their wonderful support over the past year.

## Sponsors

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

1. Uma and Ramu Ayyar
2. Chitra and Lakshman Prasad

Thank you to all the music lovers who have generously donated towards Sydney Music Circle.

## SMC Organisers:

Vandana Narayan	<b>Ph: 9688 6628</b>
Subha Harinath	<b>Ph: 9872 5313</b>
Lakshman Prasad	<b>Ph: 9746 7161</b>
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Alternatively, you can email us on:  
[sydneymusiccircle@yahoo.com.au](mailto:sydneymusiccircle@yahoo.com.au)



# *Sydney Music Circle*



**Saturday**  
**July 28th 2007**

Visit us at:  
[www.smc.does.it](http://www.smc.does.it)

## Artists Profiles

**Ajay Balakrishnan** has been learning Carnatic Vocal since the age of 9 under the tutelage of Smt. Shubha Harinath. He has regularly been participating in the Thyagaraja Aradhana and Purandharadhasa celebrations in Sydney and was most recently awarded 3<sup>rd</sup> prize at the Carnatic Music Idol contest held in June 2007. Ajay also has keen interest in western classical music. He is a high quality tennis player and represents his school as well as Parramatta district. He has won many prizes in tennis competitions. Ajay is currently a Year 10 student at North Sydney Boys High School.

**Sanjay Ramaswamy** has been learning violin from Sri Balaji Jagannathan for the last 6 years. He, along with his brother Dilip are regular participants in SMC programs and the annual Thyagaraja Aradhanai. He learns vocal music from Dr M.S. Ramanathan. He is a Year 9 student at Trinity Grammar School and enjoys playing Cricket and Tennis.

**Nirmal Ayyar** has been learning Mrudangam for the past six years. He is a disciple of Sri. Suthanthiraraj and Sri. Bala Shankar. Nirmal is also a Carnatic Music Vocalist and disciple of Smt. Prema Ananthakrishnan and Smt. Uma Ayyar for the past 8 years. Nirmal has played Mrudangam for the SMC Thyagaraja Aradhanas and Swatitirunal Music Festivals. He is currently doing a degree at UTS in Business and IT.

**Smt. Rajyashree Josyer Shrikanth** is a profound and talented exponent of Carnatic classical music (Vocal). She is also adept at the Veena, which she plays in the delightful Gayaki style. From a young age, her mother, Veena Vidushi Smt. M.K. Saraswathi has ably trained her in both arts in the legendary GNB and Veene Sheshanna Paramparas.

She won the All India Radio Competition 1988 & has since been performing regularly on AIR - Mysore/ Bangalore. Graduating with distinction in the Vidwath exam, she has received scholarships from CCRT, Delhi and Karnataka Sangeetha Nrithya

Academy. She has won many prizes and awards at the State and National levels in India. Notable among these are the 'Best Vocalist' award received from Sri Lalgudi Jayaraman at the Trichy Festival in 1995.

She has performed in several Radio & TV programs and given live concerts all over South India. Some of the more prestigious locations are the Mysore Palace, Jagan Mohan Palace, Gaana-Bharathi and Thyagaraja Sangeetha Sabha at Mysore. Smt. Rajyashree has the distinction of having given concerts of over three hours consisting only of Shyama Shastry kritis & Kana-kadasa Devaranamas.

Smt. Rajyashree imparts training to a number of young students in both vocal music and the Veena under the banner of "*Sri Saraswathi School of Music*" in Brisbane. She also conducts regular workshops on "*Devaranamas*", teaching devotional songs based on classical music to the young and not so young.

**Sri G Venkatesha Josyer** is a profound and talented exponent of Carnatic classical music – Vocal and Violin. From a young age, his mother *Sangeetha Vidushi, Veena Gaana Visharade* Smt. M.K. Saraswathi has ably trained him in vocal in the legendary GNB Parampara. He has further been trained in Violin by reputed Vidhwans Sri H.S. Thandavamurthy & Sri H.K. Narasimhamurthy (disciple of the legendary Parur M S Gopalakrishnan). He has also received advanced training from Smt Neela Ramagopal.

Venkatesha is a graded artiste of AIR - Mysore/ Bangalore and Doordarshan. He won the All India Radio Competition in 1998 & has received a scholarship from the Karnataka Sangeetha Nrithya Academy. He has won many prizes and awards at the State and National levels in India. Notable among these are: 1995 – South India Zone Inter-University Competition held at Chennai, 1996 – South India Zone Inter-University Competition held at Bangalore and 1997 – All India Inter-University Competition held at Mumbai.

In addition to his magical music, Venkatesha is scaling lofty heights in his career as a Project Manager for a large multi-national software company in Bangalore.

**Sri Sridharan Sankaran** had his initial training under Sri Thiruvaaroor Janakiraman under the lineage of Palani Subramaniam Pillai. He had advanced training under mridangam exponent Mannargudi Sri Easwaran. He is an All India Radio Graded artiste, performing since 1986 in various sabhas, AIR and Doordarshan. He has accompanied noted artistes like K.V. Krishnan, Bombay Jayashree, Sikkil Mala Chandrasekhar (Flute), Priya Sisters, Hyderabad Sisters, Prabhavati Ganesan (Veena) and Balaji Shankar.

**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 mrudanagm under Sri M. Ravichandhira of Melbourne. He has had the opportunity to accompany on the mrudangam, kanjira and morsing 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.

## Verse of the Month

Chaitanyam Sarvabhuuthaanaam nirvruthirjagadaatmanaam|

Nadabrahmatadaanandam advithiyamupasmahe||

चैतन्यं सर्वभूतानां निर्वृतिर्जगदात्मनाम् ।

नादब्रह्म तदानन्दमद्वितीयमुपास्महे । ।

*"We shall meditate on the absolute Naada-Bramha, that energises the whole universe, which has no second entity apart from it and is full of bliss"*

**Reference:** Sangeetha Ratnakara (13<sup>th</sup> Century AD)  
**Author:** Sharnjya Deva