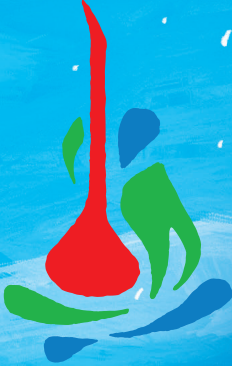




Government of Kerala

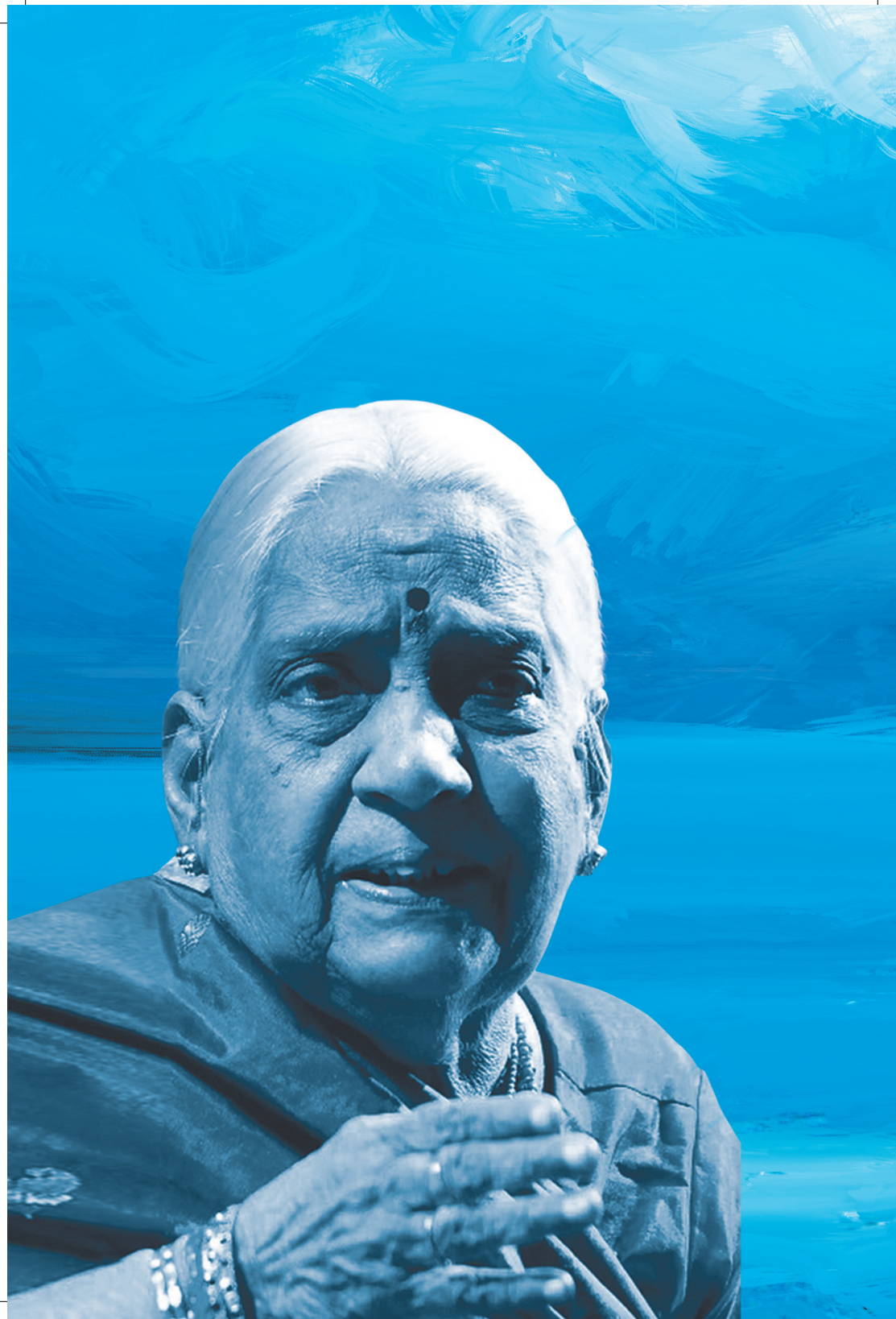


nishagandhi

monsoon ragas music festival

20-24 July, 2019
KANAKAKKUNNU,
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM





