



Sruti Notes

A Publication of SRUTI - The India Music & Dance Society

www.sruti.org E-mail: srutipihla@gmail.com

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President's Note

Dear Indian Classical Music and Dance Rasikas:

The new Board of Directors (BOD) of Sruti and I would like to wish you a very happy and prosperous 2013. I thank the outgoing President, Raji Venkatesan and her committee for their outstanding execution of the 2012 concert season.

To continue Sruti's quest to educate the Philadelphia area community in Indian classical art forms, we will present two workshops to educate the growing number of students interested in Indian music. The first of these will be presented by Sri Malladi Suribabu on *Manodharma Sangeetham* and *Varnam/Kriti* rendition. The second workshop presents a unique opportunity to an introductory class in Hindustani music by Ustad Shujaat Khan at the University of Pennsylvania during the fall season. We will explore other opportunities to educate our members. These efforts aim to enhance our outreach and increase concert attendance.

Your new Board has been working hard to bring out an exciting series of concerts for the 2013 season. This season, we have an excellent lineup of concerts that includes highly classical solos, thematic concerts, dance and instrumental ensembles of upcoming stars, and renowned performers presented with collaborating partners strategically selected to reach a large audience.

Following the tradition, Thyagaraja Aradhana will kick off the 2013 season on April 6 at the Hindu Temple, DE. In the interest of maintaining our high standards when rendering the Utsava Sampradaya and Pancharatna kritis, I encourage singers to attend the rehearsals organized by the volunteers. Please contact srutipihla@gmail.com if you need more information. The main concert of the day will feature an upcoming star, Ramakrishnan Murthy, a young Indian-American on his debut concert tour. His concerts during the Chennai season received rave reviews.

Sruti is pleased to present *Nrityagram*, an Odissi dance ensemble, in collaboration with Montgomery County Community College at their Science Center auditorium on April 13. The theme "**SAMHARA**" is a new work by Nrityagram that explores two classical Indian dance forms, Odissi and Bharata Natyam, and Kandyen Dance from Sri Lanka, and reflects the cultural connections between the peoples of South Asia. This event is free to the Sponsors. Members may purchase discounted tickets at Thyagaraja Aradhana.

Nrityagram will be followed by a Carnatic vocal concert by an upcoming star, Kunnakudi Balamuralikrishna on April 27 at Agnes Irwin theatre in Bryn Mawr. Balamurali is an accomplished Mridangist as well, which helps him appreciate the intricacies of rhythm. Sruti in collaboration with the Hindu Temple, DE and Annamayya Rasa Tarangini will present a unique thematic concert on Annamacharya by the Malladi brothers, SriRam Prasad and Ravi Kumar, on May 11. We conclude the spring season with an instrumental ensemble of Mandolins by another brother duo, U. Srinivas assisted by U.Rajesh, at the Great Valley High School on June 1. Sruti sponsors will be treated to a post-concert dinner with the artists.

To encourage larger participation from the local community and to pay homage to other composers of Carnatic music, this year we will kick off the fall season with a Composers' Day on September 7, similar to Thyagaraja Aradhana. Another local artist, Roopa Mahadevan, will present a vocal concert. As a tribute to the legendary, Pandit Rav-iShankar, Sruti will present a world renowned Sitarist, Ustad Shujaat Khan in collaboration with Annenberg center on September 28 in Philadelphia. Shujaat's style of playing sitar,

(Continued from page 1)

known as the *gayaki ang*, is imitative of the subtleties of the human voice. We are pleased to bring back Vijay Siva on October 26 for rasikas who have a keen ear for lyrical beauty in a vocal concert. Sri Krishna Parijatham, a Kuchipudi Dance Ballet, will mark a tribute to another legend, Guru Padmabhushan Dr. Vempati Chinna Satyam by his senior disciples - Kuchipudi quartet of Shoba Natarajan, Sasikala Penumarthi, Kamala Reddy, and Revathi Komanduri, in November. We will conclude the season with Sruti Day in December. Please mark your calendars with above dates and look out for details of events.

