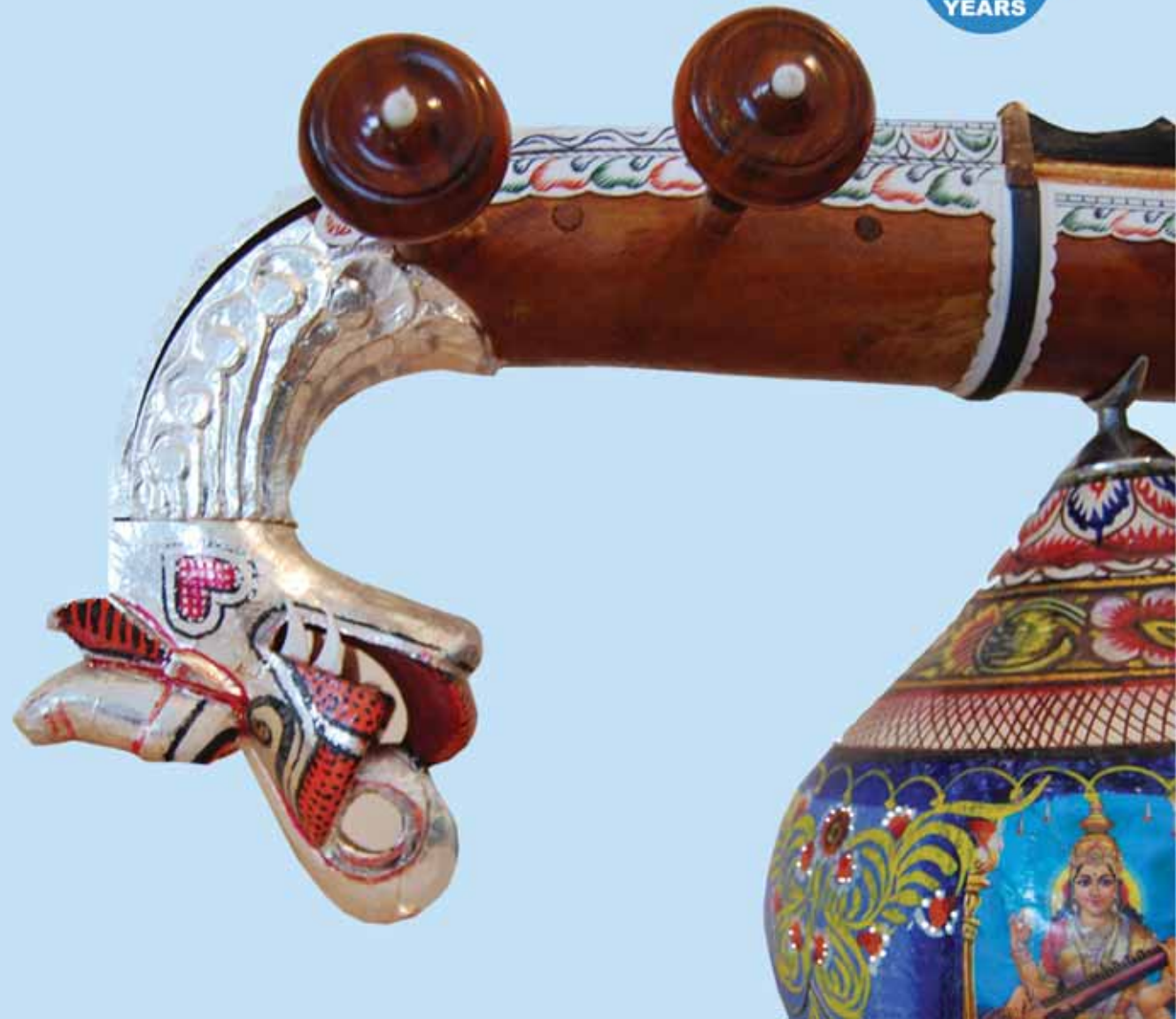


# Fifth Veena Conference & Festival

*Thillaana*





## School of Performing Arts Schaumburg, IL 60193

*"Veena is as old as the Vedas, yet as modern as tomorrow"*

- Veena Maestro Dr. Chitti Babu

### **Congratulating SAPNA** *for 25 years of service to Classical Art traditions*

#### **Song of Tulips**

*Brittle leaves and simmering snow flakes  
bone chilling winds and breezy waves  
frozen in time those strings and plucks  
mutely with glee I read what each craves  
Grant me God! I speak for them now  
or what's the use of this gift mighty  
Wishing to change memory rhyme!  
Here is spring meek with budding eye  
fingers pouring hues of golden ray  
colourful tongues of new green leaves  
fluttering in hearts sighs and murmurs  
gentle knocks of fingers tips those*

