



SRUTI NOTES

A Publication of SRUTI
The India Music & Dance Society
Celebrating Twenty-one years of service to the community

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Volume 10, Issue 1, February 2007

President's Note — New Voices, New Ideas

Dear Friends,

Sruti was founded twenty one years ago as a presenting organization devoted to Indian Classical Music and Dance. Honestly, it has been a twenty one year work in progress by a team of dedicated and selfless volunteers, doing their best in presenting outstanding artists, conducting Aradhana, community events and publishing.

What does it take to transform the organization into a institution that is self-sustaining and 100% community supported? Should it be on the lines of how a temple/church is run or should it be on the lines of arts/commercial organizations like Kimmel etc.?

The challenges faced by our organization include

- rising costs of presenting programs,
- slow growth in creation of surplus funds,
- lack of growth in attendance.

This board is proposing some new initiatives to help promote more participation, increased collaboration, and new sources of continued support. These include:

- Formation of a core annual support group that would contribute \$500 annually, a portion of which is tax deductible (Please see appeal elsewhere in this newsletter).
- Discount vouchers given to students of music and dance, distributed via their respective teachers, to encourage greater attendance at events.
- Increased collaboration, exchange of contacts with other community organizations, with common forums for presentations and publicity.

We welcome your comments, suggestions and recommendations. Of course, we also look forward to your help as a volunteer or financial supporter.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome to the board C. Nataraj — President-Elect, Sridhar Santhanam — Secretary, Srinivas Pothukuchi — Director Marketing & Publicity, Vidyasankar Sundaresan — Director Publications & Outreach and Revathi Sivakumar — Director-1. They will serve on the board for two years in 2007 and 2008. As you are aware, Venkat Kilambi — Treasurer, Uma Prabhakar — Director Resources & Development, and Ravi Pillutla — Director-2, are in their second year of their two year term as members of the Board.

In terms of programming, the Spring and Early Summer season promises members an experience of an entire spectrum of classical India arts mixed with exciting alliances with western music genres. All seats are very affordably priced, at a fraction of the usual cost to enjoy leading international artists. Please visit our website <http://www.sruti.org> to check out the details of the various programs.

We look forward to enjoying great music and dance programs this spring with you and your families. We can't wait to share the new season — two spectacular orchestra style presentations including one at the Kimmel Center, two traditional style concerts and a Manipuri-Odissi dance presentation, you must experience with your family and friends.

Sincerely,

Ramana Kanumalla, President

Core Annual Supporter Pass — An Appeal

Dear Sruti Members:

The board has been busy finalizing the Spring and Fall 2006 calendar of music and dance programs.

We start the year with the Thyagaraja Aradhana on March 3, 2007, at the Bharatiya Temple hall in Montgomeryville, PA. The Jayamangala group from the DC area, consisting of over 21 musicians, will present a grand symphony orchestra blending the best of Carnatic and Western Music on March 17, 2007, at the Montgomery County Community College. Another notable event scheduled is a Sitar Concerto titled "River of Strings" featuring Maestro Shafaatullah Khan and over 50 musicians from the Mansfield University Orchestra. This event will be held on Friday April 20th at the world class arts venue in Philadelphia at the Perelman Theater in the Kimmel Center for Performing Arts. Also in the calendar is a vocal concert by the Carnatica Brothers and party, to be held at the Bharatiya Temple, followed by a presentation of Manipuri and Odissi dance forms by Shreyasi Dey and party, at the Montgomery County Community College, Blue Bell, PA.

We are in discussions with Kalakshetra, the famous dance institution from Chennai, to organize a tour of the USA by 25 dancers and musicians under the Sruti banner. This will be the first time we are planning such an undertaking. In addition we will have our usual fare of solo concerts, workshops, and chamber music events.

For several years now, Sruti has been very fortunate to receive grants from the Philadelphia Music Program and Dance Advance organizations. Both these grants are funded by the Pew Charitable Trusts. Without this financial support, we probably could not have presented the programs we did. If we relied only on ticket sales, the results would be disastrous in terms of number of programs and quality. We probably could do mostly house concerts and just one or two world class artists!!!

A primary factor that positively influences these granting organizations is the sustained member commitment, contributions and event attendance. To continue to grow the Indian classical performing art form support base, and to bring even more exciting programs that interest the Sruti audience, we need to improve the funding and attendance at these programs. To this end, we intend to create a core annual support and funding base from among our own members that can generously support the organization. We propose to members to sign up as annual core supporters by pledging to contribute \$500 every year.

