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celebrating
27 years
of
glorious service
to Indian Classical
performing
arts...

Raga Maala

Saturday, May 2nd 2015
9:30 am - 8:30 pm

Sri Venkateswara Swami Balaji Temple,
Aurora IL USA

Sri Annamacharya Project of North America SAPNA
&
India Classical Music Society ICMS

Raga Maala

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from Visawanadha family Shrine



Dedication

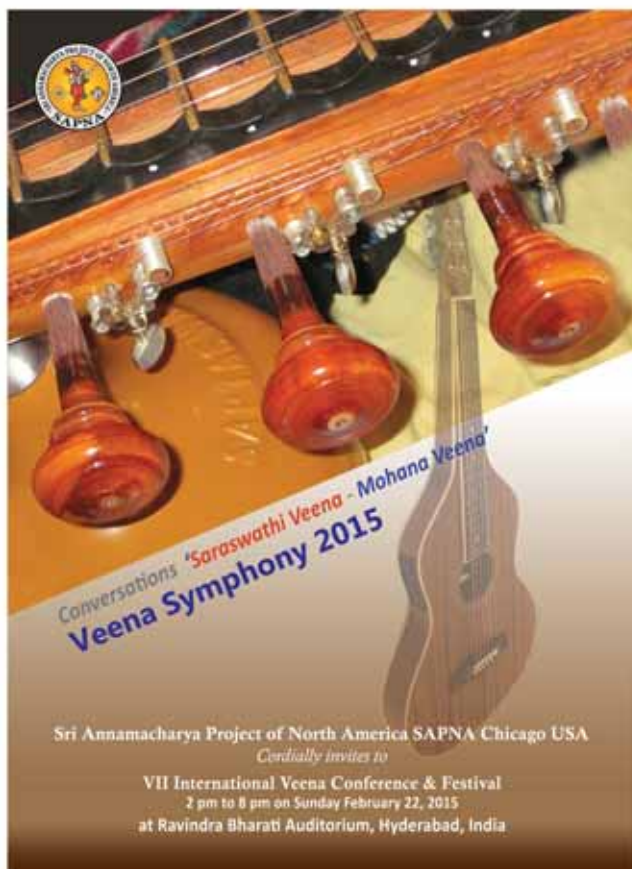
Legendary Brahmasri Dr. Susarla Gopala Sastry
Senior most Director & Member at Large - SAPNA



Fondly Remembering 'Akka' 'Guru' Ramavarapu Vijaya Lakshmi

My respects to celebrated, revered Veena Vidushi , Sadguru Ramavarapu Vijaya Lakshmi who introduced me to Veena. Guru Ramavarapu Vijaya Lakshmi (1938-2015), passionate exponent of Veena with rich repertoire passed away on February 22nd 2015. I remember her as most committed, unconditional, giving intense artist who believed that Art is greater than Artist. A majestic lady with great command on Veena and Carnatic Music gave inspiration to many. SAPNA had the privilege of Guru Vijayalakshmi witness 2015 Veena Symphony, 'Guruvandanam' prentation By Dr. Ramavarapu Madhuri, Dr. Ravindra Tejasvi and students of Ramavarapu Vijayalakshmi at Ravindra Bharathi Hyderabad.

*...with love and Humility
...Sarada Purna*



VII International Veena Festival held on Sunday Feb 22, 2015
Ravindra Bharati Auditorium Hyderabad India from 2 pm to 8 pm

Student Showcase

Guru Ramavarapu Vijayalakshmi Academy of Music, Vizag
Founder : Guru Smt. Vijayalakshmi Ramavarapu, Artistic Director:
Dr. Madhuridevi Ramavarapu

'Sri Foundation', 'Veda Mataram' & 'Viswanadha Shobhanadri
Charitable Trust'

"Sri Kala Purna", "Bharateeya Pratibha Puraskaram"
Title presentations and Felicitations to

Padmasri Dr. Shobharaju - Music, *Veena Vidushi* Dr. Emani
Kalyani - Veena

Sahitee Sudheemani Dr. Saradapurna Sonty - Literature

Featuring our Artiste of the Evening Grammy Award Winner
Pandit Vishwa Mohan Bhatt on Mohana Veena

Saturday, May 2nd 2015, 9:30 am - 8:30 pm at Sri Venkateswara Swami Balaji Temple, Aurora IL USA

7th Veena Conference Raga Maala presents... Kalaimamani Dr. Suma Sudhindra
Conversations on Veena & Mridangam by Arthi - Athrey Nadhan & Guhan - Vignesh Venkataraman,
Srikala Purna Pariti Rajeswari - Veena Sampradayam, Show cases



Sri Annamacharya Project of North America SAPNA

Est 1989 - Regd 1993

Celebrating 27 years of Service to Performing Art Traditions



Deepa prajvalanam	SAPNA , ICMS, Hello NRI	
Vedic Chanting	'Anandavalli' Ananda Erramilli	9:30am
Introductions	Dr. Sarada Purna Sonty & Sri Ramana Murthi Yedavalli, Convener : Dr. Sarada Purna, Program Coordinator : Lavanya Chandrasekhar, Emcees: Malini Adiraju, Padmaja Budhavarapu, Monica Kashyap Erramilli,	
Anu Ganti	Suddha Dhanyasi	9:45am
Bhavya Raj Behata	Kharahara Priya	9:50am
Raja Veena School show case Group I		10:20am
Vinod Menon	Raga : Khamas	10:45am
Satvik Gurupalli	Raga Mohana	11:15am
'Vishishta Veena Sampradaya parampara' – three Generations in USA - 'Srikala Purna'		11:45am
Rajeswari Pariti, Ravi Pariti, Nitya Pariti, Divya Pariti Vijayanagaram Ayyagari Sampradayam 'Raga Mala'		
'Raga Kalyani' Pallavi Gana School Show case Guru Dr. Jai Shree Prasad		12:50pm
Raja Veena - Group II Pariti School		1:20pm
'Raaga Conversations of Strings & Percussions'		1:30 – 3:00pm
Arthi - Athrey Nadhan (IL) & Vignesh & Guhan Venkataraman (CA)		
'The Goodness with in' an exploratory attempt of self awareness through Raga-s		3:00pm
Ensemble of Ragas School showcase - Guru Saraswathi Ranganathan		
Grand Concert by Kalaimamani Dr. Suma Sudheendra		4:00 - 6:00 pm
Mrs. Sai Prasanna		6:10 pm
RAMA School show case Guru Veena Pani Rama Gurupalli		6:40pm
Raja Veena Pariti Group II		7:10pm
Panel Discussion		7:40 pm
Dinner		8:30 pm

Registration - \$ 25, Event Admission, Concert admission - \$ 20 per person

**For information – www.sapna25.com, www.annamacharya.net, saradasonty@gmail.com,
ssonty@msn.com, clavanya@gmail.com # 1 708 957 4302**



We appreciate your patronage





Bringing Veena home..... Veena Symphony 2015

Dear Art connoisseurs and friends

Behalf of SAPNA, Sriram and I, Sarada Purna are here with humility and gratitude, dedicating this VII Veena Conference and Festival 'Raga Maala' in the memory of Brahmasri Dr. Susarla Gopala Sastry, who dedicated his life to develop 'Kala Bharathi' – Visakha Music and Dance Academy, sue the seed creating SAPNA in Chicago USA back in the years of 70s.

SAPNA is a result of an idea conceived and pursued for many years with the vision of creating a strong edifice for South Indian classical performing arts in US Europe, India

and other parts of the world. . The theme and effort of SAPNA is a dynamic blend of this vision intertwined with the philosophies of great Maestros of South Indian Classical Music 'Padma Vibhushan' Dr. Mangalampalli Balamurali Krishna, Padmabhushan Dr. L. Subramaniam, 'Sangita Kalanidhi' Dr. Sripada Pinakapani, 'Sangita Kalanidhi' Sri Nedunuri Krishna Murthy, 'Maha Mahopaadhyaya' Sri Nookala China Satyanarayana, Padma Bhushan Guru Vempati, Brahmasri Dr. Susarla Gopala Sastry. These maestros have helped germinate and blossom our vision into concrete achievements throughout the past 25 years. This has resulted in strong roots and a stronger drive to pave the future for our timeless South Indian classical performing arts – especially the Veena.

