

## Today's Program

*Lecture Demonstration*  
'Developing Raaga Aalapana Skills  
-A Student's Perspective'  
Kum **Sruthi Balaji**

*Guru Vandanam*  
Sri **Dilip Ramaswamy** (vocal)

*Main Concert*  
Smt **Jayanthi Narayan** (vocal)

*Accompaniments*  
Sri **Sriram Panyam** - violin  
Sri **Bala Shankar** - mrudangam

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## Next program

*Saturday 25th November*  
5.30-8.30pm  
*Five Dock Veteran Car Club*

### Guru vandanam

Talk by *Nithin Menon*, student of  
Giridhar Tirumalai  
- 'Words of Wisdom in Carnatic  
Music'

### Main concert

*Uma Ayyar and*  
*Prema Ananthkrishnan* (vocal)  
*Balaji Jagannathan* (violin)  
*Janakan Suthaniraraj* (mrudangam)

## Announcements

A special thanks to TM Krishna, Sriramkumar and Arun Prakash for permitting us to distribute their recordings of the Pancharatna Kritis. We have been distributing these CD's to encourage the participation of children in the group rendition of the Pancharatna Kritis at the Thyagaraja Aradhana. Please contact us to receive your copy.

Please feel free to send us articles or items related to Carnatic music which can be published in the monthly newsletter.

## Sponsors

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

1. Mr Chithambareshwaran
2. Lakshman and Jayashree
3. Ramu and Uma Ayyar
4. Mythili and Malli Iyer

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

## Puzzlers

- 1.What is the equivalent Hindustani raga of Mayamalavagowla?
- 2.Bhajagovindam was originally sung in which raga?
- 3.Who is the composer of the great work Sangita Patijata?
- 4.What are the Gatra veena and Daru veena?

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

# ॐ *Sydney Music Circle*



*October 2006*

## Organisers:

Aparna Ramachandran (9874 8612 )  
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## Artists profiles

**Dilip Ramaswamy** started learning vocal music from Dr M S Ramanathan when he was 6 years old and has been learning for 10 years now. He had performed in SMC several times and is a regular participant in the SMC's Thyagaraja Aradhana. Dilip also learns violin from Shri Balaji Jagannathan. He is a Year 11 student at Trinity Grammar and enjoys playing Cricket and Tennis.

**Jayanthi Narayan** started her carnatic vocal training at a young age under several good teachers in India - Sri Raja Shanmukham for basics (Secunderabad), Sri Padmanabhan (Calcutta), late Smt Janaki Ramachandran & the renowned Smt Srirangam Gopalarathnam (Secunderabad) and Smt Alamelu (Bangalore). She has sung in All India Radio Yuva Vani programmes and won prizes. In Sydney, Jayanthi undertook valuable lessons from Smt Radha Kalyan & Smt Prema Ananthakrishnan and also from the professional singer Sowmya getting encouragement and motivation. She has taught the basics in Carnatic music to many children and currently evinces keen interest in all Carnatic music programmes.

**Sruthi Balaji** is an Year 10 student at Baulkham Hills High School in Sydney. She started learning vocal Carnatic music at the age of 7, and is currently learning under the tutelage of her father Balaji Jagannadhan. Sruti is a regular participant at Sydney's Carnatic forums both as a singer and as a compere, and has authored brief articles for publication at these events. She won the first prize in the inaugural Purandara Dasa singing competition in the seniors' group in 2004. She was privileged to present a theme-based concert for Sydney Music Circle in August 2005, with the melachakra-ragamalika of Sri Maha Vaidyanatha Sivan as the main piece.

**Sriram Panyan** started learning violin from Mr Murali Kumar in Melbourne five years ago. He has been fortunate to get training from Violin Vidwan Sri Kanchi Janardhanan and advanced training later from Sri M.A.Sundareshwaran. Additionally he has also learned vocal music from V Sundareshan (in Chennai) and flute maestro Thyagarajan Ramani. Currently he is learning vocal music under the tutelage of Dr Ramanathan in Sydney. He has performed in solo concerts and provided accompaniment in several concerts in both Melbourne and Sydney.

**Bala Sankar.** After initially learning tabla for a number of years with Sri Niranjana Deodar, Bala studied mrudangam under Sri. Vallish Herur for two years. Since then he has been receiving training from Sri K. R. Ganesh. In February 2002, Bala very creditably performed his formal arangetram accompanying Sri T.M. Krishna. Apart from mrudangam, Bala has studied Carnatic vocal music under Smt Lakshmi Raman and Dr M. S. Ramanathan.

## Varnams

By Lakshmi Iyer

A Varnam is the most important and the most difficult piece of composition to sing or play. It tells you everything about a Raga. A Varnam helps one obtain a good flexible voice or good finger skills.

It is said that there are around 560 Varnams. The earliest composer of a Varnam is believed to be Melattur Veerabhadrayya.

A Varnam is divided into many parts: Pallavi, Anupallavi, Mukhthayiswaram, Charanam and Charanam Swaras.

The practice of Varnams helps one to play or sing difficult compositions in a graceful, intelligent and perfect manner. There are two types of Varnams. They are *tana* Varna and *pada* Varna.

*Tana* Varnams are considered pure vocal exercises. The *Tana* Varnams only have lyrics for the pallavi, anupallavi and charanam. In *tana* Varnams the words are extended so there aren't a lot of lyrics. These Varnams are mostly performed in concerts. The lyrics are mostly in praise of a God, a guru (teacher) or a patron (king).

*Pada* Varnams are mostly sung to accompany Bharatanatyam (South Indian classical dancing). *Pada* Varnams contain much more text and lyrics compared to the *Tana* Varnam.

The idea of a Varnam is to learn about basic ragam structure. Another reason for the importance of a Varnam is to basically practice singing in many speeds and to train the voice to sing fast with the talam put correctly. Some Varnams are composed as Ragamallikai, which means it is composed in many different ragams.

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### Previous concert's Song list

Sangeetha Ayyar—vocal  
Mohan Ayyar—synthesizer  
Janakan Suthanthiraraj— mrudangam

1. Jalajakshi (varnam), *Hamsadhvani*, Adi, Mânambuchâvadi Venkatasubbaiyer
2. Tatwamariya, *Rithigowla*, Adi, Papanasam Sivan (S)
3. Sankari sankuru, *Saveri*, Adi-tisra, Shyama Shastri (R)
4. Mantranayike, *Simhendra Madhyamam*, Misra Chapu, Kolungal Subramaniam (R, N, S)
5. Sri Kamalambike, *Sahana*, Tisra Triputa, Muthuswamy Dikshitar
6. Velava, *Arabhi*, Rupakam, Koteeswara Iyer
7. Rama ni samana, *Kharaharapriya*, Rupakam, Thyagaraja (R, N, S)
8. Innu daya, *Kalyana Vasantam*, Khanda Chapu, Purandaradasa
9. Ragam Tanam Pallavi "Devi brova samayanidhe, ati vegame vachi", *Hindolam*, Khanda Triputa + swaram in *begada*, *hamsanandi*, *andolika*
10. Virutham, *Behag*
11. Muraganin, *Behag*, Khanda Chapu, Guru Surajananda
12. Jagobhansi, *Lalith*, Adi, Meera (bhajan)
13. Tillana, *Misra Sivaranjani*, Adi, Maharajapuram Santhanam
14. Nee nama rupamulaku, Sourastram, Adi, Thyagaraja