Sruti Youth Group (SYG) has been making valuable contributions to Sruti with their interviews of the artists, photography and videography besides taking on MC responsibilities at Aradhana and assisting in event management. We welcome your child's involvement and encourage contacting SYG to serve the Indian community, acquiring leadership skills and having fun in the process.

Sruti continues her efforts to go "Green" and is exploring opportunities to distribute the music electronically. Members will benefit from expeditious distribution of music with minimal production costs. Let us know of your preference for physical CDs or electronic distribution during our events.

The Resource Committee (RC) headed by Ramana Kanumalla is seeking corporate funding and has already applied for several grants. I am delighted to announce that Sruti secured the largest grant in its history and the most prestigious grant from Dance Advance(DA) to present the world renowned Bharata Natyam dance exponent Malavika Sarukkai during spring of 2014. I sincerely appreciate the monumental efforts of Ramana, Viji Swaminathan, Raji Venkatesan and Lisa Kraus to conceive the project and complete the grant application to DA panel's satisfaction. It is a major victory for the RC team, board, Sruti audience and Annenberg center.

The new initiative to raise funds through year-end donations bore some fruit. The Marketing team, headed by Nari Narayanan has been successful, proactively signing up sponsors, producing marketing collaterals, and media kit to solicit advertisements. We are pleased to retain most of our advertisers. Under the new leadership of Suresh Tyagarajan, and with the assistance of Lakshmi Radhakrishnan, the Publications and Outreach Committee (POC) has hit the ground running posting upcoming events on the website, planning for Sruti Notes and the Aradhana book. Under the mentorship of Madhavi Ratnagiri, Sruti Youth Group has begun planning their activities. Venkat Kilambi as treasurer, created 2013 budgets, year-end financial reports besides helping with various activities. Uma Sivakumar and

Sundar Arunapuram are busy with a multitude of tasks in preparation for the execution of our events. Sundar and Madhavi are exploring ways to enhance our member services. In her new role as President Elect, Sunanda Gandham has taken the lead planning 2014 events, besides assisting in organizing the Kuchipudi event and RC fund raising activity. It is my privilege and honor to work with this energetic team.

The vibrant Indian ethnic cultural environment in the Philadelphia area created by Sruti can only be sustained by the continued support of our sponsors and members with their attendance at the events. Your presence will be gratifying for the board of directors and various subcommittee volunteers who contribute enormous amounts of their personal time to present the events. We thank our early sponsors for their support and urge others to become sponsors for the 2013 season by subscribing to a suitable package available on our website. We would love to see Sruti grow into a self-reliant organization this year and in years to come, and you can help by promoting Sruti events to your friends and family.

We look forward to seeing you at all the events starting with Thyagaraja Aradhana on April 6.

Thank you,
Ravi Pillutla, President
On behalf of the SRUTI Board of Directors

From the Publications and Outreach Committee

Dear Friends!

It gives us great pleasure to herald Sruti's 2013 season with you. This is going to be a banner year of great programming and education while providing ample opportunity for upcoming stars in the performing arts arena.

We are sure you will enjoy not only the programs but also our publications. We invite you to visit www.sruti.org to plan your concerts and enjoy the past publications.

Lakshmi Radhakrishnan, Vidya Jayaraman and I are proud to serve the Sruti Board at large and be the eyes and ears of this tremendous team.

We are looking forward to seeing you at the Thyagaraja Aradhana on 6th April 2013 at the Mahalakshmi Temple in Hockessin, Delaware.

We invite you to join and enjoy the journey with us through one more epoch-making year.

On behalf of SRUTI Publications & Outreach Committee,
Tyagarajan Suresh.

The opinions expressed by the contributors of articles and reviews are published in a spirit of openness of communication and freedom of expression. They do not necessarily reflect the views of Sruti's Board or its members.

From the Marketing Committee

Following on the very well attended events of 2012, the Sruti Marketing Committee is pleased to have the opportunity to promote and support another season of outstanding programming during 2013.