SAPNA has been conducting International Veena festivals in Chicago USA for the past six years now with the best of Veena artists like Emani Sankara Shastri, Chitti Babu, – having graced the stage of SAPNA, to more contemporary senior artistes and young highly talented Veena sadhakas taking center stage.

Veena Festival 2014 was especially historic with Veena Naadam resonating across Chicago, USA, Canada, Europe and beyond for 24 hours, themed 'Ekaaham' 'Sounds of Infinity'. The event was webcast live across the globe and received rave reviews from The Hindu to The Chicago Tribune! SAPNA has been instrumental in inspiring and motivating several organizations in India and abroad to follow a similar pattern of Veena festival conducted periodically to raise the revive the popularity of this ancient instrument.

SAPNA would like to share this success of tradition and contemporary approach to Veena by bringing it home! A 'homecoming' to the 'queen' of instruments, the national instrument of India 'VEENA'! What better honor can it be to present Veena Symphony 2015 in the very State and City where the idea for SAPNA was germinated- The beautiful shores of Coastal city Vizag of Andhra Pradesh . The contemporary classical Hyderabad! The States of Andhra and Telangana that have been home to Veena Virtuosos and Veena Artisans! SAPNA believes in the concept of universality of cultures – a concept that Annamacharya started, and we strive to this day - to continually unite people of diverse cultures.

We would therefore like to propose conducting the VII Veena Festival at Ravindra Bharathi Hyderabad in February 2015. Andhra (now Andhra/Telangana) has an illustrious history of being patrons of Indian classical art and culture. SAPNA would love to partner with your Government to present the glory of this pristine art form of Veena in a grand classic fashion "VEENA SYMPHONY 2015", featuring artistes from Andhra, Chennai, Kerala and US.

SAPNA considers it an honor and blessing to have the support of the Government in our continuing endeavor to nurture, embellish and bestow a new face and grace to the ancient timeless instrument – VEENA. This is hopefully the beginning of a longstanding relationship on the possibility of several inter-continental cultural endeavors including encouraging Bobbili, Nujwid, Vijayanagaram, Veena artisans.

We wish that the Season brings you boundless joy flowing incessantly like divine music from the Veena. We have planned exciting Veena programs and group discussions including inviting the best Veena artistes from India / USA and a unique grand Veena symphony. We are proud to say that the South Indian instrument Veena has seen new light, with constant endeavor to keep the strings of Veena from becoming an antique archived museum display. It is our passion to keep this deep and sparkling Veena sound alive. To this end, we have been organizing Veena festivals for the past 6 years inviting artistes from Chicago land area and from around the globe, presenting performances, workshops, panel discussions and displaying the grandeur of a Veena orchestra.

2015 Veena Symphony SAPNA had the opportunity to present conversations of Padma Sree Grammy Awardee Pandit Vishva Mohan Bhatt on Mohana Veena along with Saraswathi Veena.

This is the seventh year running; SAPNA would like to invite you all for the Day II of VII th Veena Conference and festival. We cordially invite Dr. Suma Sudhindra of Karnataka, Vignesh & Guhan Venkataraman of California and Vainika-s of Greater Chicago land area . We would like to thank one and all for their support, special thanks to Ms. Saraswathi Ranganathan, Mr. Mahesh Viswanadha for their commitment and untiring efforts during 2015 Veena Music series.

Sincerely

Sriram & Sarada Purna Sonty
Founders SAPNA





India Classical Music Society

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

2025 Collett Lane, Floosmoor, IL 60422

www.lcmschicago.org

Message from ICMS

India Classical Music Society is delighted and honored to join SAPNA in organizing the 2015 Veena Festival and Conference. Established in 2009, this year the Festival is celebrating its seventh anniversary. This unique festival – the first of its kind in North America – has become a staple for the Indian classical music presentations. The festival has been graced by internationally famous artists, and it has provided platform to a large number of veena students for their recitals.

This year, the festival has crossed the national boundaries. SAPNA organized the Day I of this festival in Hyderabad, India with stellar internationally famed artists. The Day II is being celebrated in the Chicago area with international artists, acclaimed Chicago artists, student artists, veena school show cases, and a panel discussion. The mission of ICMS is to promote the Indian classical music and to pass this ancient art-form to the future generation. Over the years, these festivals have witnessed some of the student artists matured into established musicians, who have performed at prominent venues in USA and India. The veena festival takes pride in being part of the success of these students. This festival today will again be a proud moment for SAPNA and ICMS.

Having a veena festival in Chicago is a fitting tribute to a large number of internationally renowned artists residing in Chicago. Not only these artists perform all over the world, they are passing the prestigious art of playing veena to hundreds of students. ICMS is honored to have these artists and students on its stage.

On behalf of the ICMS Board, I would like to extend my gratitude to SAPNA organizers, the eminent artists, students, and attendees.

Sincerely

Shelly Kumar, President, ICMS



Mission

India Classical Music Society (ICMS) was founded in 1983 as a not-for-profit organization. The primary mission of ICMS is to preserve the great art form of Indian classical music and classical dances, and to pass this ancient Indian heritage to the future generations. High standards are maintained, whether the concerts are conducted by internationally recognized or local Illinois artists. In order to increase exposure and attract a diverse audience, ICMS schedules performances in various concert halls around the city, and arranges some presentations jointly with other organizations. ICMS participates in the outreach community program to expose a diverse population to the Indian classical music and dance. Some of these concerts have no admission fee. ICMS periodically recognizes local professional Indian classical musicians and dancers by sponsoring their concerts.

Hundreds of internationally renowned artists have graced the stage of ICMS. Just to name a few, these artists include Ustad Ali Akbar Khan, Dr. L. Subramaniam, Ustad Zakir Hussain, Pt. Jasraj, Shashank, Pt. Ram Narayan, Pt. Hari Prasad Chaurasia, U. Srinivas, Kadri Gopalnath, Pt. Uhas Kashalkar, Ustad Rashid Khan, Sh. Kushal Das, Smt. Sudha Raghunathan, Pt. V. G. Jog, and Madurai Seshagopalan.

ICMS Board: Shelly Kumar (President), Sushil Rege (Treasurer), Anil Trivedi (Secretary), and Pankaj Shah (Concert Logistic)

Raja Veena School of Music

Guru : 'Sampradaya'

Rajeswari Pariti

Ravi Pariti
Nitya Pariti
Divya Pariti
Gowri Dharani
Vijji Raghavendran
Shailaja Chitturi
Shobhana Shanmugavelayudham
Roshini Balantrapu
Ritvik Balantrapu
Shreya Pattisapu
Bhavana Dronamraju
Anika Ayyalaraju

Group I

Sri Keerthi Panchagnula
Lalitha Panchagnula
Sridevi Kesavarapu
Aparna Ayyalaraju
Jayashree Lakshmanan

Group II

Aparna Tata
Prakash Tata
Santosh Tata
Jaya shree Srinivasan

RAMA – Rama Advanced Music Academy

Guru : Veena Pani

Rama Gurupalli

Sai Prasanna Ravichandran
Satvik Gurupalli
Anupama Palakodeti
Lavanya Chandrasekhar
Kavitha Chekuri
Kanali Ghosale
Vishali Rajesh
Kayal Lavari
Sankirtana Ravichandran
Pooja Ponneboina
Sumana Koduri

'Veena Mrudanga Vinyasam'

Arthi Nadhan
Athrey Nadhan
Guhan Venkataraman
Vighnesh Venkataraman
Neela Devi Amravadi Solo
Bhavya Raj Behatha Solo
Vinod Menon Solo
Anu Ganti Solo

Ensemble of Ragas

Guru : *Veena Vaadana Vani*

Saraswathi Ranganathan

Theme ' **The Goodness within** ' an exploratory attempt of self awareness through Ragas and compositions