The benefits include

- Premium seat passes to all events including premium presentations (Eg. Kimmel, Dance ballets etc.) for you, your spouse and children.
- Recordings (CD's) of all concerts presented during the year where available
- Recognition in select Sruti publications and events

I have informally approached a few families and so far 6 families have agreed to sign on to this program. This is a great start and I encourage all of you to extend the level of support you have provided to SRUTI, by signing on to become a Core Annual Supporter of the organization.

Best wishes to you and your family, and we will see you at the Thyagaraja Aradhana on March 3 2007 and at all the year's Sruti events. Thank you very much for your time and your continued support.

Ramana Kanumalla,
President, Board of Directors

PS – Please mail your annual core supporter checks payable to Sruti, Attn: Venkat Kilambi – Treasurer, 3055 Highley Road, Audubon, PA 19403-1836.

An Update from the Resources and Development Committee

Following the general body meeting on December 9 2006, the current members of the Resources & Development (R&D) Committee include, Uma Prabhakar (Chairperson), Ramaa Nathan, Usha Balasubramaian, Rama Gundu Rao as RC members and Ramana Kanumalla and Venkat Kilmabi as *ad hoc* members. Since our last update in Sruti Notes (June 2006), the RC applied to Dance Advance (DA) and the Philadelphia Music Project (PMP) to obtain grants for the 2007-2008 programming. While we await the decision from PMP, we were not successful in getting the DA grants this year. A meeting is being planned to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of our grant application with DA and we hope to use that feedback to improve the quality of our next application. We will continue to explore other opportunities to fund our programming.

An interim progress report was submitted to DA for the 2006-2007 award. A full report was submitted to PMP for the 2005-2006 award.

Meanwhile, we (Prabhakar and I) attended the PMP holiday party in December 2006 at the Ethical Society building in Philadelphia. There were more than 150 attendees from various cultural organizations and most of them knew about Sruti! Once again, we felt very proud that Suti is a well acknowledged and recognized name in the cultural and arts circle.

Uma Prabhakar, Chairperson,
For The Resources & Development Committee



SRUTI

The India Music and Dance Society

1783 Talbot Road, Blue Bell, PA 19422 • www.sruti.org

Presents

Sri Thyagaraja Aradhana 2007

*Saturday, March 3, 2007
from 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM*



*at the Bharatiya Temple Auditorium
1612 County Line Rd, Montgomeryville, PA*

For more information, contact Ramana at (610)322-3180 or Vidyasankar at (215)310-1783.

For individual registration, please register online at <http://www.sruti.org>.

Registration for singing - \$10 per adult and \$5 per youth

Suggested Donation - \$20 per family, \$10 per individual

PROGRAM

- 08:00 AM Puja
08:15 AM Utsava Sampradaya Kriti rendition by group
09:00 AM Pancharatna Kriti rendition by group
10:00 AM Individual Singing
01:00 PM Lunch Break
02:00 PM Individual Singing Continued
05:00 PM Concert of the day — Vocal Concert by **Kalpna Venkat and Party**



Kalpna Venkat (Vocal): The director of KalpnaSwaram School of Music, Kalpna Venkat is widely considered one of the leading young violinists in Carnatic music today. As a violinist in the Carnatic tradition, her playing style is marked by innovation, within the boundaries of classicism. Kalpna is also an accomplished vocalist and has given several vocal concerts both in Chennai and in the United States. At an early stage in her musical development, Kalpna started learning from Sangeetha Chudamani Smt. T. Rukmini. Her guru in vocal music is Padmabhushan Shri P.S. Narayanaswamy, one of the legendary teachers in Carnatic music today. Kalpna is an 'A' grade artist of All India Radio and has performed on national television and radio on numerous occasions over the years. She is also one of the founding directors of Samagana Heritage Foundation, an organisation dedicated to promoting the Indian classical arts in the United States.

Sandhya Srinath (Violin): Sandhya Srinath started training from an early age with Late Shri V. Janakiraman of AIR, Delhi. She went on to get advanced lessons from Lalgudi G Jayaraman and Prof. T.N. Krishnan. She is a Gold Medalist in M.A./M.Phil in Carnatic Music at the Delhi University. She has given many solo performances and has accompanied many senior vocalists and instrumentalists like Dr. Bala MuraliKrishna, Unnikrishnan, Dr. N. Ramani. She has accompanied for several arangetrams in the Washington and neighboring areas. She is an "A" grade artist of All India Radio and Doordarshan. She has also performed during the December Season festivals in Madras from 1991 onwards, gaining commendable acclaims. She has been awarded several prestigious awards (Best Young Violinist, Chennai, India in 2000 and Individual Artist Award from PG Arts Council, MD, USA in 2003). She teaches Violin in the Jayamangala School in Maryland and works at IMF, DC.