All the innovations from the previous years are being continued for 2013 including Season sponsorship packages that offer excellent value for patrons. These packages bundle in preferred seating tickets for all events, annual Sruti membership fees and CDs and MP3 Downloads for most events into one low price.

Please encourage your friends and family to take advantage of this special opportunity at <http://www.sruti.org/sruti/srutiMembership.asp> that offers the best value if subscribed early in the year.

We are also keen on expanding Sruti's reach to people who are not aware of Sruti. Please e-Mail srutiphila@gmail.com and copy your friends in the same E-Mail and we can include them in our mailing list. They can also sign up in our website to be included in the mailing list.

Audience contact would be maintained through website, Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, Google+ and E-Mails would continue during 2013. Please link up with Sruti using your favorite Social Media to keep current with the latest events and developments.

Sruti also offers opportunities for businesses to promote themselves to the Sruti audience through our Website and various publications. Please check out http://www.sruti.org/sruti/Sruti_2013_Media_Kit.pdf for further information.

There is also a Music download page making it easy for patrons to browse and buy music by all artistes who have performed in Sruti events in recent years. Please check out <http://www.sruti.org/sruti/inc-newsAmazon.asp>.

Nari Narayanan
On behalf of the Marketing Committee

Awards and Honors 2013

Padma Awards:

The highly prestigious national Padma awards were announced on the eve of the Indian Republic Day. This year there are 108 Padma awardees, including 4 Padma Vibhushan, 24 Padma Bhushan and 80 Padmashrees.

Dr. Kanak Rele best known as an exponent of Mohiniyattam and Dr. Saroja Vaidyanathan renowned choreographer, guru and exponent of Bharatanatyam were conferred the Padma Bhushan and Assamese

Classical Sattriya dance exponent Ghanakanta Bora Borbayan was awarded the PadmaShree.

Dr. Abdul Rashid Khan, an hindustani music vocalist of the Miya Tansen genre was awarded the Padma Bhushan and is the senior most person to be conferred this award.

Taalyogi Pandit Suresh Talwarkar, an accomplished tabla artist, musicologist and guru was awarded the Padma Shree.

Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards:

The Akademi has chosen three artists for the prestigious Sangeet Natak Akademi fellowship and 36 artists from the fields of music, dance, theatre and puppetry for the Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards 2012. These were announced on December 2012.

Grammy Award-winning percussionist T. H. Vinayakram and N. Rajam, violinist have been selected for the Sangeet Natak Akademi fellowships. The honour of Akademi Fellow carries a cash award of Rs. 3 lakh, while Akademi Awards carry Rs. 1 lakh, besides Tamrapatra and Angavastram.

O. S. Thyagarajan for Carnatic vocal music, Mysore M. Nagaraja (violin) and K. V. Prasad (mridangam) are among the artists selected for the Sangeet Natak Akademi for Carnatic music.

Priyadarsini Govind (Bharatanatyam), Vijay Shankar (Kathak), Vazhengada Vijayan (Kathakali), Vedantam Ramalinga Sastry (Kuchipudi), Sharmila Biswas (Odissi), are among the Sangeet Natak Akademi awardees in the field of dance.

Grammy Awards:

Exactly 60 days after his death, sitar legend Pandit Ravi Shankar received the Lifetime Achievement Grammy award early this year which was jointly accepted by his daughters, sitarist Anoushka Shankar and singer-songwriter Norah Jones.

Obituary:

Pandit Ravishankar, legendary sitar maestro passed away on December 11, 2012 in San Diego, California. He was 92. Between the early 1950s and the mid-1960s he became the leading international emissary for Indian music, first performing as a solo artist in the USSR in 1954, in Europe and North America in 1956, and Japan in 1958. He composed his first new raga in 1945 followed by 30 more in a prolific recording career.

