



nishagandhi  
monsoon music festival

15-19 July, 2018  
KANAKAKUNNU  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

# SOAK IN THE MONSOON SYMPHONIES



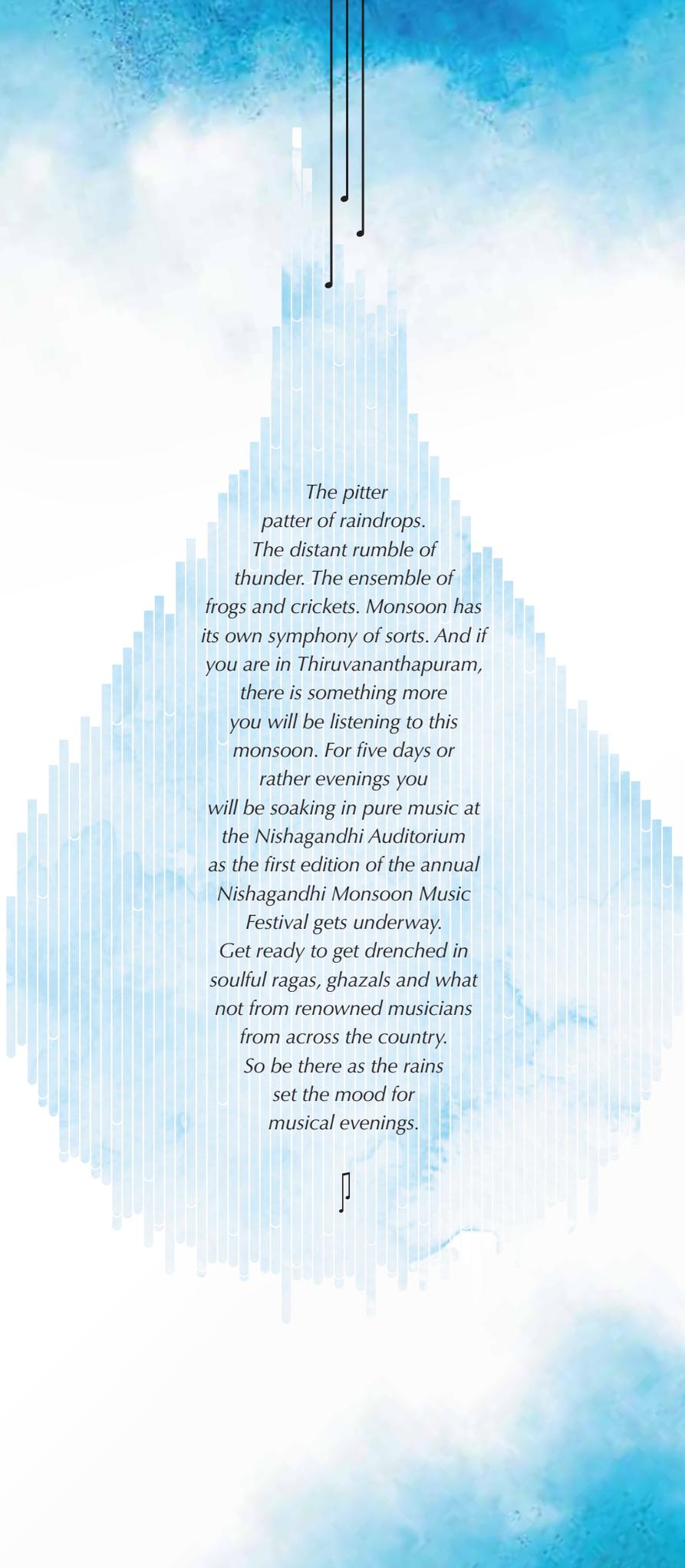
NISHAGANDHI MONSOON MUSIC FESTIVAL

15/7/18  
SUNDAY

Venue: Nishagandhi Auditorium

Inauguration: Shri. Justice (Rtd.) P Sathasivam  
Hon. Governor of Kerala

Date		Artiste/Troupe	Programme
15/7/18 Sunday	6.15 pm	Inauguration	
	6.45 pm	<b>Super Kids Band</b> Steven Samuel - Drums Lydian Nadhaswaram - Piano & Keyboard Amirtha Varshini - Flute	Drums-Piano-Flute Ensemble
16/7/18 Monday	7.30 pm	Bombay Jayashri	Carnatic Vocal
	6.30 pm	Sooraj Lal V	Carnatic Vocal
17/7/18 Tuesday	7.30 pm	M S Lavanya	Carnatic Saxophone
	6.30 pm	Arjun B Krishna	Carnatic Vocal
18/7/18 Wednesday	7.30 pm	Rimpa Siva - Tabla Mrittunjoy Mukherjee - Flute	Tabla-Flute Concert
	6.30 pm	Vinayak V Gopal	Carnatic Nadaswaram
19/7/18 Thursday	7.30 pm	<b>Moods of the Bamboo</b> B V Balasai - Bamboo, Susato & Western Key Flutes B V Raghavendra Rao - Electric Violin B Sivaramakrishna Rao - Sitar Anoop Nair - Keyboards K Sai Giridhar - Mridangam Venkatesh D C - Tabla & Percussions	Classical Fusion Music
	6.30 pm	Kerala Kalamandalam Alumni	Mizhavu Melam
	7.30 pm	Hariharan	Ghazal



*The pitter  
patter of raindrops.  
The distant rumble of  
thunder. The ensemble of  
frogs and crickets. Monsoon has  
its own symphony of sorts. And if  
you are in Thiruvananthapuram,  
there is something more  
you will be listening to this  
monsoon. For five days or  
rather evenings you  
will be soaking in pure music at  
the Nishagandhi Auditorium  
as the first edition of the annual  
Nishagandhi Monsoon Music  
Festival gets underway.  
Get ready to get drenched in  
soulful ragas, ghazals and what  
not from renowned musicians  
from across the country.  
So be there as the rains  
set the mood for  
musical evenings.*



Steven  
Samuel  
Drums



Steven, is one of the youngest students in the world to complete the Grade-8 drums exam from the Trinity College of London with a record distinction. The nephew of the world famous pianist Stephen Devassy, Steven has been selected by the renowned cymbal company Zildjian as the youngest endorsee for a 'Zildjian' product in the world.



# The Superkids Band

Drums-Piano-Flute

Ensemble

15 JULY

SUNDAY

6.45 pm

# Lydian Nadhaswaram

Piano & Keyboard



At the tender age of nine, Lydian started performing complex piano pieces of western classical music by composers such as Beethoven, Mozart, Chopin, Liszt, and Rimsky-Korsakov, blindfolded. Recognised by TEDxGateway as the youngest piano prodigy in India, Lydian has also performed for TED Talks internationally. Lydian was honoured as the world's best child pianist by America's most popular television channels like NBCU, BBC, CBS, ABC and TELEFE. He has also won the youngest virtuoso award at the Manhattan International Piano Competition.