Suresh Ramachandran (Mridangam): Suresh Ramachandran is a disciple of Thiruvaiyaru V. Gurumurthy, a student of the mridangam maestro Palani Anna. As a graded artist of the All India Radio, Ramachandran has been featured in many radio and television programs in India. He has had the privilege of performing with many leading musicians including T. N. Seshagopalan, Ravi Kiran, Prof. T. R. Subramaniam and Tanjore Kalyanaraman. Ramachandran holds a Ph.D. degree in Mathematical Sciences and is currently working for the R&D division of a pharmaceutical company.

Sriram Balasubramanian (Ghatam): Sriram Balasubramanian started learning mridangam at the age of 5 under the tutelage of Guru Sri T. V. L. Narayanan, disciple of Sri Palani Subramanian Pillai. After completing his mridangam arangetram at age 12, he began training on the ghatam and tabla. He has accompanied several well-known artists in the Flint Thyagaraja Utsavam concerts and other concerts in the Metro Detroit area. He has played extensively for the Madras Regional Television and the All India Radio. He also plays the flute which he learned from Sikkil Mythili Chandrasekhar. He holds a Ph.D. in Biomechanics and is presently working at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

Directions to the Bharatiya Temple Auditorium

From the West:

1. Take the Pennsylvania Turnpike traveling East
2. Get off at Exit # 339 (Ft. Washington).
3. After tolls merge on to 309 North (towards Ambler)
4. Travel about 8 miles on 309 and make a right on to Stump Road
5. After about 2.4 miles right on to County Line Road
6. Temple is on your right.

From North Jersey:

1. Travel on NJ Turnpike and take exit # 6 to Pennsylvania Turnpike
2. Travel West on PA Turnpike (276 W).
3. Get off at Exit # 339 (Ft. Washington).
4. After tolls merge on to 309 North (towards Ambler)
5. Travel about 8 miles on 309 and make a right on to Stump Road
6. After about 2.4 miles right on to County Line Road
7. Temple is on your right.

From Philadelphia, South Jersey:

1. Take 76 East (Schuylkill Expressway) towards Valley Forge
2. After about 11 miles, take exit for 476 North towards Plymouth Meeting.
3. Travel about 4 miles and merge on to 276 East/Pennsylvania Turnpike towards New Jersey.
4. Travel for about 4 miles and get off at first Exit (# 339— Ft. Washington).
5. After tolls, merge on to 309 North (towards Ambler)
6. Travel about 8 miles on 309 and make a right on to Stump Road
7. After about 2.4 miles right on to County Line Road
8. Temple is on your right.

Mapquest users — Please use 1612 County Line Road, Chalfont, PA 18914-1201 for the "to" address



SRUTI

The India Music and Dance Society

1783 Talbot Road, Blue Bell, PA 19422 • www.Sruti.Org

Presents

A Grand Symphony

Performed by

Jayamangala

4:00 PM, Saturday, March 17, 2007



at

Montgomery County Community College

This program is supported by a grant from the Philadelphia Music Project, an artistic initiative of the Pew Charitable Trusts, administered by the University of the Arts.

Tickets: Members \$15, Non-members \$20, Seniors and Students \$10.

For more information, contact Ramana at (610) 322-3180, Srinivas at (610) 277-8955, Venkat at (610) 631-2291, or Nataraj at (610) 687-4565.

PERFORMING ARTISTS

About 20 Indian and Western musicians, dressed in their respective traditional dresses, will perform 5 pieces of orchestra - all based on Indian *Carnatic* music *ragas* (melodies) - for duration of 90 minutes. They will bring out the commonality of notes and universality of appeal of these two diverse yet unified forms of music of the east and music of the west to produce a perfect blend of the “music of the worlds” The group includes the following artists.