Shri M.S.Gopalakrishnan, legendary violinist known for his mastery of both the Carnatic and Hindustani systems of classical music — passed away early on Thursday,

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3rd January, 2013 after a brief illness. He was 82. MSG was among the most sought-after accompanists of his generation, and had a remarkable career, accompanying stalwarts. In his career spanning 75 years, he not only broke new ground as an accompanist, but also rose to become one of the best solo violinists in the country

Dr. Sripada Pinakapani, legendary carnatic musician and medical doctor passed away on March 11, 2013 at his residence in Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh. He was 100. In recognition of his contribution to music, he was awarded the Padmabhushan, Kalaprapoorna, Rabindranath Tagore Ratna, Gana Vidya Varadhi, Sangeetha Nataka Academy Award and many other awards. His disciples include carnatic vocalists Nedunuri Krishnamurthy, Nookala Chinna Satyanarayana, Malladi Suri Babu, Malladi Brothers and many others. He wrote several books on carnatic music and Gaanakalasarvasvamu ran multiple volumes which had every minute detail of krithis.

Sruti Celebrates Sri Thyagaraja Aradhana: Saturday April 6, 2013

- Individual or group participation is restricted to Thyagaraja Compositions only.
- 2013 Sponsors and Life members will be given higher priority than annual members.
- Do not perform any Alapana, Niraval or kalpana swarams. This exception is not applicable to chittai swarams in the composition.
- Sruti will not provide any accompaniments on stage. If you wish, you may bring your own accompaniments. No Solo for accompanists is allowed. No extra time allowed for accompanists to string/prepare their instruments.
- The session (morning or afternoon) in which the participants will perform will be determined by drawing lots. Participants will be notified of their session by email and must be available to perform anytime within their allotted session. Participants must be present when their turn is announced or they will be moved to the end of the session.
- The order of participants will be published ONLY on the day of the event.

We strongly encourage participants to attend the main concert as well as the rest of the day's performances as a courtesy to others.

For any questions, please contact Mrs. Uma Sivakumar at 484-437-6025 .

Vidwan M.S.Gopalakrishnan - An Appreciation

Violinist M.S.Gopalakrishnan passed away on 3rd January 2013. We reproduce extracts from his Sangita Kalanidhi acceptance speech in 1998 as a tribute to him as printed in the pages of the Journal of the Music Academy Madras, 1998, Vol. LXIX.



Intensive practice for more than 10 hours a day, with total dedication, coupled with the blessings of my father, enabled me to perform even when I was eight and accompany my father in his solo concerts. My father was a nada yogin and believed that nada yoga was worship of God. He insisted on my practicing with the Tambura alone to attain svara suddha or purity of

svaras. A mastery over svarasthanas is important while playing and can be described as the ultimate perfection in music.

Every note played with svarasuddha, with total reverence, involvement and stress on the nuances of ragas, tonal shades varying intensity and depth and authentic raga sancharas should be offered as a humble offering at the feet of Goddess Saraswati. Such mental perception and understanding automatically led to immense creativity. Only then bhava sangita, which is the very crux of carnatic music emerges.

The trinity - Tyagaraja, Dikshitar and Syama Sastri and later Svati Tirunal Maharaja and still later other composers enriched the foundation of Karnatic Music by their krtis and outpouring of bhakti. In violin practice, the complete harmony of bowing and fingering techniques can achieve tonal perfection which is nadopasana.

At this juncture, I would like to mention that my father Sri Parur Sundaram Iyer, by constant research on fingering and bowing methods evolved the unique Parur style which is being propagated and popularized by me. The unique feature of this style is its adaptability to play effortlessly in all octaves, playing a varna on a single string and different types of tanam-bowing. All these have been adopted by me to suit both Karnatic and Hindustani styles of music with an attempt aimed at maximum perfection during the past 55 years of service in the field of music.