Shylaja Chodavarapu
Anuttama Ramani
Saraswathi Suryanarayana
Mehar Malapaka
Varshini Veeramani
Latha Alwar
Vidya Maruvada
Ram Ranganathan
Neeha Kaakuturu
Nitya Mahesh
Rhea Thomas
Rhea Makkuni
Ramya Vijay
Deepa Shankar
Shrushti Prakash
Shravya Prakash
Shreya Dharmar
Sujatha Ramakumar
Sahana Prakash
Sadhana Vellaiswamy
Amulya Malapaka
Suchitra Prakash
Katyayani Ranganathan

Pallavi School of Music

Guru : Dr. Jaishree Prasad

Preethi Prasad
Krishna Ranjani Prasad
Vignesh Pandikaran
Indira Vemuri
Amara Jammalamadaka
Nithya Arun
Nethra Senthilkumar
Vanditha Kottapalli
Ranjani Chandrasekar
Sumedha Rao
Laasya Manikonda
Diya Rajan
Roshni Arun
Yuvan Senthilkumar
Arvind Takanavaram
Veena Rajaram
Bhargav Yedavalli
Sowbhagya Rao
Vinod Menon
Hema Sankaran
Aparna Sanagavarapu
Hiranmayee Kundeti
Shreyah Prasad
Sanjana Rajesh
Raghav Chandrasekar
Sidharth Narayanan
Vivaan Kottapalli
Anvi Nagwekar
Abhinav Bhashyam
Roshan Nallavettill
Pranav Prasad
Samahith Seetharam
Vibha Rajaram
Arjun



Vishwa Mohan Bhatt, Creator of the MOHAN VEENA and the winner of the Grammy Award Winner, Pandit Vishwa Mohan Bhatt is here with SAPNA to mesmerize the music enthusiasts of today's India. Pandit Vishwa Mohan Bhatt is the foremost disciple of Pandit Ravi Shankar who attracted an International audience by his Successful Indianization of western Hawaiian Guitar with the newly redesigned instrument Panditji revolutionized Classical Music to unbelievable heights with his spell binding speed and Faultless Lagato. Panditji has become the cultural ambassador of India glorifying and popularizing Indian culture and music throughout the world. The world music album 'A meeting by the river' has won and conquered every audience, made him an unparalleled performer, improviser and soulful composer. Panditji made many experiments with new ideas shedding light on the serenity of Indian Music with a universal approach. We SAPNA, are honoured to have Pandit Vishva Mohan Bhatt at VII Veena Conference and festival.

Dr. Suma Sudhindra is the foremost exponent of the Veena in her generation of musicians. A very rare blend of the classical conservatism with a belief in evolving to the present, her range of work has extended from the scholarly to performances of immaculate skill and creative contours. A vivacious blend of artistic instincts, adroit techniques and admirable commitment is evident in all respects of her work. An activist on the cultural front she is fiercely propagating the cause of music in the roles of performer, administrator, scholar and teacher. Keen on making a global presence Suma's works of experimentation have been applauded all over the world and this vibrant exponent of the Emani Chitti Babu style is making the sound of the Veena a phenomenon of universal appeal. Her recent contribution to the music world is her own new innovation. 'The Tarangini Veena' which has made a tremendous impact in the music circles. She received "Rajyotsava Award" from Karnataka Government in the year 2001. Recipient of "Veene Sheshanna National Award" in the year 2012 from Swaramurthy V N Rao Memorial Trust. It is her determination to not only be an adept and successful performer but to be part of the movement in the cause of music and that's what gave her the impetus to take up official positions in various organizations. She is a member of the Central Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi., Director – Outreach, Indian Music Experience Museum, Bangalore & a member of Academy Of Music, Chowdaiah Memorial Hall, Bangalore.



Dr. Suma Sudhindra produced a 75 Veena ensemble, a first of its kind program in the country very successfully on 24th April 2013. She is one of the acclaimed Veena artists of the country today. Trained under Veena Maestros Raja Rao and Chitti Babu she has blended in to her music the classical conservatism at the dynamic spirit of innovations. Suma has contrived to bring within the borders of tradition, all her feelings and knowledge with a touch of creative instinct. Her perfect sense of Shruti together with her amazing speed and mystery over the instrument have endeared to all her audience. Her panorama of achievements reveals her intense devotion and dedication as a Vainika. Performing extensively to the music lovers of the country, she has performed at prestigious institutions such as music Academy, the Indian Fine Arts Society, Shanmukananda Fine Arts and the NCPA at Bombay. The Vishnu Dighambara Jayanthi Samaroh and the I.T.C Festival at New Delhi, The National Music Festival at Bijapur in Karnataka. The Central Sangeetha Natak Academy Festival at Aurangabad, Maharashtra. Her music has taken her beyond the country's borders to the foreign lands of America, Singapore, Malaysia and England. She has traveled coast to coast in the U.S.A several times and the Mayor of Baltimore conferred on her an honorary citizenship after listening to her vibrant performance.

She has released many Cassettes and CDs for various companies like 'Sangeetha, Magnasound, BMG Crescendo, Lahari, Shilgey and HMV. Her organization Tarangini Arts Foundation organizes cultural festivals every year to promote the cause of Indian Classical Music, Apart from imparting lessons in Veena and Classical music. On the academic front, Suma Keenly participates in seminars across the country reaching out to the community, is a Doctorate holder for her thesis on string instruments and has taught P.G. Classes at the Department of Dance, Drama and Music in Bangalore University and taught students at Universities abroad. A tireless amount of energy and dedication find Suma entrenched today deeply within her various roles of a classical soloist, a contemporary composer, cultural activist, administrator, teacher, organizer and performer, where she integrates these roles for the faith of music in her journey of artistic explorations.

Awards and Titles... Vainika Kalabhushani from Thyagaraja Ganasabha, The distinguished citizen award from Rotary Club. Rajyotsava Award from the KARNATAKA Government in November 2001. alaimamani from Tamil Nadu Government. anakalabhushana from Karnataka Gana Kala Parishat in October 2014.



Kalaimamani Vidushi Revathy Krishna, Kumar Gandharva Awardee, Veena Vidushi Revathy Krishna hails from the disciple lineage of Composer Saint Thyagaraja. She is the grand daughter of Thillaisthanam Rama

Iyengar. Revathy received initial training in vocals from Therali Ramaswamy Iyengar of Madurai. Received her Veena Training from Sundaram Iyer continued under Sarada Sivanandam and KP Sivanandam. She has many audio video recordings to her credit.

Mridanga Chakravarthy Bangalore V

Praveen : Son and disciple of Late Sri ML Veera Bhadraiah received advanced guidance from Palghat Mani Iyer. He gained popularity at the age of seven with his accompaniment to Late Sri Chembai Vaidyanatha Bhagavatar.



Kal ke Kalakar Himanshu Mahant is promising versatile Tabla artist from Baroda, representing Fifth Generation of Music Mahant Family. Himanshu received his percussion training from pandit Krishna Maharaj. Received many prestigious awards and accompanied internationally reputed musicians.

Ravindra Tejasvi a talented accomplished and dedicated artist, has been Performing on percussion instrument for the past 2 decades. He hails from famous Ramavarapu family of musicians making a mark in the field of music. He trained under Nemani Somayajulu, Vankayala Ramana and Patri Satish. He obtained his Doctoral degree in Theatre Arts. Ravindra performed for many prestigious sabha's and travelled extensively accompanying on Mrudangam, Ghatam & Kanjeera.



Emani Kalyani Lakshmi Narayana, 'Veena Paani', Vidwanmani Emani Kalyani is the daughter and disciple of Legendary Veena maestro Maha mahopadya Padmasri Dr Emani Shankara Satry, kalyani is successfully following Emani Veena Sampradaya. She travelled India Europe and USA,

accompanied her father and guru on Second Veena and received appreciation from stalwarts of music field. Today during Seventh Veena Conference and festival, Kalyani is being honoured with Prestigious 'Sri Kalapurna' Title and felicitations from SRI Foundation, Chicago, USA.

Dr. Ramavarapu Madhuri

Devi, Hailing from family of Artists and Scholars Madhuri inherited an excellent talent in Veena playing from her mother, Guru, renowned Veena Artist and Teacher Ramavarapu Vijaya Lakshmi. Under the tutelage of Maha mahopadhyaya Veena virtuoso Dr Emani Sankara Sastry, and 'Srikala Purna' Dr. C Chitti Babu Madhuri attained mastery over the instrument. Marked by her lifting melody and rhythmic grace Madhuri received applause from one and all and honoured with many titles, latest being 'Kachchapi Gana Durandhara' from Chennai Musicians.