*on bold beam of life's instruments  
lovely window pane shatters too  
despite of dashing darting music  
you stay! Raaga! in beats of Thillana!  
may healing tactile plucks Dance  
showering scents of yielding hearts  
frosted notes blooming in smiling lust  
while nature wiping wet film of tear  
the pour of all Vit's melting Art  
when cosmic Law echoes it's best!  
pluck and pull proud and knotty frets*

( Original poem composed by Dr. Sarada Purna Sonty for 5th Veena Conference & Festival 2013 )



# Divine Instrument... Veena



గాయక శేఖరులు, సంగీత విద్యా కళానిధి, విమల గాంధర్వనిధి, పద్మవిభూషణ

## డా. మంగళంపల్లి బాలమురళికృష్ణ గారికి

అమెరికా SAPNA అన్నమాచార్య సంస్థ “సంగీత విభావరి” యందు సాదర సమర్పిత అక్షరోపాసనం

శ్లోకం 2      శ్రీమత్ సంగీత సాహిత్య సాహిత్య సువిచక్షణః  
బ్రహ్మశ్రీ బాలమురళీ కృష్ణ విజయతే, తరామ్!  
శ్లోకమ్ 2      వేదాద్యాగమ సత్కళామయ మహా వాణీ వధూటీ సతీ  
నానా రాగ సుకీర్తనా స్వర మయీ సంగీత శాస్త్రాన్వయీ  
విశ్వఖ్యాత షికాగో పట్టణ మహా సంగీత గోష్ఠ్యా మిహ  
శ్రీకృష్ణాభిద! నానతీతు భవతో జిహ్వగ్ర రంగస్థలే!  
శార్దూలమ్ 2      శ్రీకారంబును జుట్టి గాన సుకళా క్షేత్రంబు పండించ నీ  
లోకా లోక మహీధరా వృత మహీ లోకాన లోకోల్లసత్  
శ్లోకోల్లాస వశీకృత ప్రతిభ తో సరి ప్రకాండుండవై  
ప్రాకామ్యంబు వహించు! బాలమురళీ! వాగ్గేయకారాగ్రణీ!  
మత్తేభం 2      సుకవిత్వంబు మహాత్వ కీర్తనలతో సుక్ష్మార్థ సందర్శివై  
వికసన్నవ్య మనోజ్ఞ గాన లహరీ విస్ఫూర్తి దీపింపగా  
ప్రకట వ్యోమ సురాపగా స్వరధునీ రంజిత కళోల్లాసివై  
మకుటంబైతివి నీవు బాలమురళీ మాన్యాభిదా! సన్నతుల్!

ఉత్పలమాల 2      శ్రీ రమణీయమై శ్రుతి విశేష మహోజ్జ్వల రాగ తాన నా  
నా రుచిరార్థ భావమై నాద కళా లయ చాతురీ సుధా  
సారము నీకు జన్మసహజమృది పద్మవిభూషణాగ్ర్య! పుం  
భారతి వొదు గైకొను నమస్కృతి గాన కళా వతంసమ!  
శ్లోకమ్ 2      శ్రీ విభ్రాజిత రూప! రూపగత గాంధర్వ ప్రభావోజ్జ్వలత్ -  
గానోద్దీపి సత్కవిత్వ సుకృతే! శ్రీ త్యాగరాజాకృతే!  
గంగోత్తంగ తరంగ మంగళ మహా సంగీత పూర్ణాకృతే!  
బ్రహ్మశ్రీ మహితాయ బాలమురళీ కృష్ణాఖ్య! తుభ్యన్నమః!!  
తేటగీతి 2      సరస “సంగీత సత్కళా సార్వభౌమ”  
విశ్వ విఖ్యాత సత్కీర్తి విభవ మంది  
వరలు చున్నట్టి శ్రీ బాలమురళి! నీకు  
అక్షరోపాసనము చేసి అభినుతింతు!

శ్రీ విజయచైత్రం, ఆదివారం, ఏప్రిల్ 28, 2013 - శ్రీ వేంకటేశ్వర స్వామి దేవాలయం, Aurora IL, USA

‘శ్రీ కళాపూర్ణ’, ‘సాహిత్యకళా సరస్వతి’ ‘శాస్త్ర విజ్ఞానభారతి’ ప్రొఫెసర్ డా. అచార్య శ్రీనివాస్ వేదాల, Institute of Hindu Studies OK

Dr. Sriram Sonty MD - Founder Chairman SAPNA, ‘ప్రతిభా కౌముది’ డా. శారదాపూర్ణ శౌంఠి - Founder Exe. Director SAPNA

శ్రీ అన్నమాచార్య ప్రాజెక్ట్ ఆఫ్ నార్త్ అమెరికా సంస్థ వారి రజతోత్సవ సంగీత సభల సందర్భాన,

వీణావాదన సమావేశ పంచ వత్సర ఉత్సవ సమయాన సమర్పించిన సన్మానం.