# Amirtha Varshini

Flute



A versatile musician and singer, Amirtha Varshini started piano at the age of two, and has also been playing the flute for the past three years. She is also an accomplished vocalist, and sings a variety of songs from classical opera to Tamil film songs and folk songs. Amirtha Varshini has passed the Grade - 5 Examination of the Associated Board of the Royal School of Music (ABRSM) in both vocal and flute with distinction.



15 JULY .....  
SUNDAY .....  
7.30 pm



# Bombay Jayashri

Carnatic Vocal

Born into a family steeped in music, Bombay Jayashri, practised Carnatic music and imbibed the nuances of melody under the tutelage of T R Balamani and Lalgudi Jayaraman. She also trained in Hindustani music under Mahavir Jaipurvale and Ajay Pohankar. This award winning vocalist, composer and teacher of music has performed at festivals and concerts in over 35 countries. She experiments and collaborates with different genres and various forms, flitting between World music and movie soundtracks. Jayashri's belief in the power of music motivated her to explore the therapeutic value of music and start Hitham, a foundation which works to share music with autistic children.



16 JULY .....  
MONDAY .....  
7.30 pm



# M S Lavanya

Carnatic Saxophone

Concert

What sets M S Lavanya apart is her choice of instrument and talent. She is the only accomplished female saxophonist in India today. Her musical journey began at the age of six with vocal and violin training. At the age of 15, she began to learn saxophone from the Indian saxophone maestro, Padmashree Dr. Kadri Gopalnath. The rest they say is history and she has rightfully earned herself the name - 'Saxophone Lavanya'. Her musical repertoire ranges from Carnatic and Hindustani Fusion, Western and Jazz. She has performed in over 10,000 venues, both national and international. Her list of accolades include 'Padmabharathi' award, 'Yuvakala Bharathi' award and holds the 'Limca Book of Records' for being the only woman saxophonist in India.



# Rimpa Siva

Tabla



As a woman tabla artiste in a male dominated field, Rimpa has made a mark. She belongs to the Farukhabad Gharana and delights in playing Kaida, Peshkar and Gat. Rimpa was hooked on to tabla at the age of three. She gave a stage performance when she was just eight and has performed in music festivals and concerts all over the world. A French documentary aptly titled 'Rimpa Siva, Princess of Tabla' has succinctly documented her passion and accomplishments. She is also part of an all-woman band called 'Nari Shakti' that encourages women musicians to come forward.