Jaya Bhaskar - Mridangam



Student Showcase
Ramavarapu Vijayalakshmi School of Carnatic
Veena and Vocal



Saraswathi Ranganathan is a versatile Veena artiste with a dynamic track record of individual and collaborative performances, workshops, as well as teaching assignments at prestigious venues across the US and India. Saraswathi passionately believes in her goal of bringing people together in one platform through the eternal fragrance and perennial freshness of artistic unique music that cuts across all barriers of race, religion, culture, and color. Saraswathi endeavors for refreshingly soft music aesthetics that can be intimately experienced in the rapturous dimensions of the listeners' hearts – with an aim to create a joyous and harmonious space in this cosmos. Saraswathi has been conferred the titles 'Veena Paani Saraswathi' and 'Veena Vaadana Vishaarada' for her knowledgeable and engaging Veena performances. Saraswathi obtained her initial training from her mother Shantha, grandmother Sulochana Mahadevan, and advanced guidance from E P Alamelu from Bangalore. Saraswathi is the first Veena artiste to be featured in the off-Broadway show 'The Jungle Book' musical produced in part by Walt Disney and directed by the celebrated genius Mary Zimmerman. Saraswathi leads a band 'Surabhi', a multicultural group with Carnatic, Flamenco, Mediterranean and folk music sounds. She is the founder and Artistic Director of Ensemble of Ragas School of Performing Arts in Schaumburg IL teaching Vocal and Veena. Saraswathi's latest album 'The Magic of Veena – Vol 2' with internationally acclaimed Mridangam artiste Patri Satish Kumar is available on iTunes/amazon/cdbaby. Saraswathi holds a Masters in Sanskrit and an MBA from Loyola University Chicago. For more information visit www.ensembleofragas.org



Kalyani Lakshminarayana

Vidushi, 'Veena Paani', Vidwanmani Smt Emani Kalyani Lakshminarayana hails from the family of noted Vainikas from Andhra Pradesh in India. She has learnt the intricate techniques of playing Veena from her illustrious father Mahamahopadhyaya Padmashri (Late) Sri. Emani Shankara Sastry. She is the only Veena player of our times who is carrying forward the Emani legacy.

She accompanied her father & Guru Maestro Emani Shankara Sastry on the second veena and earned appreciation from stalwarts in the Carnatic Music Industry at a very young age of 13. She was the first young Artiste to perform for Yuva Vani, All India Radio New Delhi when it was inaugurated in 1969.

Smt Kalyani has been playing a number of prestigious concerts in all major Sangeet Sabhas all over India and Abroad.

Smt Kalyani has been a Member of the Selection Committee for selection of Music lecturers and readers for Banaras Hindu University. Smt Kalyani has been an examiner for Graduate and Post Graduate courses in Delhi University, Rabindra Bharati, Kolkata and Potti Sreeramulu Telugu University, Hyderabad. She has been the judge of prestigious music programmes on Maa Tv, Etv, Saptagiri and other popular AP television channels. She has been interviewed by several television channels like Etv, Maat Tv, NTV, Studio N on several occasions.



Rajeswari Pariti

Mrs. Rajeswari Pariti is a renowned Carnatic music artist, originally from Andhra Pradesh, India. She learnt music from her father, Late Sri Ayyagari Someswara Rao. Mrs. Pariti hails from a musical family and gave her first performance at the tender age of eight. Her raagam-taanam-pallavi (elaborate expanse of a Carnatic Raga in various rhythms) and her lilting music in mano dharma padhdhati (extempore elaboration) are exceptional treats to the listeners' ears. She is a professional musician and an "A grade artist" of All India Radio (AIR), Hyderabad. She has been honored with the title "Sri Kala Purna" by Society of Annamacharya Project of North America (SAPNA). She is a dual Masters degree holder in Carnatic Music and Sociology. She was a faculty member at Telugu University, Hyderabad. Mrs. Pariti has given numerous performances in India as well as in the USA. For the past 14 years, she has been teaching, performing and promoting Carnatic Music in Chicago area. Mrs. Pariti is the founder and artistic director of Rajaveena School of Music Foundation, an accredited nonprofit organization to promote Carnatic music in Chicago area.

Sri Annamacharya Project of North America (SAPNA) conferred the title "Sri Kala Purna" to Mrs. Pariti. She also received awards and recognition from Telugu Association of North America (TANA) and Emani Sankara Sastry award from American Telugu Association (ATA).

SriNitya Pariti, from Chicago, USA, started learning the art of Carnatic Vocal music and Classical Veena since a very young age of 4, from her grandmother and Guru Smt. Rajeswari Pariti, an accomplished A grade Veena artist . Nitya is the fourth generation performer in this music family. Nitya has performed extensively and presented solo featured Veena Concerts in various music festivals across USA and India including SAPNA, Marghazi utsavam, Sayanotsavam by Sri Balaji Temple and Ekanta Seva by HTGC to name a few. In addition to music Nitya is also an advanced performer in the Indian classical dance form of Bharatanatyam and will be performing her arangetram in the near future. A recent high school grad from IMSA, Nitya is currently pursuing a major in Chemical Engineering at the University of IL, Urbana, Champagne.



Divya SaiSita Pariti, from Chicago, USA, started learning the art of Carnatic Vocal music and Classical Veena since a very young age, from her grandmother and Guru Smt. Rajeswari Pariti, an accomplished A grade artist from Andhra Pradesh, currently residing in USA. Divya is the fourth generation performer in this music family. Divya has performed solo featured vocal concerts in various music festivals including music festivals conducted by Sri Annamacharya Project of North America. She has won awards in music competitions held by organizations in USA. Currently a freshman in Neuqua Valley High School, in Naperville, IL, Divya is also part of chamber singers, an auditioned western classical music group, at the high school. In addition to music Divya is also undergoing training in the classical dance form of Kuchipudi and has given numerous performances.

Bhavya Raj Behata is a Veena Artist Resident of Naperville Illinois, had her training from Guru Hariharanadh Behata.



Sathvik Gurupalli is an upcoming artist in Carnatic Veena and Vocal. Sathvik is learning Carnatic music under the tutelage of his mother and renowned Veena and Vocal artist and music teacher, Rama Gurupalli. Sathvik started learning Carnatic music at an early age and performed in many organizations including SAPNA, Chicago Tyagaraja Utsavam, Chinmaya Mission, Kala Utsav (India Independence day program organized by Consul General of India) etc. Sathvik gave both solo performances and group performances. Sathvik also participated and won in many competitions including Cleveland music festival, Chicago Tyagaraja Utsavam (CTU), SAPNA, etc. Sathvik is currently a Freshmen in Stevenson High school in Illinois, USA.



Sri Ravi Pariti, from Chicago, IL, started learning the art of Classical Veena at a very young age from his mother and Guru Smt. Rajeswari Pariti, an accomplished A grade Veena artist. Mrs. Pariti learned Veena from her father, *Vainika Ratna* late Sri Ayyagaari Someswara Rao in Vijayanagara sampradayam. Ravi has performed extensively in various music festivals across USA including annual Veena conferences held in Chicago by SAPNA for the last few years.. He is a graded artist from All India Radio, Hyderabad and has given extensive performances in All India Radio and Doordarshan, Hyderabad. He has given several concerts in the Chicago music and Veena festivals hosted by prestigious music organizations including SAPNA. Ravi is a senior IT professional working for McDonald's Corporation in Oakbrook.



Arthi Nadhan, 16 years old, is a student of Chitravina N Ravi Kiran. She started learning Veenai in Chicago from Smt. Sheila Venugopal and then continued under the tutelage of Smt. Vasanthi Iyer. She was regularly going to Chennai in the summer to advance her training in Veenai from the esteemed Vainika, the late Smt. Karphagham Swaminathan and continued her training under Smt. Jayalaksmi Sekhar. Arthi has played in all the Annual Veena Conferences held in Chicago the last few years and has played in multiple group performances in various Music Sabhas in India including Thiruvaiyaru. In addition to performing in Veena Venu concerts at the Cleveland Tyagaraja Aradhana and the Balaji Temple, Arthi has also given solo concerts in Chicago, Springfield, Milwaukee, Pittsburgh, and Madison. Arthi won the Special Prize in the 2013 Cleveland Aradhana Concert Competition. Arthi regularly practices what she has been taught taking advice from her brother, Athrey Nadhan on the rhythmic aspects. As a sophomore, Arthi is part of the Neuqua Valley High School Choir in Naperville.



