

Today's Program

Guru Vandanam: 4pm

Sri Ramesh Shanmugasundaram (**Vocal**)

Main concert: 5pm

Smt Malathi Nagarajan (**Veena**)

Sri Indu Balachandran (**Veena**)

Sri Raghuram Sivasubramaniam
(**Mrudangam**)

Next Month's Program

The October SMC program will be a special tribute to Shri Muthuswamy Diskhitar's Kamalamba Navavarnams. This event will be held on:

**Saturday, October 27th at Dundas
Community Centre**

Time: TBA

Sponsors

Sponsors contribute \$50 towards hall rental costs. Sydney Music Circle requires 6-7 sponsors every month to cover the hall rental and sound system maintenance costs. Please contact us to sponsor a future program.

The sponsors for this month are:

1. Smt. Ranjini and Sri Sekhar
2. Smt. Usha and Sri. Venkat
3. Smt. Chitra and Sri Srinivasan
4. Smt Shubha and Sri Ramaswamy

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

Email Changes

Please advise us if your email address has changed or is no longer in use. This will enable us to send you timely and updated information on Sydney Music Circle events.

SMC Organisers:

Vandana Narayan	Ph: 9688 6628
Subha Harinath	Ph: 9872 5313
Lakshman Prasad	Ph: 9746 7161
Krishna Ramarathinam	Ph: 8814 7016

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



Sydney Music Circle



Sunday
September 30th 2007

Visit us at:
www.smc.does.it

Artists Profiles

Ramesh Shanmugasundaram has been learning music from a young age and is currently learning under the guidance of Smt. Prema Ananthakrishnan. Ramesh is a Year 11 student at Homebush Boys High School and is playing representative grade cricket for Western Suburbs. Ramesh has been awarded several prizes in music competitions and has performed prominently in cultural and charity concerts in Sydney.

Malathi Nagarajan received her formal training in veena from her mother. She has been an All India Radio artiste since 1965 and has given several performances in India and abroad. Malathi was a member of the Government of India cultural delegation of artists that toured South East Asian countries in 1987. She is also an accomplished Bharatanatyam dancer and holds a Bachelor's Degree in Dance from Baroda University. She has been teaching veena and bharatanatyam for many years. She started the Indian School of Performing Arts, where she has teamed with two other artistes to teach veena, vocal music and dance to young children in Sydney since 1997. Malathi works part time in the University of Sydney.

Indu Balanchandran has been learning Veena from her mother Smt Malathi Nagarajan and her grandmother Smt Bhagirathi Narasimhan from the age of eight. She is also undertaking vocal music training with Smt Subha Harinath for the past nine years. Indu is a Chartered Accountant and an economist working as the Executive Director of Youth Challenge Australia, a non-profit organisation involved in community development (home and abroad). She has deep interest in music and dance integral part of, and feels fortunate to be able to express herself through music.

Raghuram Sivasubramaniam is a young upcoming mridangam artist with enormous potential. Raghuram has performed in numerous concerts in Sydney and Melbourne. He has also accompanied many visiting Indian artists in Sydney. Raghuram has also played for several dance productions organised by leading dance teachers in Sydney and Melbourne. He is a student of mridangam virtuoso Sri Ravi M Ravichandhira of Melbourne, and has had the enviable privilege of receiving advanced lessons from mridangam maestro Karaikudi Sri R Mani in India. He had his mridanga arangetram in 2003 accompanying Sri. B. V. Balasai and Allam Sri. Durgaprasad.

Verse of the Month

"Construction of the Veena"

atha khalvida.m daivii viiNaa bhavati |

tadanukR^itirasau maanushhii viiNaa bhavati ||

अथ खल्विदं दैवी वीणा भवति ।

तदनुकृतिरसौ मानुषी वीणा भवति । ।

Reference: Aitareyanyaka Upanishad (2nd Chapter)
Author: Panchama Khanda

Rt Meaning: The structure of the human body is symbolic of the Divine Veena. The form of Veena currently in use is a replica of the divine Veena.

<< Explanation on the following page >>

The construction of Veenadanda (stem of Veena) is analogous to our spinal column. There are twenty four steps in the Veena which is exactly equal to the 24 spaces between 25 pieces of bones that form our spine. The sizes of bones will increase gradually from the neck to the lower back, again, very similar in pattern to the steps in Veena.

Interestingly, the complex form of the Sacro-coccygeal spine at the lower end of the spine, is similar in shape to the end of Veena that has the face of a lion.

The sounds that are able to be generated in the 24 steps in our back bone, starting from the Mooladhara are:

Mandra Sthayi (lumbar region), Madhya Sthayi(Thoracic region) and Tara Sthayi (Cervical region) respectively. Again this is very similar to the sounds generated at analogous locations on the stem of Veena.

The source of all swaras is the manifestation of the 'Anaahata Naada' of 'OM' that is produced in the stem of Veena.

Source: Thyagaraja Yoga Vaibhavam (2001) Vol 1.
Author: NSM