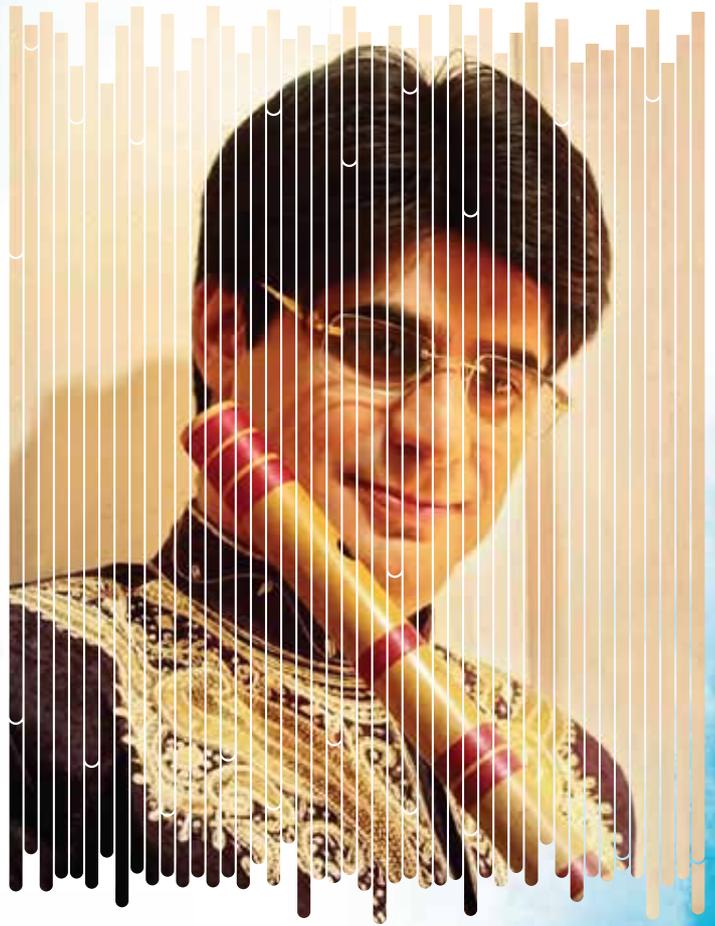
17 JULY  
TUESDAY  
7.30 pm

# Mrittunjoy Mukherjee

Flute

Tabla-Flute

Concert



A great exponent of Indian wood wind instruments, Mrittunjoy ranks as one of the most distinguished musicians in the country. In his hands, the humble Indian flute comes to life with the divine music of Lord Krishna. Thanks to his nimble fingers and incredible breath control mastered over years of training under legendary gurus like Prof. Deboprasad Banerjee, Shyamal Chatterjee and Pandit Hari Prasad Chaurasia. He imparts an ethereal dimension to the bansuri and elevates it from its humble pastoral background.



## B V Balasai

Bamboo,  
Susato &  
Western  
Key Flutes



B V Balasai is an accomplished, well known and immensely popular flautist in the music industry with a remarkable modern outlook. As a music composer he has composed and directed many international dance ballets like Alchemyth, La Bayadere, The Quest, Andal Thiruppavai, Navarasa and Jewels. Balasai has won several accolades from various sabhas and organisations all over the country.



## B Sivaramakrishna Rao

Sitar

Sivaramakrishna is known as an intellectual, sensitive and artistic sitar maestro and was awarded 'Child Prodigy of the Year' in 1990. He has performed in numerous music festivals all over the world.



## B V Raghavendra Rao

Electric Violin

Raghavendra Rao is an accomplished and one of the most popular violinists in the Carnatic music genre today. His mastery of the Violin as well as his creativity is reflected in the melodious and mellifluous music that has helped him win several prizes and awards from various sabhas and organisations all over the country.

18 JULY

WEDNESDAY

7.30 pm

# Moods of the Bamboo

Classical

Fusion Music

K Sai Giridhar  
Mridangam



Sai Giridhar is an 'A' grade artist of All India Radio for Mridangam and is a disciple of the legendary Guru M L N Raju and Parupalli S Phalgun. He has travelled extensively within India and abroad and has performed at prestigious venues and famed theatres alongside legendary artists.

Anoop Nair  
Keyboards



Anoop Nair is a pianist, music producer, arranger and sound engineer who is accredited in music theory in piano and electronic keyboard by Trinity College of Music and Royal College London. He has worked with Kailash Kher, Shankar Mahadevan, Atif Aslam, Sivamani and Ranjit Barrot to mention a few and has arranged music for over 200 movies as a music producer in Bollywood, Telugu, Tamil, Kannada and Malayalam.