Athrey Nadhan, from Chicago, IL started learning the art of playing the Mridangam at the age of five and is currently undergoing advanced training from the esteemed professional, Srimushnam Sri V. Raja Rao in Chennai, India. Athrey has accompanied several leading musicians including Flute T.S. Shankaran, Flute R. Tyagarajan, Seetha Rajan, Trichy Ramesh, K. Gayathri, Shankaran Namboodhri, B.U. Ganesh Prasad, Vidya Kalyanaraman and Bharat Sundar among many others. Athrey has provided Mridangam accompaniment in all the Veena Conferences held in Chicago and has also performed in several concerts across the United States as well as in various Music Sabhas in Chennai, Trichy and Thiruvaiyaru during the Music Season in December. Athrey also learns Carnatic vocal music from Ganesh Prasad and is a freshman at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Dr. Prasod Ramachandran, a doctor of Optometry by profession, a committed musician by passion hails from the family that brought legends like Sri Palghat Ramabhadgavatar, and Sri Mundaya Venkata Krishna Bhagavatar. Dr. Prasod received his Violin training from Sri TS Balu of Calicut, advanced training from 'Srikala Purna' Violin Maestro VV Subramaniam and Sri BV Ganesh Prasad. Dr. Prasod has accompanied many great musicians of India on Violin for the past three decades in and around Chicago land area.



Guhan Venkataraman is a budding veena artist of the Karaikudi parampara. He started learning veena from his mother, Lakshmi Venkataraman, and is now learning from Kalaimamani



Smt. Ranganayaki Rajagopalan, a direct disciple of the legendary Karaikudi Sri Sambasiva Iyer. Guhan has given many concerts under the auspices of organizations all over the US and in India. He has won

numerous prizes at the Cleveland Thyagaraja Aradhana festival and was selected to perform in the Madras Music Academy's Spirit of Youth concert series in 2013. Guhan also learns vocal music from violinist Sri R.K. Shriramkumar. He is currently a sophomore majoring in bioengineering at Stanford University.



Vignesh Venkataraman, a senior at Stanford University, is a mridangam artist hailing from Umayalpuram Sri K. Sivaraman's school of music. Vignesh was initiated into playing mridangam by Sri Anand Iyer, also from the same school. Over a period of 5 years, Vignesh traveled to India every summer to undergo advanced training under the tutelage of Umayalpuram Sri K. Sivaraman. Vignesh has accompanied various artists, including many senior musicians, in numerous concerts in all over the US and in India. He won the Best Mridangist award at the Spirit of Youth festival held by the Madras Music Academy in 2013. Vignesh is also learning vocal Carnatic music from Smt. Meena Kothandaraman, a disciple of Sri M.S. Anantharaman, and more recently from violinist Sri R.K. Shriramkumar.

"Sri Kala Purna", "Bharateeya Pratibha Puraskaram" Title presentations and Felicitations to

Padmasri **Dr. Shobharaju** - Music, *Veena Vidushi* **Dr. Emani Kalyani** - Veena &
Sahitee Sudheemani **Dr. Saradapurna Sonty** - Literature

VII International Veena Festival to be held on Sunday Feb 22, 2015

***Padmasri* Dr. Shobha Raju** is a Musician, Singer, writer and a composer, well known as an exponent of 'Sankeertana' of Annamacharya. She was awarded the highest Civilian recognition award of Government of India 'Padma Sri' in 2010. Dr. Shobha is the founder of 'Annamacharya Bhavana Vahini' in 1983. With land contribution from Government of Andhra Pradesh, created an auditorium - Temple for Annamacharya. She received her Music training under the tutelage of Sangeeta Kalanidhi Sri Nedunuri Krishna Murthy, and Mrs. Rajyalakshmi. She played a pivotal role in getting the Postal Dept of Govt. of India to release the postage stamp of Annamacharya. She is the author of many Literary works. Shobha was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from P.S. Telugu University & "Asthana Vidushi" by the Dwaraka Tirumala Devasthanam, India. She has been a member on the advisory panel of regional ICCR; and serving many years as Advisor, Annamacharya Project, TTD. Today Sri Foundation is honouring multifaceted personality Dr. Shobha Raju.



***Sahitee Sudheemani* Dr. Sarada Purna Sonty** has received a Doctoral degree in Telugu language in 1997, second Doctoral degree in Sanskrit in 2010, pursuing D.Lit. in Musicology from Utkal University India. Sarada has contributed significantly to Language, Literature, and Performing Arts of India. Founded and established a Not for profit organisation 'SAPNA' - Sri Annamacharya Project of North America in 1989, SRI Foundation in 1989 in Chicago, to preserve, promote and propagate Indian Cultural traditions in US and other parts of the world. Sarada established 'Center for Telugu Studies' in 2000. She is a poet, scholar, published author of 8 Books. Sarada is the owner and editor for a Trimonthly Literary Journal 'Brahmi'. Today Sarada is receiving 'Bharateeya Pratibha Puraskaram 2015' from Viswanadha Sobhanadri Charitable Trust.

***Veena Vaadana Visharada* Saraswathi Ranganathan** is a versatile Veena artiste with a dynamic track record of individual and collaborative performances, workshops, as well as teaching assignments at prestigious venues across the US and India. Saraswathi has been conferred the titles 'Veena Paani Saraswathi' and 'Veena Vaadana Vishaarada'. Saraswathi obtained her initial training from her mother Shantha, grandmother Sulochana Mahadevan, and advanced guidance from E P Alamelu from Bangalore. Saraswathi is the first Veena artiste to be featured in the off-Broadway show 'The Jungle Book' musical produced in part by Walt Disney and directed by the celebrated genius Mary Zimmerman.



'Raaga Rupa' - Melody & Musical phrase

- Dr. Sarada Purna Sonty



'Veena' is a magnificent, deeply meta physical, and unbroken tradition of India for thousands of years. This tradition is very alive today. Many Veena artists of 21st century delve in to the philosophy and religiosity of Veena playing art tradition, and relate it to the world around. They articulate the

'Veena Nada' in musical phrases and make them meaningful. Life and Art are very different in nature, do not use the same vocabulary but address the inner core of all human. Only the choreographer knows to endure, to know, to realize the emotion and express with apt language. While singing, one begins with basic technique, with fundamental components of music, Time - sound and structural aspects which in turn become Melody beat and lyric 'Raga Tala and prabandha'. These characterize and differentiate Indian Music from the other compeers. The aesthetic experience derived from this is a unique complex of these fundamental elements.

The conference theme being 'Raga Maala', we need to define or redefine the term 'Raga' in contemporary terminology. Raga is special series of musical sounds. These are ornamented with 'Svara'-s the notes and 'Varna'-s the phrases with embellishments that please the listeners ears. The frame is of svara-s is 'structured continuum of musical notes'. Musical continuum consist Five 'oudava' – Six 'Shadava' or – Seven 'sapta' notes. These notes move with varying pitch in time. Raga does not represent anything beyond its form. The svara-s, tonal bits are picked up to express feelings, moods, sentiments and responses because musical phrases can express emotion with such profundity. Musical notes 'sa-re-ga-ma-pa-da-ni' of Indian music contains an exceptional feature called 'kaku'. This term of Sanskrit language is mere impossibility to transfer or translate in to any other world languages. It is derived from Sanskrit root 'Kai' which means 'loullyOpatApayOh'- the flexibility of sound so as to bring out the emotion of the heart. So

'Kaku' the flexibility character of the tonal elements brings our feelings in to form which lead to expression. Westerners define art as emotive language and is autonomous. To express, the enunciation of words, appropriate phrasing of Svara-s, articulation, employing adequate coloration of tones - all play equal role in heightening the aesthetic effect. Svara-s are basic bricks of Raga. In music 'kaku' is expressed at its highest level.