Celebrating 25 years of Service to Performing Art Traditions of India in USA

Three day celebrations of Fifth Veena Conference and Festival.







*Dear Benefactors, Patrons , Artists and participants,*  
Subha Pranams,

It is with great humility, pride, pleasure and fortitude we, with Sri Annamacharya Project of North America are presenting Vth Annual Veena Festival & Conference 2013 . To lead an organization promoting Classical Music traditions in itself is an honor, to present Padmabhushan, Sangita Ratna Dr. Balamurali is a divine blessing and privilege. The Grand event starts with Chitravina Concert by Sangeet Samrat Chitravina N.Ravikiran accompanied by Sangita Kalanidhi Dr Trichy Sankaran, continues to "Srikalapurna" title to Sri Malladi Suribabu, a Carnatic vocal concert by the renowned Malladi Brothers, with a Grand Finale concert by Carnatic Musician par excellence Padmvibhushan Dr Mangalampalli Balamuralikrishna , culminating in to Felicitations and Lifetime achievement Award to Maestro Dr. Balamurali . "Thillana - Svara pravaaham" is the theme for Veena presentations for the year 2013 . SAPNA jointly with India Classical Music Society , with much pride , present Chicago land Veena exponents and students. SAPNA has been serving the Greater Chicago land Music Community and the International music patrons for the last 24 Years. We, with SAPNA would like to continue this journey with your continued encouragement and enthusiasm.

SAPNA had the opportunity to present eminent artists of renown Dr L.Subramaniam, Malladi Brothers, Gundecha Brothers, Pantula Rama, Gaurav Mazumdar, from India along with committed Artists of Chicago land and other parts of the country in the year 2011 and 2012.

Today's Vth Veena Festival and conference 2013 brought together India Classical Music Society, Sonty Renaissance International (SRI) Foundation, Illinois Arts Council, Ensemble of Ragas, Shalagram.com & Vedamatharam with one goal in mind " Grand Music from Great Traditions " to engage our minds, enchant our spirits and enrich our souls.

We , on behalf of SAPNA, I would like to thank all the distinguished artists from India, USA; the next generation music enthusiasts , and the audience for SAPNA 's continued success.

Sincerely Yours,

**Sriram Sonty**  
Chairman, SAPNA



### *'Sangita a stead fast devotion' – A view*

#### Convener's note

Welcome to all to 605th anniversary of the coronation of Sankeerthanaacharya Thallapaka Annamacharya. Sri Annamacharya Project of North America SAPNA, for the past 25 years , is celebrating the conquests and significant contributions made by Vaggeyakara-s to Humanity through Music. Respectfully recognizing the unique quality of Music, SAPNA started its journey in USA in 1989, Inaugurated in 1993 by none other than Maestro Padma Vibhushan Dr. Mangalampalli Balamurali Krishna. Today SAPNA is celebrating 25 years of service to Performing Art Traditions of India in USA , and three day celebrations of 5th Veena Conference and festival. Dr. Balamurali's gracious presence for this event is a blessing and a privilege for SAPNA .

Spiritual aspect of human life, why is it so important. We all are aware that one strand runs deep within us. The spiritual wave of our consciousness stirs our souls constantly, and allows us to search for meaning and purpose of our lives. The spiritual approach contributed seamlessly to the bewildering diversity of Indian culture and way of life. The mental pictures of music maestros , insights in to the mind of a child show a path to understand and experience the process. The great sages and Vaggeyakara-s from antiquity conjured a certain image of spirituality in all of us.

Stead fast devotion through an intensely introspective quest takes us to the world of Music. Every song is a story. All stories are experiences. Every singer whether novice or seasoned has a new story to tell each time they sing. Candid thoughts take distinct form. As Music has no words but sounds there is less ground for arguments, analysis and conflict. The melody and rhythm of sound cut across all national, social, political, religious, geographic and linguistic boundaries.

Hence is this effort! !

Pundit Ravi Shankar says music is ' Saadhana' . Guru Hariprasad Chourasia feels music as Soul inspiration, Bharata Ratna MS Subbalakshmi proclaims as ' Dharma' , Zakir Husain believes that spirits of deities inhabit in musical instruments.

Padmavibhushan Bala Murali smilingly conveys a profound philosophical truth by saying "music is divine charmer's Leela' . I breathe Music, think Music, talk music, and music is my energy, I am an instrument of Music. There is nothing beyond what the naked eye can see and the Human ear can hear". Most agree that this approach draws one and all nationals to a deeper understanding of





true meaning of Musical experience and allows us to tune ourselves. Raaga ripples around our being. Mysterious spring of intuition flows within, as if one's own self is the source of pristine 'svara'.

