



SRUTI

The India Music and Dance Society

651 Limehouse Road, Radnor, PA 19087-2856 • www.sruti.org

presents

in collaboration with Villanova Indian Students Association

Lecture-Demonstration and Chamber Concert

by

S. Nirmala and P. Subhashini



accompanied by

Suhas Rao on Violin

Harsha Kanumalla on Mridangam

Sriram Balasubramanian on Ghatam

Saturday, May 24, 2008 at 2:00 PM

at St. Mary's Hall, Villanova University

Villanova, PA 19085

Admission: Suggested donation \$10 per individual or \$25 per family.

Gate Collection at Chamber Concerts are a primary source of remuneration for the Artistes.

For more information, please contact Ramana at (610) 322-3180, Nataraj at (610) 687-4565,
Vidyasankar Sundaresan at (215) 310-1783, Venkat Kilambi at (610) 631-2291.

About the Artistes

Dr. Nirmala Sundararajan and Dr. Subhashni Parthasarthy, mother and daughter, are Carnatic vocalists. Both are Mylaporeans, having graduated from the Queen Mary's College, Mylapore, Chennai. Both have doctorate degrees in Indian Music, the former having researched and submitted a thesis to Indra Kala Sangita Visva Vidyalaya, Khairagarh University, Madhya Pradesh and the latter to the Bangalore University. They have been trained by illustrious gurus, Sangeeta Kala Acharya T. Mukta and Sangita Kalanidhi T. M. Thyagarajan.

Between mother and daughter, they have a very rich repertoire of compositions acquired by untiring learning, a combined effort spread over nearly seven decades. With concert opportunities dwindling for various reasons and due to concert durations being reduced from some 4 or 6 hours to a mere 90 minutes, artistes are rarely able to do full justice in presenting to the audience all that they have learned. With this in view, Dr. Nirmala and Dr. Subhashni, have presented several thematic concerts in Chennai.

In a Navagraha series, they presented 9 concerts comprising of 225 compositions in 200 ragas by nearly 100 composers. Each concert commenced with the singing of Muthuswamy Dikshitar's Navagraha Kriti pertaining to the day of the week preceded by the sloka of that graha and concluded with the Mangalam specially invoking the graha. At the concluding session, a Navagraha homam was performed for 'World Peace'. The entire series was recorded in audio tapes and is available with the artistes. Dr. Nirmala and Dr. Subhashini conducted yet another series, 'Manoranjani' covering about 150 compositions in Nayika – Nayaka Bhava such as Padams, Javalis, Varnams, Ashtapadis, Tevaram, Tirupugazh, Divya Prabandam, Bhajans, songs of modern composers and so on - a marathon effort which bore testimony to their vast repertoire.

In honor of Saint Thyagaraja, a series of monthly concerts by Dr. Nirmala and Dr. Subhashini was presented on every Pushyam (the birth star of the saint). The series entitled 'Thyagaraja Ragaratna Malika' included one composition in each of the ragas handled by Thyagaraja. The 13 kritis dealing with Sangita Sastra were also included in that series. The 12 monthly concerts were titled after the 12 Chakra names in the Melakarta scheme and each concert highlighted one main raga in that Chakra. The last concert titled 'Sathguru Prabhavam' was a finale to the series comprising of compositions on the saint by various composers.

Directions to St. Mary's Hall, Villanova University

St. Mary's Hall is located at the intersection of County Line Road and PA Rt. 320 (Spring Mill Rd).

From the West:

Take the Pennsylvania Turnpike to Exit 24 (Valley Forge/Route 76). Take Route 76 East to the Gulph Mills Exit. At the bottom of the exit ramp, turn right onto Route 320. Follow Route 320 South. At the third traffic light, turn right onto Matsonford Road. At the intersection of Matsonford Road and County Line Roads (about 1.4 miles) turn left onto County Line Road. St. Mary's Hall is just before the first traffic light. Go past the traffic light and turn right into the parking lot. Park at the far end of this lot and St. Mary's is across the parking lot.

From the South:

Take I-95 North to exit 7, the I-476 (the Blue Route) Interchange. Continue on I-476 North to exit 13 (old exit 5), St. David/Villanova (US Rt. 30). Follow Rt. 30 East. Turn left onto Rt. 320. St. Mary's Hall is on the left just before the first traffic light which is County line road. Turn right at the light to County line Road. On county line road turn right into the parking lot. Park at the far end of this lot and St. Mary's is across the parking lot.

From the North and East:

Take the NJ Turnpike to exit 6, the PA Turnpike. Continue on the PA Turnpike to the I-476 (the Blue Route) Interchange. Follow I-476 South to exit 13 (old exit 5), St. David/Villanova (US Rt. 30). Follow Rt. 30 East. Turn left onto Rt. 320. St. Mary's Hall is on the left just before the first traffic light which is County line road. Turn right at the light to County line Road. On county line road turn right into the parking lot. Park at the far end of this lot