"yo`sau dhvani-viSESah tu svara varna vibhUShitAh
ranjakO janachittaanaam sa raagah kathitO budhaih"

The definition of Raga given by Matanga of 7th century involves the Sanskrit words - 'svara', 'varna', 'ranjaka', 'dhvani', 'viSeSha', 'jana chttam', 'vibhbushita'. Of all the words 'ranjaka' plays very crucial and important role in the manifestation of raga. Amarukosha – the Sanskrit Thesaurus gives these meanings : dyed, coloured, affected, moved, excited, glad, charmed, delighted, attracted, enamored, to rejoice, exult, shine, bright, glory and so on. The grammatical process of such derivation of meaning bestows on Raga the ability to please. Any feeling of colours and hues of passion, desire, emotion, delight, joy and beauty which are relevant for experience of sensuousness can be experienced by the listener. In aesthetic theory of literature it is the Expression that is called 'Dhvani'. But in the case of music it is the expressiveness rather than Expression is named 'Dhvani'. A specific aesthetic experience will be generated by the individual personality of 'Raga' is due to 'Dhvani'. When Dhvani of Raga starts melodic kinesis and melodic structural patterns will subside. 'Dhvani' in Raga is exclusive poetic function of non-literal sound sequence. To simplify one can say that it is the tinal experience of Raga is 'Dhvani' not its ingredients. In Raga the whole is greater, transcending, and pleasurable than the sum of parts. Karnatic music offers ample scope and opportunities for the performer to excel in creative extempore musical activity and help listener transcend to

deferent level. Ragalapana, Svara Kalpana, Neraval, Tanam, Pallavi, Thani Avartanam reveal the creative ability of a musician.

'Gamaka' is svara embellishment in Raga, 'shtaaya' is embellishment of melodic phrase or figure in a raga. The foundation of aesthetic experience and the technique of beautification in Raga depend on these aspects during presentation or singing. It is unique to Indian Classical music, an explicit, general and well articulated analysis of aesthetic contents of melody in music. The technique of Raga presentation include intensification, softening, timber, efflorescence, tenderness, evenness, gracefulness, undulation, curvedness, cyclisation, elongation, crescendo, diminuendo, horizontal vertical curved zig zag tonal

configurations, regional peculiarities, submission, waviness, gait and many shades. Raga-s derives their individuality and personality through notes of definite pitch entering in to their formation. The aesthetic facets of Raga can only be perceived by Human ear.

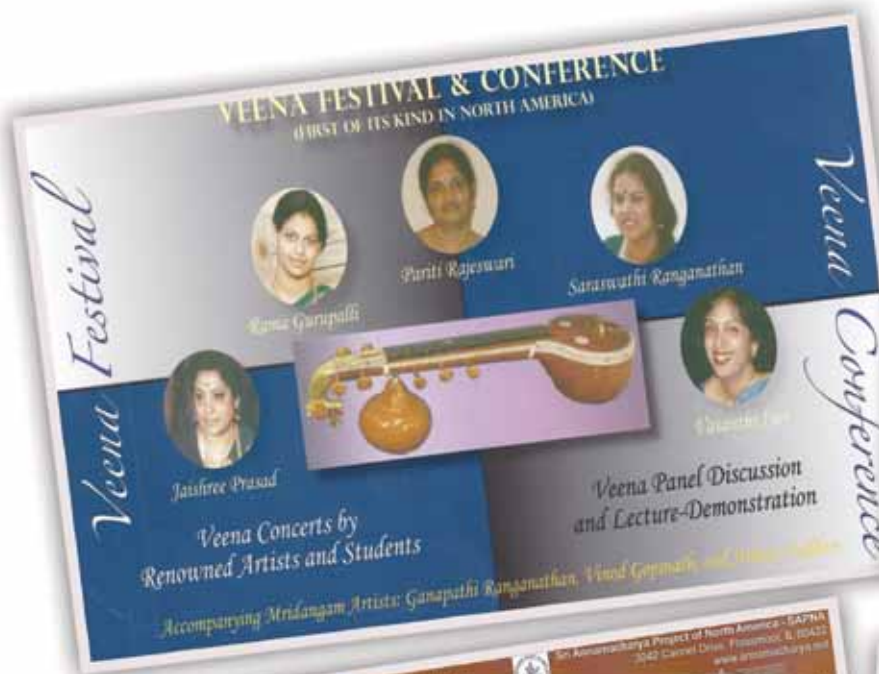
To understand Raga and experience the power of Raga, musicians and listeners must bear in mind that Carnatic or Hindustani music trends of Indian classical music are nurtured in the fertile soil of self examination, self expression, vision of self, quest and self realization.

Excerpts from PhD Thesis 'Genesis, History and evolution of Sanskrit Music Treatises- Nadanandam' Dr. Sarada Purna Sonty.



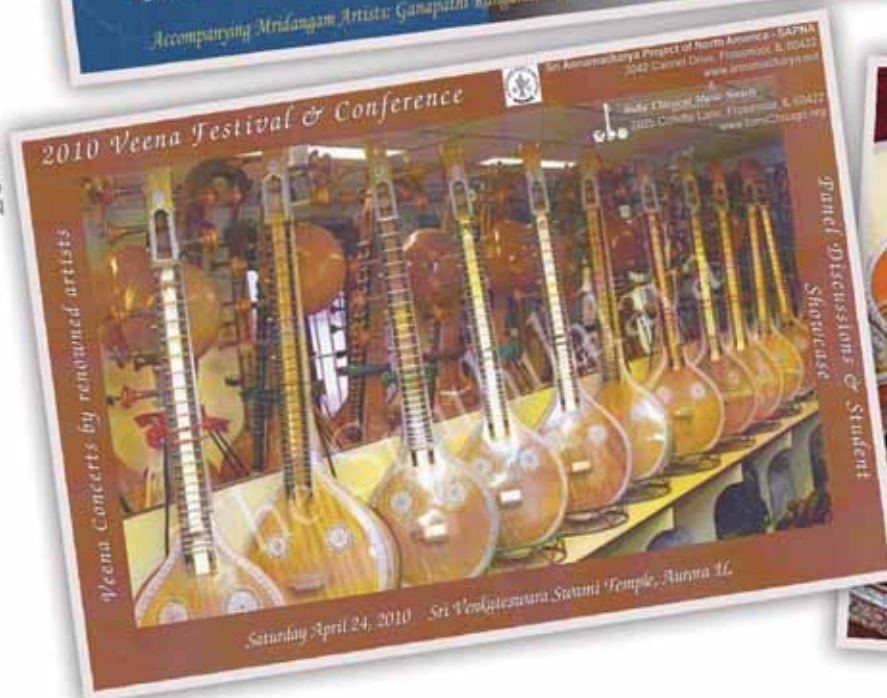
The Eight Veena Festivals & Conferences : 2009-2015

2009



2011

2010



2012

The Eight Veena Festivals & Conferences : 2009-2015

2013

Fifth Veena Conference & Festival
 Friday 26th April 2013 at Hindu Temple, Greater Chicago, Lemont IL
 Saturday 27th & Sunday 28th April 2013
 At Sri Venkateswara Swami Balaji Temple Aurora IL

Friday 26th April 2013 - 6:30 pm at HTGC
 'Yuva Veena Vanii' student Showcase
 Grand Chitra Vina Concert by
 'Sangeet Samrat'
 Chitra Vina. N. Ravikiran
 'Sangita Kalanidhi'
 Prof. Dr. Trichy Sankaran - Mridangam
 Akkarai Shubhalakshmi - Violin

Saturday 27th April 2013 - 4:00 pm - SVST
 Sri Kalu Purna Felicitations to Sri Malladi Suribabu
 Grand Vocal Concert by
 Malladi Brothers
 Sri Rama Prasad & Ravikumar

Sunday 28th April 2013
 "Seers Pravasham - Thillaana"
 "Seers Pravasham" - 9:30 am to 8 pm
 At Sri Venkateswara Swami Balaji Temple Aurora