NISHAGANDHI
SANGEETHA PURASKARAM 2019

Padma Shree Awardee Parassala B. Ponnammal

Widely acknowledged as the prime disciple of Padma Vibhushan, Sangeetha Kalanidhi, Rajya Seva Niratha, Dr. Semmangudi R. Srinivasa Iyer, Padma Shree Awardee Smt. Parassala B. Ponnammal has made invaluable contributions to the field of classical music, both as an artist and a teacher. She has many noteworthy firsts to her name, including being the first lady professor of music at Sree Swathi Thirunal College of Music and the first lady principal of R.L.V. College of Music & Fine Arts.

An 'A Top' Artist in All India Radio and Doordarshan, she has performed at various prestigious platforms like the Bhairavi Fine Arts, Cleveland and Indian Fine Arts Academy, San Diego. She is the recipient of a plethora of awards at the state and national level, including the Central Sangeet Nataka Akademi Award for Best Musician, Swathi Puraskar from Govt. of Kerala, Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Akademi Fellowship, and Lifetime Achievement Award from Chennai Fine Arts.

At the age of 94, Smt. Ponnammal continues her service, as a guru to the new generation of Carnatic vocalists.





NISHAGANDHI
SANGEETHA PURASKARAM 2019

Padma Bhushan Awardee Sangeetha Kalanidhi Dr. T.V. Gopalakrishnan

Having mentored celebrity music directors like Ilaiyaraaja and A.R. Rahman, Dr. T.V. Gopalakrishnan is a well-known musician and mridangam maestro. Born into a family that has a legacy of producing musicians for over two centuries now, he is the first among them to get a doctorate for his research on 'Layathwam in Carnatic music' at the Tamil Nadu Government Music College, Thiruvaiyaru.

He chose the topic based on his firm belief that people can understand music better if they have command over 'Layathwam'. After a lifetime of performances in Carnatic music, he undertook the PhD at the age of 80, while steadfastly refusing an honorary doctorate from several renowned universities.

He is the recipient of various prestigious awards like the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, Sangita Laya Samrat, and Rotary International Exemplary Citizen Award. Apart from being a vocalist in both Carnatic and Hindustani styles, he reigns supreme as a percussionist par excellence. He has created a new dimension in all areas of mridangam as a performing art – accompaniment, solos, ensembles, and compositions for dance, theatre, and films.



PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

Date	Time	Artiste/Troupe	Programme
20/7/19 Saturday	6.15 PM	Inaugural Ceremony	
	6.45 PM	Unnikrishna Pakkanar & Group	Bamboo Symphony
	7.30 PM	Sangeet Samrat Chitravina N. Ravikiran & Celebrated Artists of Planet Symphony Ensemble	Grand Chitravina Concert
21/7/19 Sunday	6.30 PM	Sree Swathi Thirunal Govt. College of Music, Thiruvananthapuram	Musical Ensemble
	7.30 PM	Ghazal Maestro Jaswinder Singh	Ghazals
22/7/19 Monday	6.30 PM	Krishnaa Ajith	Violin Concert
	7.30 PM	Vidushi S. Sowmya	Carnatic Vocal Concert
23/7/19 Tuesday	6.30 PM	Anantha Sai A.S.	Carnatic Vocal Concert
	7.30 PM	Pandit Vishwa Mohan Bhatt & Tantree Samrat Pandit Salil Bhatt	Mohan Veena & Satvik Veena Duet Concert
24/7/19 Wednesday	6.00 PM	Closing Ceremony & Presentation of 'Nishagandhi Sangeetha Puraskaram 2019'	
	6.30 PM	Rajesh Cherthala & Group	Flute Fusion Music
	8.00 PM	'Shiva' - The Musical Thunder	Classical Fusion Band





BAMBOO SYMPHONY

Unnikrishna Pakkanar & Group

Mulapaadum Raavu (Bamboo Symphony) is an innovation of Indian folklore fusion and the only one of its kind, using nearly 50 musical instruments made from bamboo and wood, promoting the conservation of forests and the environment. Unnikrishna Pakkanar is the founder director of 'The Creator - Folklore and Contemporary Concepts'.