Vaggeyakara-s upheld the pristine purity of music tradition. Annamayya, Purandaradasa, Kshetrajana, Tyagaraja, Deekshitar, Shyama Sastry, along with many others have secured . One such Vaggeyakara who embodies the richness of the past, the strength of the present, and the vision of future of music, with a prodigious flow of melody for seven decades Dr BalaMurali Krishna , lives today in our midst and stands tall.

Music builds a bridge between friendship and international understanding in today's increasingly globalized but hugely diverse world. It is the essence of a civilization and culture. It serves as a unifying bond with an unending charm. The next generation youth who are pursuing performing Art traditions are proving that.

The musician's parliament is public. As part of that public we all have to be well informed and educated about that philosophy.

Hence is this effort! It is

The ancient String instrument Veena slowly but surely reached the World Music Stage. The brilliant and Vibrant plucks of Veena strings started emanating spiritual tonality to fulfill the need of the Time. "Spring season is the time every year for Chicago Music enthusiasts to start resonating Raaga svara-s through the murmurs of blooming Tulips and plucks of Veena" says a dear friend music world , Sayee Challapalli , Son of Veena Vidvaan Maestro SriKala Purna Dr. C ChittiBabu.

With much inspiration, humility and glee I, Sarada Purna Welcome you all to 25th Anniversary of SAPNA , & 5th Veena Conference and Festival, true mile stones. To be the convener, a part of organizing committee , part of these celebrations is indeed a divine blessing.

**Sarada Purna Sonty Ph.D**



*Dedicated to*



*Legendary Carnatic Musician, Sangita Kalanidhi*

**Dr. Sripada Pinakapani**

1913 - 2013



## *India Classical Music Society*

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

2025 Collett Lane, Floosmoor, IL 60422

[www.lcmschicago.org](http://www.lcmschicago.org)

### Message from ICMS

India Classical Music Society is delighted and honored to join SAPNA in organizing the 2013 Veena Festival and Conference. Established in 2009, this year the Festival is celebrating its fifth milestone anniversary. This unique festival – the first of its kind in North America – has been graced by internationally famous artists, and it has provided platform to a large number of veena students for their recitals. Besides the presentations of concerts by maestros and students, the Festival has provided a wealth of information on various aspects of veena including its history, its traditions and innovations, and the unique rendering of raags on veena. This year, the Veena Festival and Conference is commemorating the fifth year anniversary by having a three-day event, which includes a chitraveena (gottuvadhyam) concert. The event will also feature a vocal concert, as veena used to be the primary accompanying instrument prior to the popularity of violin as an accompanying instrument. This festival will again be a proud moment for SAPNA and ICMS. The mission of ICMS is to promote the Indian classical music and to pass this ancient art-form to the future generation. The veena festival accomplishes this mission. 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 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).



# Sri Annamacharya Project of North America (SAPNA)

Founded 1989

Regd 1993

3042, Carmel drive , Flossmoor IL 60422 [www.annamacharya.net](http://www.annamacharya.net), [www.sapna25.com](http://www.sapna25.com)



*celebrating 25 years of Service to Performing Art traditions of India in USA presents*

## Three day celebrations of Vth Veena Conference and Festival

# Thillaana

### Programme

#### Friday, April 26th 2013 - 6:30pm

Samarathi Auditorium, HTGC Lemont IL USA

6:15 pm Invocation & Welcome

6:30pm Raja Veena School of Music Student Show Case

7:00pm Chitra Veena Concert by Chitravina N. Ravikiran & Sangeeta Kalanidhi Dr. Trichy Sankaran

"Strings in Fusion" – N. Ravikiran, Dr. Trichy Sankaran, Akkarai Shubhalakshmi, Saraswathi Ranganathan, Carlo Basil, Greg Nergaard

#### Saturday, April 27th 2013 - 1:00pm to 8:00pm

Veluchami Auditorium SVST IL USA

1:00pm Invocation Welcome

1:15pm Veena Concert by Saraswathi Rajagopalan – New Delhi India

Athrey Nadhan - Mridangam

2:00pm Pallavi School of Music Student Show Case

Abhayram - Mridangam

Concert by Dr. Jaishri Prasad

Thillana - Raga Kalyani Maalika

Athrey Nadhan - Mridangam

3:30pm "Srikala Purna" Title Presentation,

Felicitation to Sangitaacharya Sri Malladi Suri Babu

4:00pm Grand Vocal Concert By

Malladi Brothers Sri Rama Prasad & Ravi Kumar

Violin - RK Sriram Kumar

Mrudangam -Tumkur Ravi Shankar

#### Sunday, April 28th 2013 'Panchavati' - 9:00am to 9:00pm

SVS Temple, Aurora IL

Registration starts at 9:00am

Session I : 9:00 am- 1:00 pm

Invocation, Welcome Remarks, Inauguration of Souvenir & Website [www.sapna25.com](http://www.sapna25.com), [www.shalagram.com](http://www.shalagram.com),