Venkatesh D C  
Tabla & Percussions



Venkatesh D C popularly known as Venky D C is a renowned tabla player, music composer, arranger, multi-instrumentalist, singer-songwriter and music educator based in Bangalore. He can effortlessly handle multi-percussions. He has performed as a multi-percussionist, singer, arranger and live orchestra conductor alongside delivering masterclasses extensively in United States of America, Switzerland, France and Italy.

19 JULY

THURSSDAY

7.30 pm



# Hariharan

Ghazal



Often referred to as the Ghazal King, Hariharan's aptitude for music was quite apparent during his childhood. Although his mother introduced him to Carnatic music, he later on developed an interest in Hindustani music. He trained under Ustad Ghulam Mustafa Khan and mastered the art of singing ghazals. He came into the limelight when he won the All India Sur Singaar Competition in 1977. This saw a slew of Bollywood offers knocking at his door. His debut song for the movie "Gaman" was a runaway hit and thrust Hariharan into the spotlight. But he didn't stray away from Ghazal music. He released several popular Ghazal albums including 'Ghazal Ka Mausam', 'Abshaar-E-Ghazal', 'Gulfam' and so on. During this period he still managed to dabble in playback singing and churned out hits with A R Rahman. Some of their hit songs like 'Tu Hi Re' from Bombay, 'Roja Jaaneman' from Roja, 'Baahon ki Darmiyaan' from Khamoshi are popular even today. Hariharan's iconic work with Leslie Lewis for the fusion band Colonial Cousins also led to many hit songs. He has been a part of many tours and concerts in India and abroad and sings in several languages besides Hindi like Tamil, Malayalam, Telugu and Bhojpuri. Hariharan was honoured with the Padma Shri in the year 2004.





# Sooraj Lal V

Carnatic Vocal

16 JULY

MONDAY

6.30 pm

Sooraj has been mastering Carnatic music for more than 14 years. He started taking baby steps under the watchful eyes of K P A C Ravi and later moved on to Prof. Ponkunnam Ramachandran, Prof. Dr. K N Renganatha Sharma and Prof. Dr. S Suresh Kumar. A child prodigy, Sooraj has won prizes in Carnatic music competitions at CBSE school festivals and was the first prize winner of Carnatic music competition in Madurai Kamaraj University (2017-2018).



17 JULY

TUESDAY

6.30 pm

# Arjun B Krishna

Carnatic Vocal

Arjun has been giving Carnatic music concerts professionally for the past 17 years. Even at the early age of three, Arjun had the unique ability to sing the swaras (notations) of any type of music. He was initiated into the world of Carnatic music by his father. He is now studying Carnatic music under the guidance of Prof. P R Kumara Kerala Varma and Perumbavoor G Ravindranath. He has been active on the concert scene both inside and outside Kerala, and has performed for almost all TV channels. He has also sung for movies like 'Anandabhairavi', 'Oruvan' and 'Arabiponnu'. His musical prowess has won him several accolades, the notable ones being 'B' high grade artist (Carnatic music vocal), AIR, Trivandrum, Film Critics Award 2007, 'Ragaratnam' title at the Carnatic music reality show by Amritha TV and Mukesh Foundation of India Award.





# Vinayak V Gopal

Carnatic Nadaswaram

18 JULY

WEDNESDAY

6.30 pm

Vinayak or Kottarakara Vinayak as he is popularly known was born into a nadaswara family. Both his dad Punaloor Gopal and grandfather Ambalappuzha Madhava Panicker were renowned nadaswara players. Vinayak started his nadaswara journey at the age of five under the tutelage of Vettikavala K N Sasikumar. He honed his skills under the legendary Shengalpettah Muthukrishnan and Thirupuramkuntram Velmurugan. Vinayak rose to fame by consistently topping the state level high school and higher secondary school festivals. He also represented Kerala University at national level competitions and won consistently for three years in a row. Vinayak has performed in most of the major temples throughout India and also features in Akashavani Trivandrum's 'Illam Nira' programme.



19 JULY

THURSDAY

6.30 pm

# Kerala Kalamandalam Alumni

Mizhavu Melam

Mizhavu is the main percussion instrument of the ancient art forms of Kerala - Koodiyattam, Chakiyarkoothu and Nangiyarkoothu. This instrument, is made of copper and is shaped like a large pot. The mouth of the pot is covered tightly with a hide and played. Melam is the name for an orchestral genre associated with rituals or festivals in temples. Increasing speed and decreasing rhythm units make Melam a lilting affair.





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