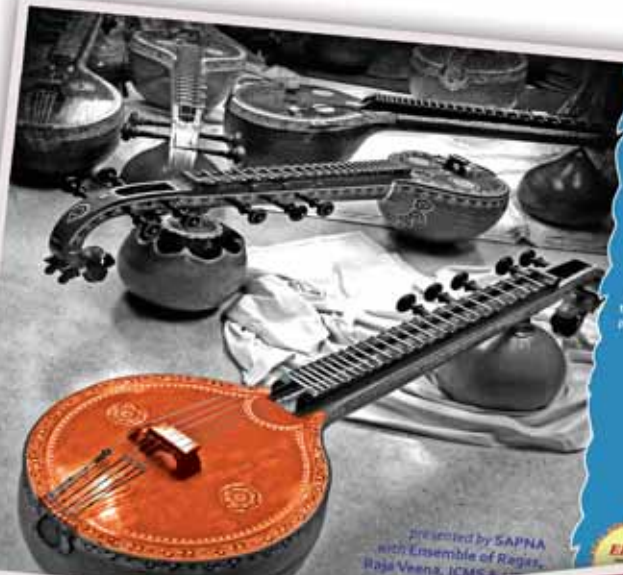
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2014

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2015

Conversations 'Saraswathi Veena' - Madhana Veena'
Veena Symphony 2015


Sri Annamacharya Project of North America SAPNA Chicago USA



2015

27 YEARS

Sri Annamacharya Project of North America SAPNA
 India Classical Music Society ICMS
 VIIIth Veena Conference & Festival Day II
Raga Maala
 Saturday, May 2nd 2015, 9:30 am - 8:30 pm
 Sri Venkateswara Swami Balaji Temple, Aurora IL, USA










Sri Annamacharya Project of North America (SAPNA), Sri Foundation,
Vedamataram & Viswanadha Sobhanadri Charitable Trust

VII International Veena Conference & Festival Veena Symphony 2015

Experience the energy of Saraswathi Veena & melding with the sounds of Mohana Veena
22nd Feb. 2015, at 2 pm, Ravindra Bharathi, Hyderabad

Celebrating
26
YEARS

WELCOME

'Sri Kala Purna'
Title to



Smt. Emami Kalyani



Dr. Shobha Raju



WELCOME

'Bharateeya Pratibha
Puraskaram'
Title to



Dr. Sarada Purna Sonty



Sri Annamacharya Project of North America (SAPNA)
& Viswanadha Shobhanadri Charitable Trust

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Experience the energy of Saraswathi Veena & melding with the sounds of Mohana Veena
22nd Feb. 2015, Ravindra Bharathi, Hyderabad

'Sri Kala Purna'
Title to



Smt. Emami Kalyani Dr. Shobha Raju

'Bharateeya Pratibha
Puraskaram'
Title to



Dr. Sarada Purna Sonty







WELCOME

Sri Annamacharya Project of North America (SAPNA)
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VII International Veena Conference & Festival **Veena Symphony 2015**

Experience the energy of Saraswathi Veena & molding with the mounds of Mohana Veena

22nd Feb. 2015, at 2 pm, Ravindra Bharathi, Hyderabad



Mam, pls send some more pics from Hyderabad
program

SAPNA... A cultural Phenomena

SAPNA is a result of an idea conceived and pursued for many years. The theme of SAPNA incorporates the philosophies of Great Maestros of South Indian Classical Music. South Indian music popularly known as "Carnatic Music" is gaining strong hold in today's world. The effort of SAPNA represents a conceptual plan where by certain fundamental, perennial, ideas presented by Maestros "Padma Vibhushan" Dr. Mangalampalli Balamurali Krishna, Padmabhushan Dr. L. Subramaniam, "Sangita Kalanidhi" Dr. Sripada Pinakapani, "Sangita Kalanidhi" Sri Nedunuri Krishna Murthy, "Maha Mahopaadhyaya" Sri Nookala China Satyanarayana, and many other stalwarts of Classical Art traditions.

Ideas were discussed, planned within the overall holistic approach of the institution. However the context is not just merely the performance but also to establish primal eternal factors and a scope for constant growth and evolution. This systematically implemented, allow us gain access to certain universal and cross cultural experiential categories.

The inexhaustible repertoire of the Saint composer Tallapaka Annamacharya for any musician, singer, dancer, speaker, researcher, choreographer, or drama and ballet groups, is a source of inspiration, spiritual and aesthetic, to all Indians and other creative minds, where ever they may be, in the continents of Euro- Asia, Africa or the continents across the Atlantic. The thread of God intoxicated devotion, the power of creative movement, the need for spirituality binds one and all. The primary instrument for the transmission of any tradition is the trained, educated, and inspired human voice. We can consider Annamacharya as an epistemic spokesman responding to the historical changes, and developments that occur in culture and tradition. Music can be the perfect sanctuary where the souls find consolation; song can be felt as intimately alive, as well as lit by mysterious transcendence.

The mission of SAPNA is to present the Indian Literature and cultural heritage in a structured format. Many interviews, chamber discussions, prolonged conversations with leading Classical musicians, musicologists and scholars helped the formation of this theme. SAPNA is established to explore the growth processes, the transmission patterns, cultural creativity involved in classical art traditions with the help of Teachers and disciples of Greater Chicago land. The strides of electronic media, modern urban living conditions, and technology can overwhelm the teachers and the pupils in this endeavor. While retaining the pristine character of performing art forms, there is a need to create a platform for young artists of future generation to understand this philosophy through performances. Keeping the above preamble in mind, SAPNA making efforts over the years to present events such as "Alaap" & "Sapthagiri Sankeertana" and so on.



S
A
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Sri Annamacharya Project of North America (SAPNA)

Founded 1989

Regd 1993

3042, Carmel drive , Flossmoor IL 60422 www.annamacharya.net



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S Gopala Sastry

Former member of the Azad Hind Fauj, philanthropist and a man known as the 'Bheeshmacharya' of civil engineering, Dr Susarla Gopala Sastry passed away here on Saturday at the age of 93. He is survived by two sons and five daughters.

A multifaceted personality, Susarla Gopala Sastry was the founder member of various technical organizations such as the Builders Association of India, Institute of Valuers, Indian institute of Bridge Engineers, Indian Concrete Institute, Association of Consulting Civil Engineers and many more.

He was also well versed in philosophy and expounded on the various facets of the Sanatana Dharma.

His contribution to the cultural field is well known by his involvement in the establishment of Kalabharathi and as the founder secretary of the Visakha Music and Dance Academy. Known as a philanthropist who made innumerable contributions to the needy, he actively volunteered in rescue work post natural calamities such as the 'Diviseema super cyclone' and the Latur earthquake.

Susarla Gopala Sastry's services were much sought after by many a great leader, including Tangaturu Prakasam Panthulu, Tenneti Viswanatham, PVG Raju. Old timers also remember him as the founder member of the Indian Red Cross Society in Visakhapatnam.

(Times of India, Visakhapatnam)

**Krishna Shankar - Rama Gopal, Lalitha, Manasa, Aditya
Sree Kantha, Eswara Prasad, Satya Sree, Amod Kher, Radha,
Sree Devi & Brian Gardner
Sarada Purna, Sriram, Siri, Sita, Ross Taggart, Jairam Aidan &
Ananda Skylar
Indira, Rama Krishna Prasad, Krishna Swetha, Krishna
Kaushik, Sudha, Sree Kanth, Siddhaanth & Sushruthi
Vijaya Lakshmi, Visweswara Rao & Ravi Krishna - Vasantha,
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Veena teacher Vijayalakshmi passes away

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Vijayalakshmi who had trained several students in playing the veena.

Ramavarapu Vijayalakshmi, who trained many students in playing the Veena in perfect manner and extended motherly love and concern towards them for six decades, passed away due to cardiac arrest in Hyderabad on Monday. She was 76 and is survived by husband Sarathbabu (noted Sanskrit theatre scholar), daughter Ramavarapu Madhuri Devi (veena artiste), and son Ravindra Tejaswi (ghatam and mridangam artiste). Her body was brought to her house at Dondaparthy here and the last rites will be performed on Wednesday.