9:30 am Neela Devi Amaravadi 'Thillaana' Raga – "Hindolam"

9:50 am Guru Vasanthi Iyer - Veena Gana Student Show case 'Thillana' Raga - "Dhanasree"

10:20 am Satvik Gurupalli – Thillaana Raga "Thillang"

Student Show Case – Rama Gurupalli Thillana Raga – "Paras"

10:50 am Concert -Guru Saraswathi Ranganathan, Indrajit Benarjee, Subrata Mukharjee, Ganapathi Ranganathan



Ensemble of Raga-s Student Show case – ‘Thillana’ Raga  
“Jayaraaga Malika”

11:50 am Concert “Srikala Purna” Rajeswari Pariti Thillana Raga Kapi  
& ‘Raja Veena’ Student Show Case

### Session II : 1:00 pm to 4:30pm

1:00 pm Panel Discussion – “Thillana”, & New approach to old  
tradition `Veena as accompanying instrument’

1:45 pm Arthi Nadhan & Athrey Nadhan Thillana - Raga ‘ Khamas’

2:30 pm Concert – `Vocal & Veena’ – Vikram Sundara Raman & Arthi  
Nadhan

3:30 pm Concert by Guru Rama Gurupalli - `Thillana’ Raga ` Mishra  
Shiva Ranjani”

4:30 pm Closing Remarks

Percussion Artists - Ethirajan Ramanujam, Gana  
Ranganathan, Athrey Nadhan, Sanjay Subramanian, Abhay  
Ram, Vivek Chekuri, Arjun Ramachandran, Vishvak Kumaran

Emcee-s : Siri Sonty, Malini Adiraju, Padmaja Budhavarapu,  
Sushmitha Arun Kumar, Lavanya Ariv, Sharada  
Madduru

Invocation : Prof. Acharya Srinivas Vedala

Welcome : Sriram Sonty , Sarada Purna Sonty

Vote of Thanks : Ramana Murthi Yedavalli, Krishna Gurupalli, Badri  
Mirmira, Bala

Volunteers : Sayee Challapalli, Kalyan Muzumdar, Srini Vyas  
Adiraju, Subrahmanyam Madduru, Ram Konduri,  
Kavitha Chekuri

### Sunday 28th April 2013 - 6:00pm

Veluchami Auditorium Sri Venkateswara Balaji temple Aurora IL USA

### Grand Vocal Concert by

*“Padma Bhushan” “Chevalier” “Sangeetaratna”*

**Dr. Mangalampalli Balamurali Krishna**

### R. Satish Kumar, Violin

...accompanying Dr. Mangalampalli Balamuralikrishna with the disciple  
of Sri R.Raghunathan, Sri K.T. Siva Ganesh, Violin maestro, Padmashree  
Sangita Kalanidhi Sri M.S.Gopalakrishnan

### K. Parthasarathy, Mridangam

...is the disciple of Kalaimamani late Sri Kuttalam R.Viswanatha Iyer and  
Kalaimamani Sri Guruvayor Dorai.





*We, the founders and Board of Trustees of*

**Sri Annamacharya Project of North America SAPNA**

are grateful to the World renowned Musician, maestro  
Padma Vibhushan Dr. Mangalampalli Bala Murali Krishna for consenting  
to grace the occasion

**"SAPNA Celebrating 25 years of service to performing Art traditions of India in USA  
Three day Celebrations of Fifth Veena Conference and Festival"**

April 26th 27th 28th 2013

**Dr. Balamuralikrishna...** One of the most famous names associated with Classical Carnatic Music. This legendary musician and Padmabhushan awardee is an able composer, singer, poet and instrumentalist who can sing perfectly in three octaves. He was born on 6th October, 1930 in a place called Sankaraguptam located in Andhra Pradesh. He was named Murali Krishnan by his father. The prefix Bala was given by a Hari Katha performer Musunuri Satyanarayana and thereafter he came to be known as Balamuralikrishna. Read the interesting life history of Dr. M Balamurali Krishnan in this short biography.

As a young boy of five, Balamuralikrishna had started to give musical concerts. His brilliant voice gained him instant fame and recognition. He was touted as a child prodigy who perfected almost every song and every tune. His father Pattabiramayya was a very popular musician who perfected the Flute, Veena and Violin. His mother Suryakantamma played the Veena perfectly. Balamuralikrishnan perfected Violin, Viola, Khanjira, Veena and Mrudangam. In India, he is the only musician who has won National Awards for classical music, music direction as well as film playback singing.