The team has performed at the World Bamboo Congress in Nagaland, Earth Hour at Thiruvananthapuram, and Bamboo Fests in Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. The Forest Department has recognised this unique brand of music, which reproduces the sounds of nature – rain, waves, waterfalls, cave echoes, and birds, emphasising the relationship of humans with nature.

20.07.19 (Saturday), 6.45 PM





GRAND CHITRAVINA CONCERT

Sangeet Samrat Chitravina N. Ravikiran & Celebrated Artists of Planet Symphony Ensemble

Hailed as the 'Mozart of Indian Music' (Wisconsin State Journal & Belgium Television), the music prodigy Chitravina N. Ravikiran made his debut at the age of two, presented vocal concerts from the age of 5 and chitravina concerts from the age of 11. He has performed across the world and in 2016 made history by setting to music the entire 1330 Tirukkural verses of Tamil poet Tiruvalluvar in a span of 16 hours.

Known for his award-winning concept Melharmony, Ravikiran has mentored a substantial number of performers, and composed over 800 pieces, including operas based on Ramayana and Mahabharata. Founder of the Planet Symphony Orchestra and creator of its Global Music Production, 'Climatrix Symphony - Planet Anthem' for environmental action, Ravikiran is the youngest to win the President of India's Sangeet Natak Akademi Senior Award, Kalaimamani from the Tamil Nadu Govt., Kumar Gandharva Samman from the Madhya Pradesh Govt., and A-top from All India Radio.

20.07.19 (Saturday), 7.30 PM



SRI SWATHITHIRUNAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC

AD 1939

MUSICAL ENSEMBLE

Sree Swathi Thirunal Govt. College of Music, Thiruvananthapuram

The college was started in 1939 as a music academy by Maharaja Sree Chithira Thirunal, the last ruler of Travancore, in honour of Sree Swathi Thirunal's contribution to Carnatic Music. Over the years, the college has seen a list of illustrious alumni, and many doyens of Carnatic music have been members of the faculty, like Harikesanallur Muthiah Bhagavathar & Semmangudi R. Srinivasa Iyer.

The academy was upgraded to a College of Music in 1962 and it now has around 230 students learning music. They have been regular participants in the music competitions conducted by All India Radio, and some of them have won prestigious national awards. In 1999, the college was affiliated to the University of Kerala, and Degree and PG courses were started.

The list of illustrious alumni of the college includes Parassala B. Ponnammal, Cherthala Gopalan Nair, Paravoor K. Radhamani, T.P. Radhamani, S. Rathnakaran, Veena Venkitaraman, M.G. Radhakrishnan, Thiruvizha Jayashankar, Kaviyoor Revamma, Neyyattinkara Vasudevan, P.R. Kumara Kerala Varma, Dr. K.J. Yesudas, Palkulangara Ambika Devi, Dr. K. Omanakutty, G. Sethulakshmi, and Venkitaramanan Potti.

21.07.19 (Sunday), 6.30 PM



GHAZALS

Ghazal Maestro Jaswinder Singh

One of the most sensational Ghazal singers of this generation, Jaswinder Singh was awarded the 'Young Maestro' title by the legend Pt. Hariprasad Chaurasia and the Indian Music Academy in the presence of late President Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam. Born to legendary music director Kuldip Singh, Jaswinder primarily learnt music under the aegis of his father and obtained training in classical vocals from Dr. Sushila Pohankar.

Jaswinder was the winner of the Sa-Re-Ga-Ma mega finals in the year 2000. His unique style of performance has mesmerised audiences around the world, from the US to Australia, South Africa to the UAE. His popular albums include 'Jazba-e-Dil', 'Yours Truly', 'Dilkash', and 'Ishq Nahin Aasaan'. Jaswinder Singh's new release 'Eternal' won the AAMA award for the Best Album of the Year 2018.