Even as I look down memory lane, it is a striking fact that one can display remarkable prowess and capacity in a solo performance to bring out his originality. The full vidvat and the power of strenuous practice can be

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displayed and fully exploited only in a solo concert. It is however necessary that accompanying other artistes helps a performer (a violinist) to improve his power of judgement, understanding, his timings and also spontaneously to express himself in a different style of presentation. The accompanist at his best, reflects the mood of the main artiste whom he accompanies.

My father used to say that every accompanist must be 10 times as fast as the main artiste in every presentation. Every concert must be a sincere effort, output of a harmonious team work. Such a concert undoubtedly becomes a great success. Stretching further, listening is yet another method of improving and updating oneself to give his best. Such listening in rapt attention helps to understand and absorb some of the best expressions which had hitherto gone unnoticed. This certainly improves the quality of expression. Experience coupled with practice and Ashirvad of the guru helps one in judging the audience.

It is my personal and sincere wish that every performer must aim for an 'original' contribution to music. It is at this point, one transcends from learning to thinking and contributing. In other words, every performer must aim to create an original style.

A Tribute to Padma Bhushan Dr. Vempati Chinna Satyam

As we pay homage to Dr. Vempati Chinna Satyam (or more respectfully addressed as "Mastergaru" by one and all) and look back at his life's work, we are struck with awe and admiration. His life's story is one for the legends where once again from the throes of abject poverty, a creative and passionate soul rose to the world stage to become an eminent artist. Laden only with the knowledge of a dance form on the brink of extinction he not only revived Kuchipudi but reformed and adapted it to modern times.

Transforming a rustic dance form and have it be accepted by both the mainstream audience and the connoisseurs of the art was no mean task. In an era when all other classical dance forms had solo performance items and Kuchipudi remained primarily a dance drama presentation, Dr. Vempati Chinna Satyam transgressed the lines of tradition and choreographed 180 solo pieces.

Mastergaru also stayed true to the Kuchipudi Yakshagana style and brought dance dramas back into the limelight by choreographing 15 highly acclaimed dance dramas, like Sri Krishna Parijatham, Padmavathi Srinivasa Kalyanam, Menaka Vishwamitra and Chandaliika,. Staying within the confines of the traditionalist's boundaries, he improved the classical form of Kuchipudi. He introduced intricacies and nuances to make his choreographies elegant to watch and challenging to perform. While at the same time his

scintillating and energetic choreographies entertained the audiences far and wide. Thus he won the praise as a brilliant choreographer.

He was instrumental in systematizing Kuchipudi by reintroducing the grammar of hastas, charis and bedas back into the dance form. Through his choreographies and efforts to standardize the dance form, he changed the perception of Kuchipudi from an earthy, folk style to a contemporary classical dance.

"Kuchipudi Art Academy", in Chennai, in 1963 began with 40 students. His classes extended 3 to 4 hours in the morning and 3 hours in the evening and were free for all to learn. Due to the selfless commitment of Mastergaru and the other teachers that taught at his school, countless students including some international students have learnt the art form and continue to do so. Now Kuchipudi has taken a life of its own, people all around the world enjoy, appreciate and find creative ways to express using this dance form.



His creative choreographies, his selflessness in training numerous students and his tireless pursuit to fulfill his life's chosen mission of reviving Kuchipudi won him numerous awards both within India and internationally. Most notably he was the recipient of the prestigious Padma Bhushan, awarded to him by the Government of India in 1998.

Vempatigaru always urged his students to be creative, by composing new steps and choreographing new pieces. In his vision for Kuchipudi, he saw a living, breathing art form being rooted in tradition yet adapting and growing with the times. I spent many a childhood hour in the presence of this great soul, but it is only now as an adult, a teacher and an aspiring choreographer do I truly appreciate his creativity, his passion and dedication. All of us that have learnt from him bear that responsibility to evolve this art form, take it beyond the realms of our four walls and not let it fall back into the hands of obscurity.