Dr. Balamurali Krishnan has immensely contributed to the world of Carnatic music. He was not content with the fame and recognition that he gained by performing in concerts. So he composed a detailed work known as Raganga Ravali on 72 Melakarta (basic scales of Carnatic music). All this at the mere age of 14! Balamurali Krishnan also has over 400 compositions in different music scales that are widely accepted by music lovers and critics alike. He has also created many new ragas Like Mahati, Sumukham, Trisakthi, Sarvashri, Omkari, Janasamodini, Manorama, Rohini, Vallabhi, Lavangi, Pratimadhyamavathi, Sushama, etc.

Dr. Balamuralikrishna has contributed a lot in the world of music. He established the "Academy of Performing Arts and Research" in Switzerland. He is also working on music therapy. For extensive research in the field of music therapy, he also established the MBK Trust to develop art and culture and spread the knowledge. "Vipanchee", a dance and music school is a part of this trust and is managed by his trustee Kalaimamani Saraswati.



## Chitravina N Ravikiran

*"Perhaps the world's greatest slide player"* - Radio National, Australia

**Prodigy & Musician...** Ravikiran made headlines as the world's youngest prodigy at the age of two (in 1969). He could identify and demonstrate 325 ragas (melodic modes), 175 talas (rhythmic cycles) and answer numerous other music related questions. He debuted as a vocalist at the age of five and presented his maiden concert on the 21 stringed fretless slide, chitravina at age 12. He set a trend with a record nonstop recital for 24 hours when he was 18. Since then, "Ravikiran has consistently extended on the musical traditions of India" as MSN.com observed. Ravikiran, among the most travelled artistes in India, has performed in USA, UK, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Hungary, Holland, Poland, Switzerland, Austria, Czech, Philippines, Slovenia, Bahrain, Malaysia and Japan, to name a few. He has been an automatic choice in festivals and venues such as Autumn Festival (France), Brisbane Festival (Australia), Harborfront Festival (Canada), Flanders Festival, Belgium, Cleveland Festival (USA), House of World Culture, Berlin, Sadlers' Wells & Tate Modern, London, Esplanade, Singapore, Oji Hall, Tokyo and Theatre de la Ville, Paris. Networks like CNN, BBC, NPR, ABC and record labels such as

Nimbus, Naxos, Waterlily and Music Today have featured him. Ravikiran has collaborated with top world music stars such as Taj Mahal, Larry Coryell, and Glen Velez as also with orchestras like BBC Philharmonic and Cleveland Opera.

**Composer...** Ravikiran is one of those few composers who are active in both classical and world music arenas. His most significant contribution to world music is the concept Melharmony, a novel approach to compositions creating harmony with an emphasis on melodic rules. Melharmony soon won critical acclaim worldwide, leading to a paper on the subject by noted composer, Prof Robert Morris in the annual conference of Society for Music Theory in Boston (Nov 2005). Ravikiran premiered Melharmony in collaboration with artistes of the BBC Philharmonic orchestra during the Millennium Festival in UK. In the field of Indian classical music and dance, Ravikiran is one of the more prolific composers with over 500 compositions in five languages. His operatic dance creations include Lakshmi Prabhavam (North America 1997), Savitri (Australia, 1998), Cosmos (Canada, 2000), Vinayaka Vaibhavam (USA, 2000) and In the Long White Moonlight (USA, 2003).

**Recognition and awards...** Ravikiran won a Fellowship of the Madras Music Academy at the age of two. He has been the first or youngest musician to receive several other awards including the President's Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, Millennium Festival Award (UK), Harvard Sangeet Award (USA) and Citations from Cities such as Houston and Tulsa. Some of his other awards are Star of India, Sangeeta Choodamani, Kalaimamani, Kumar Gandharava Samman, Sangeet Samrat and Arul Ishai Selvan. Ravikiran attributes all success to gurus Chitravina virtuoso Narasimhan and T Brinda.







'Sangita Kalanidhi' **Dr. Trichy Sankaran** is a world-renowned percussion virtuoso, Indian music scholar and composer, and the founding director of Indian music studies at York University. Over the years, Prof. Sankaran has bridged eastern and western pedagogical styles and has influenced generations of students who have become noted performers, composers, and music educators themselves. He has made valuable contributions to many scholarly conferences across North America and has published two major books: one on the theory and techniques of South Indian classical drumming, and the other on the Art of Konnakol (Solkattu).

Trichy Sankaran has performed at major festivals in India, South-East Asia, Europe, Australia and North America. In his 6 decades of concert experience in Carnatic music, he has accompanied all top rank artists of India. He has performed in jugalbandhis (North-South combo) with famous Hindusthani musicians. In addition to his usual traditional settings and numerous solo recitals, he has performed with Nexus, gamelan, jazz, electronic, African music ensembles and world drums, as well as his own group, Trichy's Trio.

