

SRUTI

The India Music and Dance Society

Proudly Presents

LAKSHMI PRABHAVAM

Choreographed by R. Rhadha

Composed by Chitravina N. Ravikiran



Date: Sunday, May 11, 1997 Time: 3:00 PM

**Place: Plymouth-Whitemarsh High School
Plymouth Meeting, Pa.**

Admission - Donors: \$50.00 * (Reserved Seating)

Members : \$15.00

Non-members : \$20.00

Children : \$5.00

For tickets and further information please contact:

Ramana Kannumalla
(610) 277-8955

S. G. Ramanathan
(609) 424-6428

N. V. Raman
(302) 421-9392

Praba Subramaniam
(610) 356-5181

Ponnal Nambi
(610) 647-7235

* Donations may be partially tax deductible. Non-profit Organization tax id# 23-2454367

This concert is supported in part by grants from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, Corestates Bank, Philadelphia Foundation and the Philadelphia Inquirer.

The Composer, Shri Chitravina N. Ravikiran “ If you don’t believe in God, look at Ravikiran” this was the profound statement made by Pandit Ravi Shankar, who was one among thousand Rasikas who saw two year old Ravikiran identifying and demonstrating 325 Ragas (melodic scales) and 175 Talas (rhythmic modes). Grandson and disciple of the illustrious Gotuvadyam Narayana Iyengar, Ravikiran also learnt from his father Sri Narasimhan. By his fifth year Ravi started giving full-fledged vocal recitals and switched over to Chitravina at the age of twelve in 1979, revolutionizing the science and art of playing this rare but beautiful instrument.

Ravikiran has traveled extensively performing an all major music festivals in France, Germany, Switzerland, U.K., U.S.A., Canada, Australia and countries in the far-east. Recipient of numerous awards, Ravikiran has many commercial recordings to his credit, both solo and fusion concerts with stalwarts from other countries. He founded the International Foundation for Carnatic Music and the Musician’s Welfare and Relief Fund.

The Choreographer Smt. R. Rhadha

Rhadha is one of the foremost exponents of the Vazhuvoor tradition of Bharatha Natyam. As the star pupils of the renowned Naatyacharya Vazhuvoor Shri Ramiah Pillai, Rhadha and her illustrious elder sister Kamala, together with Vasanti their younger sister have had the honor of performing at official functions in the presence of world leaders like Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, President Eisenhower, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Queen Elizabeth and Chou-En-Lai.

Through her dance school “Pushpanjali” established in 1980, Rhadha teaches every student individually, in the old classical traditional style. At the same time she also produced numerous dance-dramas, notable among them being “Nowka Charithram”, Bhaavaye Padmanabham” and “Valli Bharatham”.

Shri N. Ravikiran, the Composer, about the Dance Drama

“LAKSHMI PRABHAVAM” is an attempt, probably the first of it’s kind, to portray Goddess Lakshmi, the consort of Lord Vishnu, in her full glory and splendor. Goddess Lakshmi stands for everything that is auspicious, prosperous and cheerful.

The Goddess, also referred to as “Sri”, “Indira”, ‘Padmini” and so forth, has also manifested herself as “Bhu Devi” (Goddess Earth), who stands for solidity and patience and “Neela Devi”, representing grace and aesthetic appeal. Besides, Lakshmi has accompanied Vishnu in Rama and Krishna Avatarams.

The invocatory viruttam where the opening words of the eight lines are the numbers from one to eight respectively, and the Navaragamalika Kriti on Ashtalakshmi, highlighting the various aspects of Lakshmi, set the mood for the succeeding events.

The compositions include a wide variety of musical forms like Kriti, Kirtanam, Varnam, Tillana, Slokam, Bhajan, Viruttam, Ragamalika and at times just metric poetry for special occasions. Around eighty ragas have been used, ranging from Todi, Begada, Ritigowlai, Surutti and Ahiri to Desh, Hamirkalyani, Behag, Sindhu Bhairavi and Kapi. All the nadais and jathis have been covered in prominent Talas.

Directions to Plymouth-Whitemarsh High School

1. From Ben Franklin Bridge take **I-676 West** to **I-76 West** (Schuylkill Expressway West). Follow directions in 3.
2. From Walt Whitman Bridge follow **I-76 West**. Follow directions in 3.
3. From **I-76 (Schuylkill Expwy)** exit onto **I-476 North** (Blue Route North). Follow directions in 5.
4. From Delaware take **I-95 North** to **Exit 7** onto **Blue Route (I-476) North..** Follow directions in 5.
5. Traveling North on **I-476 (Blue Route)** take **exit 8** towards Germantown Pike East. Drive to the traffic light and turn right. Travel about 1 mile to the High School on your left.
6. From **NJ Tpk** take **exit 6** onto **Penna Tpk (I-276 West)** . Follow directions in 7.
7. From **Penna Tpk (I-276)** take **exit 25 (Norristown)**. After the toll booths take the first ramp to the right for Germantown Pike East. Travel about 1 mile to the High School on your left.