With grateful and sincere reverence
Madhavi Vedula Ratnagiri

Madhavi was a student of Dr. Vempati Chinna Satyam, learnt under him since she was 11 years old. She continues the tradition and teaches Kuchipudi to aspiring young students in Wilmington, Delaware.



www.sruti.org

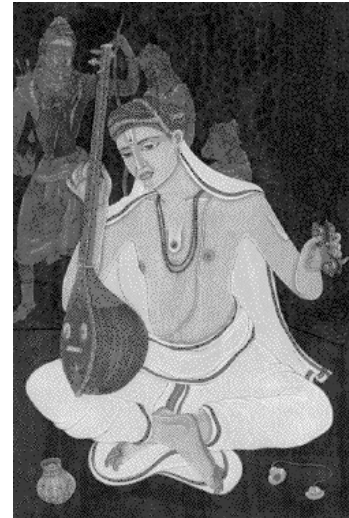
Sruti
The India Music
& Dance Society,
Philadelphia

April 6, 2013

Presents
THYAGARAJA
ARADHANA

at

Hindu Temple of Delaware
760 Yorklyn Dr, Hockessin DE



PROGRAM

8:30 AM	Pooja
8:45 AM	Group rendering of Utsava Sampradaya and Pancharatna kritis
11:10 AM	Individual/Group participation
12:15PM	Lunch (included as a part of entrance donation)
1:00 PM	Individual/Group participation
2:00 PM	Concert of the day Ramakrishnan Murthy - Vocal V.V.S.Murari - Violin K. Arun Prakash - Mridangam
5:00 PM	Individual/Group participation (Continued)
7:00 PM	Dinner (Available for purchase from Temple Kitchen)

A donation of \$10 per person or \$20 per family is appreciated**

**Includes one lunch coupon for individuals and up to four lunch coupons per family.
Additional lunch coupons will be available for purchase (\$5 per coupon)

For more information please visit www.sruti.org or call 267-797-7006 or e-mail srutiphila@gmail.com

Sruti 2013 Sponsorship Passes will be available for sale
Also available for purchase now online at <http://www.sruti.org/sruti/srutiMembership.asp>



Ramakrishnan Murthy started his early vocal Carnatic Music lessons in 1997, at the age of 8, with Shrimathi Padma Kutty of Irvine, CA. He is currently undergoing advanced training from vidwan Delhi Sri P. Sunderrajan. He was also fortunate to learn from senior vidwans Late Vairamangalam Sri Lakshminarayanan, late Chengalpet Sri Ranganathan, and Palai C.K. Ramachandran. Ramakrishnan has also learned several krithis from C.R. Vaidyanathan (student of Sri P.S. Narayanaswami) and Vaikom T.V. Jayachandran (student of T.M. Thyagarajan).

He has been awarded the Outstanding Junior Vocalist award from Music Academy for Season 2011, Spirit of Youth Award for Best Vocalist from the Music Academy 2008, Best Junior Vocalist award from Thyaga Brahma Gana Sabha 2008, Maharajapuram Sri. Viswanathalyer Award for Best Raga Rendering and Musiri Sri Subramanialyer Endowment Award for Best Vocal Artist from Shri Krishna Gana Sabha, 'Sangeetha Shri' title in 2009 from Trichy Rasika Ranjani Sabha and the First Prize in the All India Radio National competition in the Classical Vocal Carnatic category in 2009.

Ramakrishnan, an A-grade artist at the All India Radio and Doordarshan, Chennai, has performed at the Madras Music Academy, Sri Krishna Gana Sabha, Shanmukhananda Sangeeta Sabha, and Bangalore Gayana Samaj, and in many cities in the US. He is a Computer Science graduate of the University of California, Irvine.

V.V.S. Murari, son & disciple of violin Maestro Sri V.V Subrahmanyam started learning the violin from his grandfather Vadakkencheri Sri. Veeraraghava Iyer. His love and interest for the Instrument and Classical Music inspired him to learn ethnic nuances from the Doyen of Carnatic music Semmangudi Sri. Srinivasa Iyer. His gurus have been instrumental in inculcating this divine art form into this prodigy.