As a composer, Trichy Sankaran has to his credit a number of pieces in the genres of gamelan, jazz, traditional western classical orchestra and world music ensembles. He continues to perform and write compositions for contemporary and world music ensembles. He has received numerous honours and awards for his contributions to University teaching and artistic excellence in the professional field.

In January 2012, Dr. Sankaran received the most coveted honour of 'Sangita Kalanidhi' from the prestigious Music Academy of Madras. He is the first recipient of this award in the Pudhukkottai tradition of mridangam playing.

Dr. Sankaran was the pioneer in starting the Thyagaraja Festival in Toronto, Canada in 1972.

Professor Sankaran has published numerous articles, as well as two major textbooks: The Rhythmic Principals and Practice of South Indian Drumming and The Art of Konnakol.







## Malladi Brothers

Sree Rama Prasad and Ravi kumar popularly known as MALLADI BROTHERS hail from a family of Musicians from Andhra Pradesh. They inherit music from their Grand father Late Malladi SriRamamurthy ,a great Harikatha Exponent of his time. They had their initial training from their father Sri Malladi Suribabu a Senior Vidwan of Andhra Pradesh and an illustrious disciple of Late Sri Voleti Venkateswarulu, a legendary musician of great Musician of great repute. Malladi brothers had their advanced training from "Sangita Kalanidhi" Sri Nedunuri Krishna murthy whose vast experience and knowledge shaped them into successful Carnatic Music Performers.

The Brothers had an opportunity to learn rare compositions from the Genius of Music "SangithaKalanidhi" "Padma Bhushan", Dr.Sripada Pinakapani. Malladi Brothers started their performing career in 1990. They bagged National level Prizes from All India Radio in Classical, Light Classical and Light Music categories from 1989 to 1993. Sri Krishna Gana Sabha, Chennai awarded Sri VoletiVenkateswarulu memorial Award in the years 1999. 2000. They have also received the Best Concert Awards from The Music Academy ,Chennai since 1999 to 2005. Malladi Brothers are 'A' top Grade Vocalists of All India Radio & Post Graduates in Music from Andhra University. They have been featured in the prestigious Akashavani Sangeetha Sammelan and National Programmes of All India Radio. H.H. Ganapathi Sachidananda Swamiji, Mysore conferred the title "ASTHANA VIDWANS" OF DATTA PEETHAM for the year 2006. Karthik Fine Arts , Chennai conferred the title ISAI PEROLI. Chinthamani Gayana Samaj, Karnataka has conferred the title NADA CHINTHAMANI. BISMILLAH KHAN YUVA PURASKAR by Sangeethanataka academy, New Delhi. Ganabhushanam by Shanmugananda fine arts new delhi. SANGEETHA NADA MANI from KANCHI KAMAKOTI PEETHAM, KANCHI. SANGEETHA BHUSHANAM from SHANMUGANANDA FINE ARTS NEW DELHI in the year 2007.

Malladi Brothers travelled India and abroad. Their consistent Brilliant Performances brought them to the fore front in the field of Carnatic Music. They visited U.S.A, CANADA, AUSTRALIA, NEWZEALAND, UAE SINGAPORE, EUROPE, Dubai, Muscat - frequently for successful concert tours. Their music in Audio Cassettes and CDs were released by H.M.V, TIMES Music, Music Today, Cosmic, Charsur, Geetha, Sukanya Music, Rajalakshmi Audio etc., are very popular among the Music circle. Music of Malladi Brothers is marked by the perfect unision of two voices, wide repertoire, sruthi soaked presentation of melodious musical compositions of Music Trinity, Annamacharya, Narayana Theertha, Bhadrachala Ramadasu, Bhajans, Kshetragna Padams & Sadasiva Brahmendra etc.,

Sreerama Prasad is currently working as a Staff musician ,All India Radio, Vijayawada.





**Tumkur B. Ravishankar** is one of the most promising Mridangam artist of South India. Presently, A Grade Artist” of All India Radio & Door darshan , Ravishankar hails from the family of Mridangam artists. Among them the notable is the renowned Mridangist Late Sri. Tumkur T.V.Bhadrachar. Ravishankar is son of Sri. T.V. Bhadrachar.

### *Training*

Ravishankar started learning Mridangam from his father Sri. T.V.Bhadrachar. After his father's heavenly abode, Ravishankar had the earnest privilege of learning mridangam from the great mridangam maestro Guru Sri. Karaikudi R. Mani.

Apart from playing mridangam, Ravi has also expertised himself in playing Tabla.

