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25th Anniversary of SMC

What's Coming up?

Program	Venue
Feb 28 th and March 1 st 2009 (Sat & Sun) Thyagaraja Aradhana	Dundas Community Centre
25 th and 26 th April 09 25 th Anniversary celebration of SMC!!	TBA

Programs are subject to change. Our web page has the most current details.

SMC Organisers for 2008/09

Smt.Saroja & Sri.Balachandra 9873-2306

Smt.Gowri & Sri.Bala Subramaniam 9620-7813

Smt.Sujatha & Sri.Jaishankar 9674-3554

Smt.Divya & Sri.Sai Veeraraghavan 8807-5643

Email us on sydneymusiccircle@yahoo.com.au

See our web page at
www.sydneymusiccircle.info



Sydney Music Circle



Dundas Community Centre
29 November 2008

www.smc.does.it

29 Nov 08 Performers' Profiles

Senior artiste program 1

Smt Raji Ramachandran - vocal

Smt.Raji Ramachandran was initiated by her into music at the age of seven. Her first guru was Sri Mani Bagavathar (in Golden Rock, Trichy) who taught the basics and also how to sing a few keerthans. Her learning continued under Mani Bagavathar, in Tirunelveli. She was also under the tutelage of Sri Rajagopalan, who was the direct disciple of the Oothukadu family from whom she learnt Oothukadu Venkata Kavi's songs.

She was lucky enough to be born and married into music-loving families. Nobody gave her more encouragement and support than her beloved husband late Sri.PS Ramachandran. He literally put her on stage to sing the first ever concert for the Sydney Music Circle in 1983.

She dedicates tonight's concert to the loving memory of her husband.

Sri

Senior artiste program 2

Sangeetha Booshanam Amirthakala Gnanaratnam - vocal

Smt Amirthakala Gnanaratnam began her vocal training under her late uncle Pandit Vidwan R.Thirunavakarasu and her father Pannisai Chelvan R.Rasarathinam. She went on to gain her degree at Annamalai University in India under Professor Dr Madurai Somasundaram, the same University, where she was ordained the title Sangeetha Booshanam in both Carnatic music and Veena in 1982.

Amirthakala has also learnt from Sangeetha Booshanam Shyamala Venugopal, one of the first students of Dandapani Deshikar, Thiruvayaru Sangeetha Booshanam S V Venugopal Iyer, and M.G. Gowrykumari, All India Radio A Grade Artist, Bangalore.

In 1996, Amirthakala established the Sangeetha Vithyalayamâ, school of carnatic music in Sydney. To date this music school has successfully staged several seasons of "Isai Manjari" with local artists, artists from interstate and India.

Sri Balasri Rasiyah - Mridangam

Balasri has emerged as the premier mrdangist for music and dance in Australia today. His wide understanding of dance music and rhythms is coupled with highly original playing and sensitive understanding of the rasa of the works. He is in demand throughout Australia for his deft skills in the mrdangam. Born in Sri Lanka, he learnt to play the mrdangam from Sangeetha Booshanam A.S.Ramanathan and went on to gain his diploma in mrdangam from the Ramanathan College of Fine Arts, Jaffna, Sri Lanka. From 1985 to 1992 he lived in England where he developed his expertise in classical Indian dance percussion working under the maestro Karaikudi Krishnamurthy, and accompanying several eminent dancers, vocalists and instrumentalists. Balasri migrated to Australia in 1992, and started working with Dr Chandrabhanu Bharatalaya Academy of Indian Dance and Music in 1993.

In 1993 Balasri commenced teaching the mrdangam, affiliating his school to the Bharatalaya Academy. He is a Principal of the Mrdangam section of the Academy and has trained a host of young mrdangists since then. He is meticulous in his teaching and instils a strong sense of discipline in his students. Balasri does not believe in quick results, but would rather the students spend time in absorbing the knowledge of his teaching as well as expanding their expertise in music.

Sri Ram Panyam- Violin

Sriram Panyam started learning vocal music from Dr Mrs.Rama Rao in Melbourne. He later developed interest in learning violin and became a student of Sri Murali Kumar (Melbourne) in 2001. He considers himself fortunate to have received training from Viloim vidwan Sri Kanchi Janardhanan in Chennai and later from Sri M A Sundareswaran. He is currently continuing his music education from Dr M.S Ramanathan. He has accompanied many senior artistes in Sydney.