He has travelled around the globe extensively being part of various prestigious festivals. Murari's uniqueness is explicit in his lucid raga essaying which softly penetrate into the souls of the listeners. He conceptualizes and executes his style of playing in a way that it stands as a pillar of support for a concert. He is known for his flourished extempore on a 5 Stringed Violin.. He is currently pursuing an Interdisciplinary PhD. (Music & Management) with University of Madras.

K. Arun Prakash is one of the best Mridangam artists. He is a dynamic young Mridangist who hails from a musical family. He is the son of Shri L. Krishnan, a composer. He started learning Mridangam from the age of nine under the late Sri Ramanathapuram M. N. Kandaswamy (disciple of Palani Subramania Pillai). Arun Prakash has performed in all leading music Sabhas and over the years accompanied all leading musicians like D. K. Pattammal, K. V. Narayanaswamy, D. K. Jayaraman, T. N. Seshagopalan and U. Srinivas. Arun Prakash has won many awards and has performed in USA, Canada, Middle East and U.K .



www.sruti.org

Sruti

The India Music
& Dance Society,
Philadelphia

**Saturday
April 27, 2013
4:30 PM**

**Sruti proudly presents a
Grand Carnatic Indian Classical
Vocal concert by
Kunnakudi**

M. BalaMuraliKrishna

Accompanied By

**B.U. Ganesh Prasad on the Violin and
Thanjavur K. Murugaboopathy on the Mridangam**



**Saturday April 27, 2013 at 4:30 PM
West Wike Theater, The Agnes Irwin School,
275 S. Ithan Avenue, Rosemont, PA 19010**

*Admission: \$25 (Non-Members), \$20 (Members),
\$15 (Students/Seniors), \$5 (Children 4 to 18 years old), Free (Children under 4)*

Call 267-797-7006 or E-Mail srutiphila@gmail.com

Details and tickets at www.sruti.org



www.sruti.org

Sruti

The India Music
& Dance Society,
Philadelphia

Saturday
June 1, 2013
4:30 PM
Great Valley High School

Sruti proudly presents a Carnatic Indian
Classical **Mandolin** Duet concert by
U. Shrinivas and U. Rajesh
Accompanied By
Madhirimangalam Swaminathan
on the Mridangam and
Trichy K. Murali
on the Ghatam



Saturday June 1, 2013 at 4:30 PM
Great Valley High School

225 N. Phoenixville Pike, Malvern, PA 19355

Admission: \$25 (Non-Members), \$20 (Members),

\$15 (Students/Seniors), \$5 (Children 4 to 18 years old), Free (Children under 4)

Call 267-797-7006 or E-Mail srutiphila@gmail.com

Tickets at Sruti.Tix.Com

Visit www.sruti.org for more details

Anniversaries

Maharaja Swati Tirunal (1813-1847)

Maharaja Swati Tirunal whose bicentennial falls in April of this year, lived for a short span of 34 years but his versatile contribution to the field of arts is eternal. He was the Raja of Travancore, a great patron of arts and a musicologist par excellence himself.



Swati Tirunal was a prodigy and a prolific composer of innumerable lyrics in many languages like Sanskrit, Hindi, Telugu, Tamil and Manipravalam. His compositions include Krutis, Varnams, Javalis and Tillanas. He evinced great interest in Bharata Natyam, by encouraging famous pioneers of Bharata natyam in his court. His lilting Tillanas are very popular in dance repertoire. He was also a good exponent of Hindusthani music. The universality of his creative interests in arts left a very precious legacy for posterity. He dedicated his works to Lord Padmanabha the presiding deity at Tiruvananthapuram. (from www.sangeetasudha.org).