The late Vijayalakshmi designed 'vipanchi veena' with four strings on the top and seven strings below them instead of three strings. She had received 'Guru Vijayam Vande', composed by her daughter at a function held in Hyderabad on

February 22 and witnessed the performance of 25 students and her son and daughter performing along with Pandit Vishwa Mohan Bhat, and vocal recital by her grandson Abhinava Purna Yashaswi during the programme. She passed away the next day.

She was born in Hyderabad on October 3, 1938 and moved to Visakhapatnam at the age of 16 and got training in playing the veena under the tutelage of Patrayani Narayana Murthy and Kavirayani Jogarao and later started imparting training to youngsters.

SAPNA VEENA Symphony

2014 - 2015



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Friends of Veena

SAPNA Presents International Veena Festival in Hyderabad



Sri Annamacharya Project of North America (SAPNA), 26-year-old Indian classical performing arts organization based in Chicago, and SRI Foundation organized the Seventh International Veena Conference and Festival at Ravindra Bharathi in Hyderabad, India, Feb. 22. The grand finale was a musical “conversation” between Saraswathi and Mohan veenas. Chief guests were K. V. Ramanachary, senior adviser to the Telangana government, and Padmasri Dr. G N Rao, founder-chairman of L. V. Prasad Eye Institute.

‘Veena Symphony 2015’ kicked off with a salutation (vandana) to the Guru by students of Madhuri Ramavarapu, veena artiste and teacher from Vizag, Andhra Pradesh. Two eminent artistes were conferred SAPNA’s ‘Sri Kala Purna’ awards: Emani Kalyani, as the only torch-bearer of the Emani School, and Shobha Raju, for popularizing Annamacharya compositions. Kalyani gave a brief solo recital in the Emani style.

SAPNA released two books: ‘Naadaanandam’, a gold-medal winning Sanskrit Ph.D. thesis on musicology by Sarada Purna Sonty, and ‘Jayam’, a compilation of verses celebrating goddess of learning, Saraswathi. Vedamataram and Vishwanadha Shobhanadri Charitable Trust jointly awarded Sonty ‘Bharatiya Pratibha Puraskaram’ for literary contributions to Sanskrit and musicology. Vedala Srinivas Acharya, professor at Oklahoma University, delivered a guest lecture and recited his Sanskrit poetry.

Grammy Winning Pandit Vishwa Mohan Bhatt enraptured the audience with the delicate and spontaneous glides (meend) of raag Shyam Kalyan on his Mohana Veena. He was joined in ‘conversation’ by Carnatic artistes from different regions and styles on Saraswathi Veena: festival program director Saraswathi Ranganathan (Chicago), Revathy Krishna (Chennai) and Ramavarapu (Vizag). Their lively exchanges and onstage camaraderie with Pandit-ji around raag Keeravani, now popular also in Hindustani music, and his Grammy-winning composition ‘Meeting by the River’ brought the curtain down to a standing ovation. Percussion artistes Himanshu Mahant (tabla), Jaya Bhaskar (mridangam), Bangalore V. Praveen (mridangam) and Ravi Tejasvi (ghatam) displayed mastery and infectious energy.

‘Veena is as old as the Vedas yet as modern as tomorrow’, declared late maestro Chitti Babu. SAPNA, brainchild of Dr. Sriram and Sarada Sonty, which has been curating the Festival for six years, is now focused on promoting modern sounds while perpetuating its ancient art and technique.

(India Times, Hyderabad)

Strings in Dialogue



The grand finale of Veena Symphony 2015, the VII international veena conference and festival, held in Hyderabad recently, was titled 'Conversations of Saraswathi Veena melding with the meends of Mohana Veena'. The event was organised by the 26-year old Indian classical performing arts organisation, Sri Annamacharya Project of North America (SAPNA), Chicago, and SRI Foundation. SAPNA, the brainchild of Drs. Sriram and Sarada Purna Sonty, has been successfully curating the International Veena Festival for the past six years with a focus of perpetuating the art of the veena. Two eminent vainikas were chosen for the 'Sri Kala Purna' Award -- Emani Kalyani, for the torch-bearer of the Emani School, and Dr. Shobha Raju, for her contribution to Annamacharya sankirthana pracharam.

Two books were released on the occasion -- 'Nadaanandam', a gold-medal winning Sanskrit Ph.D. thesis on musicology by Dr. Sarada Purna Sonty, and 'Jayam', a compilation of Saraswathi slokas.

The Vedamataram and Vishwanadha Shobhanadri Charitable Trust jointly honoured Dr. Sarada Purna Sonty with the award, Bharatiya Pratibha Puraskaram, for her literary contributions in the field of Sanskrit and Musicology. The evening saw the delicate meends of Shyam Kalyan on the mohanaveena by Pandit Vishwa Mohan Bhatt. His spontaneous outpouring of meends and raag phrases had an ethereally blissful quality that touched the heart.

The highlight of the evening was the musical conversations between the Mohana Veena and Saraswathi Veena.

On the Saraswathi Veena were Saraswathi Ranganathan from Chicago, Revathy Krishna from Chennai, Emani Kalyani from Hyderabad and Madhuri Ramavarapu from Vizag. The raga chosen was Keeravani for Panditji's composition, 'Meeting by the River.'

The percussion artists were Himanshu Mahant on the tabla, JayaBhaskar on the mridangam, Bangalore V. Praveen on the mridangam and Ravi Tejasvi on the ghatam.

(The Hindu, 27 Feb 2015)



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"There are very few Sadhaka-s who knows the secret of divine sound ' naada' and spiritual emotion 'bhava'. I commend and heartily congratulate your 25 years of committed and dedicated service to performing Arts through SAPNA. Your efforts give ample testimony, and benefit the music Artists, connoisseurs and next generation music enthusiasts equally. May your service quench the thirst of all who seek musical bliss !"

Padmabhushan, Mahamopaadhyaya **Dr. Nookala China Satya Narayana**

"It is my fortune that I know SAPNA Founders Drs Sriram & Sarada and their commitment to Arts. Their commitment and contributions to promote Music and Dance in USA as well as India are commendable. In my humble view , the greatest contribution lies in grooming the next generation Artists which SAPNA aspire for. My congratulations to SAPNA members as they celebrate 25 successful years of service to Arts".

Padma Vibhushan, Nata Samrat **Dr. Akkineni Nageswara Rao**



"I commend SAPNA founders and members for their selfless efforts for over three decades in imparting vast and precious knowledge of Indian Classical Music to next generation of Indian origin. The founders have achieved outstanding eminence through their deep devotion to Arts".

Sangita Kalanidhi, Annamacharya Vidwanmani **Dr. Nedunuri Krishnamurthy**

"I heartily appreciate the efforts of SAPNA and wish their service serve the cause of Music"

Padma Vibhushan, Sangita Sarvabhoudha **Dr. Mangalampalli Bala Muralikrishna**



"It is wonderful to hear that a twenty-four hour Veena concert has been organized by Dr.Saradapurna Sonty and Dr.Sriram Sonty, who have been tirelessly promoting (Indian performing arts) culture for the last 25 years through SAPNA. I am sure this Veena Festival will be a great success, as have all their other events. My best wishes and heartiest congratulations now and always"

Padmabhushan **Dr. L. Subramaniam**

"Congratulations on completing 25 years of glorious service to Indian Classical Music. I am very happy to know about Ekaaham: Sounds of Infinity-Vallaki Vilasam, a 24-hour Veena Festival first of its kind in North America. I wish the program all success and hope that SAPNA, Chicago scales greater heights in bringing alive valuable musical treasures of India!"

- *Padmasri* **Mandolin U Shrinivas**



"I am highly elated to learn that SAPNA has planned a 24-hour relay concert event focused on Veena-s of various types titled 'Ekaaham: Sounds of Infinity' – Vallaki Vilasam. This is not only unique in North America but probably in the whole world. I commend the organizers of the event for this initiative as it offers listeners an opportunity to appreciate instrumental music in general and string instruments in particular. I wish the event every success!"

- *Kalaimamani* **Chittravina N Ravikiran**

"SAPNA's untiring efforts to promote Music Legend Annamacharya is commendable. I acknowledge the first major donation toward Annamacharya statue at the entrance of Tallapaka from SAPNA founders"

- **Dr. KV Ramanachary IAS**







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