21.07.19 (Sunday), 7.30 PM



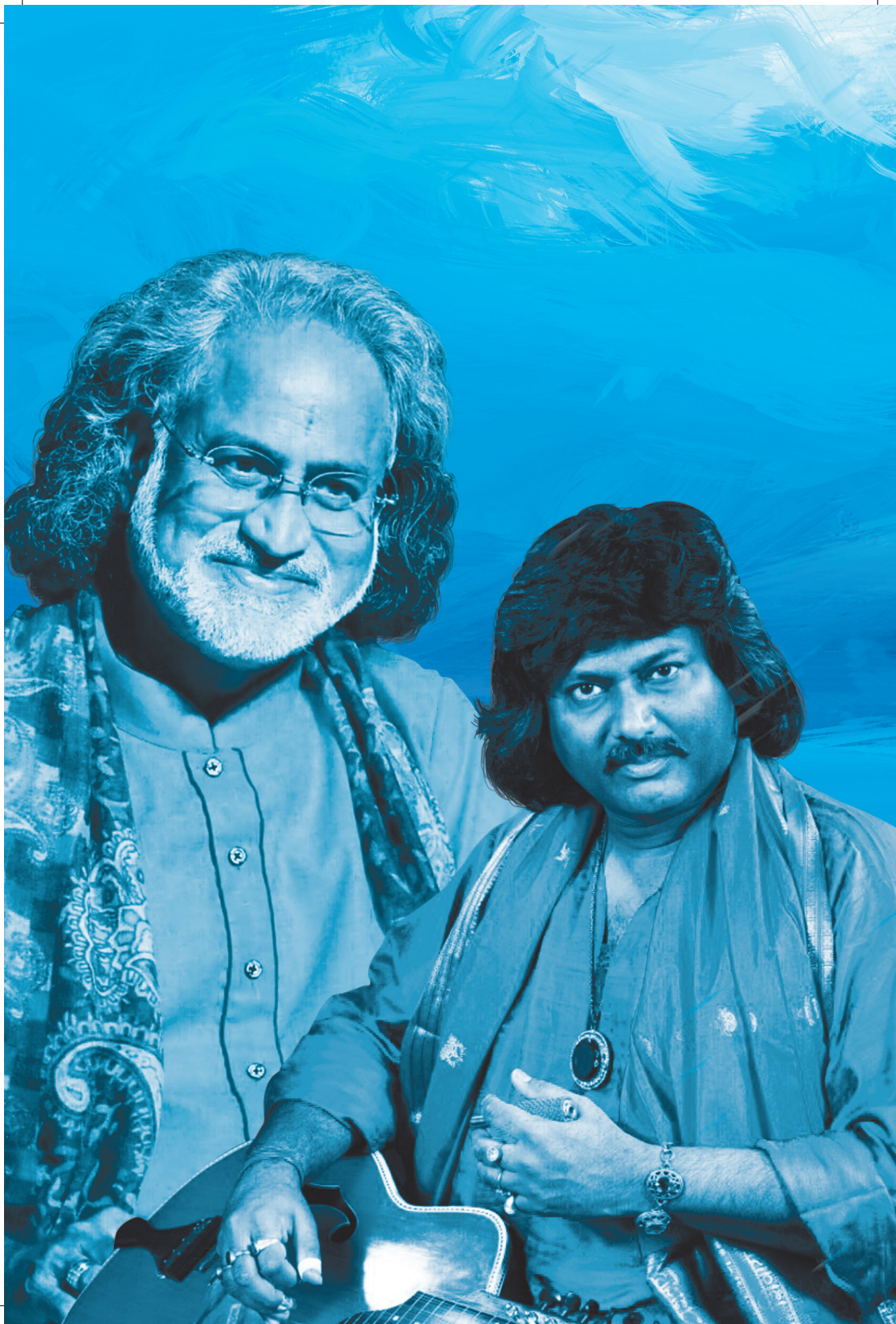
CARNATIC VOCAL CONCERT

Vidushi S. Sowmya

One of the world's leading exponents of Carnatic music, Dr. Sowmya is reputed for her unique classical style and repertoire comprising some of the rarest works of the Carnatic Trinity. A promoter of the Saraswati Veena, she is also known for her research in enhancing the tonal stability of the Mridangam. She is a passionate promoter and practitioner of 'Tamizh Isai' – the ancient classical and folk music tradition of Tamil Nadu.