Natyacharya K. P. Kittappa Pillai (May 5, 1913 – 1999)

Noted Bharathanatyam exponent and musician, Shri K.P. Kittappa Pillai's centenary will be celebrated this year. He was the son of Sangita Kalanidhi Sri K. Ponniah Pillai, a scion of the famous Tanjore Quartet, codifiers of the Bharatanatyam format. K.P. Kittappa Pillai began his career as a vocalist having been trained by his own father Sri Ponniah Pillai and flourished in that sphere for some time. As a direct disciple of his maternal grandfather, the veteran Nattuvanar Pandanallur Meenakshi Sundaram Pillai, Kittappa Pillai established himself as a versatile Nattuvanar during the major part of his career. Among his other noteworthy contributions to the field of Bharatanatyam, are several rare dance compositions of the Quartet set to dance and Marathi compositions of Shahji Maharaja of Thanjavur in Bharatanatyam format.

(advertisement)



Vasanthi and Nagaraj

are pleased to announce the

Mridangam Arangetram

(Classical Indian Percussion Debut Performance)

of their son

Gautam Nagaraj

Disciple of Guru Dr. P. Sivakumar

(Hamsanadam School of Music)



Saturday, June 22nd 2013, 4:30 pm
At Great Valley High School Auditorium
225 N. Phoenixville Pike
Malvern, PA 19355

To attend please email request to gautam.arangetram@gmail.com

From the Resources & Development Committee

The Resources Committee is pleased to announce that Sruti has been awarded a grant by the Pew Center for Arts and Heritage in the amount of \$150,000 for the presentation of renowned dancer, Malavika Sarukkai in Ganga Nitya Vahini - The Eternal River: A Journey in Bharatanatyam and related week long residency activities scheduled for the week of April 6th through April 12th 2014.

We are extremely proud that of the 22 dance applications received by The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage, Sruti was one among only nine grantees awarded for the 2013–14 season.

Ramana Kanumalla
Director of Resources & Development



**Sruti is pleased to co-present
with
Montgomery County
Community College
Nrityagram
(Odissi Dance Ensemble)
On
April 13, 2013**



Calendar of Events Fall 2013*

September 7th

Composers' Day with Main Carnatic Vocal Artiste - Roopa Mahadevan

September 28th

Sitar concert by Ustad Shujaat Khan at *The Annenberg Center, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia PA*

October 26th

Carnatic Vocal Concert by Vijay Siva accompanied by R.K.Shriramkumar on the violin and J.Vaidyanathan on the mridangam

November

Kuchipudi dance ballet Sri Krishna Paarijaatham - A Tribute to Guru Vempati Chinna Satyam
By senior disciples Shoba Natarajan, Sasikala Penumarthi, Kamala Reddy, and Revathi Komanduri

December

Sruti day - General Body meeting, Program (TBD)

* Programs and artists are subject to change. Dates & venues for the Fall events to be announced later



Sruti

The India Music
& Dance Society,
Philadelphia

www.sruti.org

1706 Osprey Drive,
Audubon, PA 19403-1857



Calendar of Events Spring 2013*

April 6th

Thyagaraja Aradhana, 8:30 am at the *Hindu Temple of Delaware*

April 13th

Documentary by Nan Melville: "A Day in the life of Nrityagram", 6:30 pm

"Samhara - A meeting of styles" - Classical Style Odissi dance by Nrityagram, 8:00 pm at the *Science Center Auditorium, Montgomery County Community College, Blue Bell, PA*

April 27th

Carnatic Vocal Concert by Kunnakudi M. Balamurali Krishna accompanied by B.U.Ganesh Prasad on the violin and Tanjore K.Murugaboopathi on the mridangam, 4:30 pm at the *Agnes Irwin school's West-Wike Theater in Rosemont, PA*

May 11th

Carnatic Vocal Concert by the Malladi Brothers accompanied by R.K.Shriramkumar on the violin and Tumkur B.Ravishankar on the mridangam, 4:30 pm at the *Hindu Temple of Delaware*

June 1st

Classical Carnatic Mandolin concert featuring U.Srinivas accompanied by U.Rajesh also on the mandolin and Madiriman-galam Swaminathan on the mridangam and Trichy K. Murali on the ghatam, 4:30 pm at *The Great Valley High School, Malvern, PA*

* Programs and artists are subject to change.