

Today's Program

Lecture Demonstration
“Words of Wisdom in Carnatic Music”
by Sri. **Nitin Menon**,
Student of Sri Giridar Thirumalai

Main Concert
Smt **Prema Ananthakrishnan** &
Smt **Uma Ayyar** (vocal)
Sri **Balaji Jagannathan** (violin)
Sri **Janakan Suthathiraraj**
(mrudangam)

Next Program

February 2007, 5.30pm
Venue and date TBA

Special Thirupaavai Program

Last Month's Program

Jayanthi Narayan—vocal
Sriram Panyan—violin
Bala Shankar—mrudangam

1. Sree raagam –*varnam*
2. Mahaganapathim – *nattai*
3. Nee Charana – *keeravaani*
4. Parathpara- *Vaachaspathi*
5. Yanna Gaanu- *Panthu varaali*
6. Varadaraja Pahimam – *Mohanam*
7. Thelisi Raama- *Poornachandrika*
8. Santhatham- *Valaji*
9. Kanvaondru Kanden- *Bowli*
10. Paayoji Menai- *Pahaadi*
11. Sangeetha Samrajya- *Mohana Kalyani*
12. Vrutham
13. Thillana –*Hamsa Nandi*

Announcements

- We are pleased to announce that next year's Thayagaraja Aradhana will be held in March 2007. Further details and precise dates will be announced in the coming weeks. Please check our website for these details as they become available.
- Our next program will be a special Thirupaavai program, held in February 2007.
- Today's program will be SMC's last program for this year. We wish you all a very happy new year!

Sponsors

Sponsors contribute \$40 towards hall rental costs. Please contact us to sponsor a future program
This month's sponsors are:

- Ranganath Narayan and Uma Narayan
- Kala and Balaji Jaggannathan
- Shanthi and Ramesh

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

Puzzlers

1. What is the moola Purusha of the modern bhajana padathi
2. What are the 9 songs that Swati Tirunal composed illuminating 9 kinds of bhakthi?
3. Girirajahari is the paternal grandfather of which composer?
4. Composer of Ashtapathi which contains 24 songs and 12 sargas

The answers to the above puzzlers will be announced at the end of the November concert.

ॐ *Sydney Music Circle*



November 25th 2006

Organisers:

Aparna Ramachandran (9874 8612)
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Artists profiles

Nitin Menon started learning Carnatic music (vocal) when he was 6 years old from Mrs. Bhavani Govindan. He then moved on to learning to play the flute from Sri. Giridhar Tirumalai. He has been undergoing training under Sri Giridhar for the last 3 years. Nitin also learns Western keyboard. He enjoys both Carnatic music and western music alike.

Smt. Uma Ayyar had her initial training in music from her grandmother at the age of 8 and then from Shri. Shencotta Narayanan a disciple of Shri Semmangudi Srinivasa Iyer.

Uma was the Gold Medalist for her Masters Degree in Music from Kerala University, and has also served as an Assistant Professor of Music in Seetha Lakshmi Ramaswamy College in Trichy after obtaining her Master's Degree. She was a B Grade artist in AIR Trichy and AIR Trivandrum. Uma has given both Carnatic as well as light music concerts in Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne for various cultural, religious and charity organizations in Australia. Uma with her team organizes Swathi Thirunal Music Festival in Sydney every year.

Smt. Prema Ananthkrishnan is one of the most popular Carnatic musicians and an active member of the Sydney Music Circle. She began her musical training at the age of 5 under the late Smt. Savitri Menon, and continued her tutelage under a string of musical luminaries like late Sri Vechoor Harihara Sumbamonia Ayyar of Sri Thygaraja parambara.

Apart from possessing Master's in Music from Kerala University, Prema was an AIR artiste and has given several full length concerts in India and in Australia. She continues to extend her repertoire and knowledge of Carnatic Music in Sydney under the guidance of Smt. Rajalakshmi Venkatachari. Prema with her team has been organising Swatitirunal Music Festival in Sydney every year since 1999.

Sri 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. Thangammal.

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.

Sri Janakan Suthanthiraraj had his initiation in Carnatic music from his father, Sri R. Suthanthiraraj - a popular teacher of mridangam and flute. From 2000, Janakan began to have advanced tuition in mridanagm under Sri M. Ravichandhira of Melbourne.

He has had the opportunity to accompany on the mridangam, 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 mridangam to a number of students.

A Tribute to Saint Thyagaraja

Written by Ramesh Shan

The name of Thyagaraja is associated with Carnatic music, just like life in human beings. Saint Thyagaraja was an ardent devotee and a yogi. His contribution, as one of the Trinities of Carnatic music, has been immense not only through his compositions but also through his *Sishya Parampara* who have preserved and enriched the true tradition of classical music. Thyagaraja's compositions are rich in devotional and philosophical content. They are noted for their superior structure, superb handling of ragalakshanas and suitable choice of raga and lyrics. As a mark of respect and thanksgiving to the saint, musicians from all around the globe get together and pay their reverence to the Saint by singing the Pancharatna kritis on the Pushya Bahula

Panchami (the day the Saint attained Samadhi). Vocalists and instrumentalists of various banis come to Thiruvaiyaru on the banks of the river Kaveri and take part in the Aradhana festival that is celebrated every year. Every year, coinciding with the thidhi of the saints demise, there is week long festival, when musicians pay their homage to the saint by singing his compositions. On the Aradhana day the Pancharatna kritis are rendered in unison by all the artistes, which are in the ragas Nattai, Gowlai, Arabhi, Varali and Sri. Interestingly all five of them are set to Ghana ragas. On the Pushya Bahula Panchami day, the musicians go on an Unchavriti. Here they go walking down the streets singing songs whilst people donate rice and other items. They start from the saint's house at Thirumanjanaveedhi and arrive at the samadhi at Thiruvaiyaru. At the samadhi the various musicians perform before the idol of Saint Thyagaraja. The nadhaswaram artistes start off the festival followed by veena, flute and violin. After this, all artistes (vocalists & instrumentalists) perform in unison. They start with *Sree Ganapathini* in Sourashtram & Guruleka Etuvanti in Gowri Manohari followed by the Pancharatna kritis. Simultaneously, an abhishekam is performed to the Saint's idol. At the conclusion of the krithis a mahaarthi is performed to the Saint's idol. Saint Thyagaraja is commemorated diversely around the world on different scales. The world of Carnatic music owes a lot to Saint Tyagaraja for the treasure that he has bestowed. Tyagaraja has left behind the immense wealth of his compositions and it is the duty of every musician and rasikas to pay their homage to the great saint by rendering his compositions with bhava and with an understanding of the meanings of the compositions.