She has learnt music under the tutelage of Sangita Kalanidhi Dr. S. Ramanathan and Vidushi T. Muktha (of the legendary Brinda-Muktha duo). While being an accomplished musician, Dr. Sowmya has also pursued academic excellence, earning a PhD from the University of Madras for research combining music and science. She has a host of titles and prestigious awards to her name, including the Sangeetha Rathnakara (Cleveland Thyagaraja Festival), Sangeetha Choodamani (Sri Krishna Gana Sabha), and Rasika Kala Ratna (Rasikapriya, Sydney, Australia).

22.07.19 (Monday), 7.30 PM



MOHAN VEENA & SATVIK VEENA DUET CONCERT

Grammy Award Winner & Padma Bhushan Awardee Pandit Vishwa Mohan Bhatt

A genius in the field of music, Pt. Vishwa Mohan Bhatt has drawn international attention with his Indianisation of the western Hawaiian guitar through the perfect assimilation of Sitar, Sarod and Veena techniques. The Mohan Veena he created features a never-before-seen design with 14 additional strings. The instrument facilitates his natural ability to play the 'Tantrakari Ang' and incorporate the 'Gayaki Ang', a remarkable feature of his baaj (style). Having performed in 80 countries, he has become a cultural ambassador for India, popularising its music across the world. His World Music Album 'A meeting by the river' along with Ry Cooder won him the Grammy Award in 1994. A brilliant improviser and soulful composer, he continues to enthral audiences everywhere.

Tantree Samrat Pandit Salil Bhatt

Son and disciple of Grammy Award winner Pt. Vishwa Mohan Bhatt, Pt. Salil Bhatt represents the dynamic face of the new-age Indian musician. Creator of the Satvik Veena, he has a large fan base in 40 countries and is the first Indian musician to get a Canadian Grammy nomination. He has many other firsts to his name, including being the first ever to perform inside the Parliament of Germany, and the first Indian musician to be invited by the Taiwanese Government for artist residency. Conferred the title of Tantree Samrat, he has won many accolades and awards such as the Mahant Bihari Das National Music Award, Rashtriya Sangeet Gaurav Samman, and the International Achievers Award.

23.07.19 (Tuesday), 7.30 PM





FLUTE FUSION MUSIC

Rajesh Cherthala & Group

Rajesh Cherthala is one of the top ranking Indian flutists of South Indian music and an outstanding Western music instrumentalist. Born in Cherthala, in the district of Alappuzha, he learnt the nuances of playing the flute from the late Sri. Sunbright Master and the Hindustani Maestro Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia. His initial recording in Ernakulam was conducted by the renowned classical violinist Sri. Thiruvizha Ullas.

An accomplished flute player, he has played for over 300 films, with more than 1000 songs and several awards to his credit. He is a versatile artist, skilled in playing various wind instruments like the Indian Flute, Western Flute, Saxophone, Wind MIDI Controller, Duduk, Recorder, Melodica, Clarinet, and Penny Whistle.

24.07.19 (Wednesday), 6.30 PM



CLASSICAL FUSION BAND

‘Shiva’ – The Musical Thunder

A fusion performance with Ustad Rafique Khan (Sitar), Sameer Rao (Flute), Bennet Roland (Guitar), Thanuj (Percussion), Rajendra Nakod (Tabla) and Josy John (Bass Guitar).