Jaya Bala (Indian Vocal)

Mani Iyer (Indian Violin)

Shoba Subramaniam (Indian Vocal)

Arvind Thiagarajan (Violin)

Raju Soundararajan (Indian Vocal)

Sunil Samuel (Western Piano)

J. Shivakumar (Indian Vocal)

Giorgia Cavallaro (Western Guitar)

Jenny Chen (Western Soprano)

Srinath Bala (Indian Mridangam)

Sandhya Srinath (Indian Violin)

Krishna Ramdas (Indian Tabla)

Bhavani Rao (Veena)

Gautam Sudhakar (Indian Ghatam)

Prashant Radhakrishnan (Saxophone)

Amin Gumbs (Western Drums)

Nathan Bala (Santoor)

Directions to Science Center Auditorium, Montgomery County Community College, Blue Bell, PA 19422

From the Pennsylvania Turnpike:

Take Exit 333 at Norristown. Go west on Germantown Pike to Route 202. Turn right and go north. Look for College sign on right, 1/2 mile north of Route 73. Go past college sign and at next light, turn right onto Morris Road and right into College Entrance (on Morris Road). Turn left and park in the lot on your right.

From the Schuylkill Expressway (I-76):

From I-76 Exit 331B, take I-476 (Blue Route) north to Exit 20, Germantown Pike West. Go west on Germantown Pike to Route 202. Turn right and go north. Look for College sign on right. Go past college sign and at next light turn right onto Morris Road and right into College Entrance (on Morris Road). Turn left and park in the lot on your right.

From King of Prussia:

Take Route 202 north King of Prussia and Norristown and north. Look for College sign on right 1/2 mile north of Route 73. Go past college sign and at next light turn right onto Morris Road and right into College Entrance (on Morris Road). Turn left and park in the lot on your right

SRUTI

The India Music and Dance Society presents

MAESTRO SHAFATULLAH KHAN

At the KIMMEL CENTER

“RIVER OF STRINGS”

*A Sitar Concerto with the
Mansfield University Symphony Orchestra*



Accompanists – Pandit Ramesh Mishra and Amod Dandawate

Kimmel Center – Perelman Theater
260 S Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102
8 P.M. Friday April 20th 2007

TICKETS: Plaza Premium - \$54, Plaza Level - \$34, 1st & 2nd Balcony - \$24
SALES: Kimmel Center Box Office – 215.893.1999 | www.kimmelcenter.org
INFO: www.sruti.org & www.shafaatullahkhan.com
CONTACT: Ramana Kanumalla @ 610.322.3180 or Nataraj @ 610.687.4565

This program is supported by grants from

(a) Philadelphia Music Project, an artistic initiative of the Pew Charitable Trusts, administered by the University of Arts

(b) Rohm and Haas

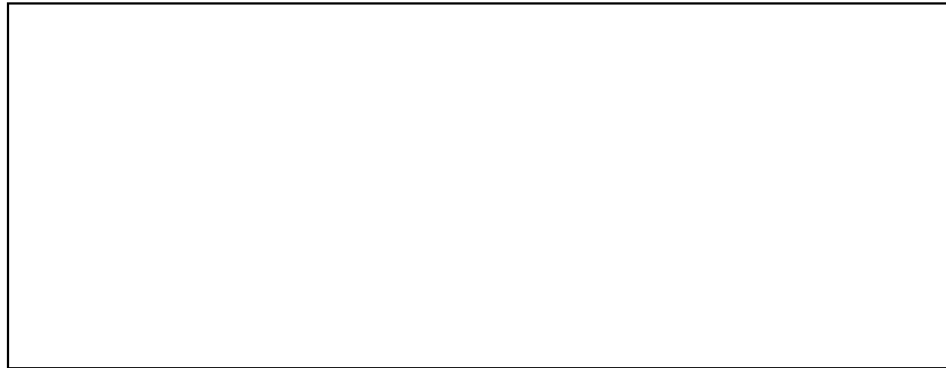


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Upcoming SRUTI Events - 2007

- 1) Sat March 3 Thyagaraja Aradhana, Individual and Group Singing followed by Vocal Concert by Kalpana Venkat and Party, Bharatiya Temple, Montgomeryville.
- 2) Sat March 17 Jayamangala Orchestra, MONTCO Community College, Blue Bell.
- 3) Fri April 20 Sitar Concerto — Shafaatullah Khan and Mansfield University Orchestra, Kimmel Center, Philadelphia.
- 4) Sun May 6 Carnatica Brothers — Vocal Recital, Bharatiya Temple, Montgomeryville
- 5) Sat June 9 Manipuri and Odissi Dance—Sreyashi Dey and Party