Ustad Rafique Khan: a sixth-generation Khandani Sitarist belonging to the Dharwad Gharana, his unique approach to traditional classical music has garnered the appreciation of music lovers worldwide. A top ranking artiste of All India Radio, he won the prestigious ‘Sur Mani Award’ from Sur Singar Samsad, Mumbai, at the young age of 23.

Sameer Rao: his passion for music saw him pursue playing the flute from the tender age of 11. A disciple of Padma Vibhushan Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia, he received training in the various aspects of Indian classical music and the nuances of playing the flute. A Grade ‘A’ artist of All India Radio, he has won over audiences in India and abroad, and is the recipient of awards such as ‘Surmani’, ‘Nadakishore’, and ‘Yuvapratibha’.

Bennet Roland: hailing from a family of western classical musicians, he is a virtuoso guitarist/music director and a seasoned performer in India, Europe, Middle-East and Far East countries. He is well-known for collaborations such as the rock band ‘Dreadlocks’ and the fusion project ‘Bennet and the Band’. He has directed music for four Malayalam movies.

24.07.19 (Wednesday), 8.00 PM

‘Shiva’ – The Musical Thunder

Thanuj: a leading rhythm programmer in the Malayalam and Tamil film industry, he has played with renowned Indian playback singers such as Dr. K.J. Yesudas, S.P. Balasubramaniam, Hariharan, and Shankar Mahadevan. Thanuj has travelled across the world, performing in grand venues like the Royal Albert Hall (London) and the Opera House (Sydney).

Rajendra Nakod: a Grade ‘A’ artist of the All India Radio, he formalised his training in tabla by securing top rank in the exams conducted by Karnatak Sangeet Nritya Academy. He has performed in the US, UK, Sweden, Denmark, Canada, Singapore and Gulf countries. Rajendra has been recognised with awards and titles such as ‘Bhakti Tala Sudan’ by the Kuwait organisation, ‘Tala Marthanda’ and ‘Sangeetha Shree’.

Josy John: one among the best bass guitarists in the country, he has performed in India and abroad with greats such as Padmasree Kadri Gopalnath, Padmasree Mattannoor Sankarankutty, Padma Bhushan Umayalpuram K. Sivaraman, Rajesh Vaidya and Sivamani. He is currently a leading recording artist for the Malayalam, Tamil, Kannada and Telugu film industries.

24.07.19 (Wednesday), 8.00 PM



VIOLIN CONCERT

Krishnaa Ajith

Born to Sri. Edappally Ajith Kumar and Smt. Suja Chandran, Kum. Krishnaa Ajith began learning Carnatic music under the tutelage of her father from the age of 12. The next couple of years saw her receiving multiple prizes in both violin and vocals, emerging a state-level winner at the CBSE school competitions.

She performed along with her father on the prestigious Nadaneerajanam programme telecast by Sri Venkateswara Bhakthi Channel. Krishnaa was also featured on the fifth edition of Violin Vaibhavam organised by Lalgudi Trust, Chennai. She has given performances abroad as well, at the Priyadarshini Cultural Centre, Dubai and Manirang Foundation, Abu Dhabi.



22.07.19 (Monday), 6.30 PM

CARNATIC VOCAL CONCERT

Anantha Sai A.S.

Born to Sri. G. Ajith Kumar and G.S. Sri Lekha, Anantha Sai A.S. found his passion for Carnatic music at the tender age of 5. Starting as a pupil of Sri. Ramachandran (disciple of Sri. Ratnakaran Bhagavathar), he was later under the tutelage of Sri. Ratnakaran Bhagavathar himself, and has been learning from Sri. Perumbavoor G. Raveendranath for many years now.

Bestowed the prestigious 'Kalaprathibha' award at school level during 2006-07, he went on to win the first prize at various classical music competitions including the Thyagaraja Aradhanotsavam, AIR classical music competition, Sri Avittam Thirunal Grandhasala music competition, and Augustine Joseph Memorial Award. His journey is all the more remarkable considering that he completed his degree and post-graduation (taxation) while conducting multiple concerts from the age of 18.



23.07.19 (Tuesday), 6.30 PM



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