### *Concert Career*

As an A grade Artist of All India Radio, Sri.Tumkur B. Ravishankar is professionally one of the best Mridangam Artist we have in India today. As an accompanists, he is one of the very rare artists who discusses the concert with the main artist understand the “Manodharma” and accompanies accordingly, producing the charming melody with the minimum beats. He is superbly at ease both with the fast and slow rhythms. His facile but masterly control over the instrument has earned him very rich encomiums by task masters like PadmaSri MS. Gopalakrishnan Sangeetha Kalanidhi Sri. T.N.Krishnan, Dr. N.Ramani TV.Shankarnarayana Kalaimamani Sri M. Chandrashekar, Trichur V. Ramachandran, T.N. Sheshagopalan, O.S. Tyagarajan, Sri. K.S. Gopalakrishnan, Rudrapatnam Brothers, Hyderabad Brothers, Kumaresh & Ganesh, Rajkumar Bharathi, Bombay Sisters, Sudha Raghunathan, notable Violin Duo Mysore M. Nagaraja and Mysore M. Manjunath, Lalgudi G.J.R.Krishnan, Jayanthi Kumaresh, Malladi brothers, M.S.Sheela, S.Shankar, Sanjay Subramaniam, TM, Krishna Maharajapuram Ramachandran & many other leading artists.

Ravishankar has immensely toured Switzerland and has represented India at the 700th Festival of Switzerland during the year 1991and he Traveled abroad Several Times and won many titles and awards to his credit.

### *Prizes & Awards*

1st Rank : Vidwat Grade – Mridangam exams conducted by the Karnataka Secondary Education Examination Board in the year 1990.

Ist Prize : National Level Competitions conducted by All India Radio.

Has got Ananya Yuva Puraskar Award and Sathya Shree Award Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam Astanavidwan.

Scholarship : Receipt of both Karnataka Government and the Government of India Scholarship in the category of Mridangam.



**R K Shriramkumar** belongs to a family of eminent Carnatic musicians who hail from Rudrapatna, a little village on the banks of the river Kaveri in Karnataka, South India. His grandfather 'Sangita Kalaratna' Shri R K Venkatarama Shastry, the veteran violinist, was one of the most respected Vidwans of the music fraternity. His grand uncles Vidwan R K Narayanaswamy, Vidwan R K Ramanathan, 'Sangita Kalanidhi' R K Srikantan and his uncles the 'Rudrapatnam Brothers', Vidwans R N Thyagarajan & R N Tharanathan are all musicians of great repute.

Having had his initial lessons in violin playing from Vidushi Smt Savitri Satyamurthy, Shriramkumar was trained by his grandfather Shri R K Venkatarama Shastry. He later received guidance from Vidwan Shri V V Subrahmanyam and also had training in vocal music from 'Sangita Kalanidhi' Shri D K Jayaraman.

Born in Chennai on 4th October 1966, Shriramkumar began his concert career in 1981 and has since carved a niche for himself gaining much proficiency, acclaim, stature and popularity amongst musicians and music lovers alike. His career highlights include his providing violin accompaniment for the leading lights like Shri Semmangudi Srinivasa Iyer, Smt M S Subbulakshmi, Smt D K Pattammal & Shri D K Jayaraman, Smt T Brinda & Smt T Mukta and Shri Palghat K V Narayanaswamy. He has also accompanied other stalwarts like Shri T Vishwanathan, Shri N Ramani, Shri S Balachander, Dr M Balamuralikrishna, Shri T V Shankaranarayanan, Shri T N Seshagopalan and the entire current

generation of star performers. His concert experience includes performances for all the prestigious organizations in India like the Madras Music Academy, the All India Radio, Doordarshan, the Sangeet Natak Akademi, the ICCR and other premier sabhas of Chennai, Mumbai, New Delhi, Kolkata, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Tiruvananthapuram and other places.

Shriramkumar has traveled far and wide on many concert tours with various artists to the United States of America, Canada, United Kingdom, France, Germany, Switzerland, Finland, Spain, the Netherlands, Mauritius, Muscat, Doha, Dubai, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Malaysia, Australia and Hong Kong participating at prestigious festivals and centers such as the Tyagaraja Utsavam at Cleveland, Ohio, USA accompanying Shri K V Narayanaswamy and others, the Festival of India in Mauritius accompanying Shri S Balachander, the Theatre De La Ville in Paris accompanying Shri Sanjay Subrahmanyam, the Asia festival at Helsinki accompanying Smt Bombay Jayashri Ramanath and the Tropen theatre in Amsterdam accompanying Shri T M Krishna. A recipient of many prizes in violin and vocal competitions including the All India Radio Prize, Shriramkumar also has to his credit the 'Yuva Kala Bharati' award from Bharat Kalachar, Chennai, the 'Kalki Krishnamurthy Memorial Award' from the Kalki Krishnamurthy Trust, the 'Nada Oli' from Nada Inbam, Chennai, the 'Vani Kala Sudhakara' from Shri Tyagabrahma Gana Sabha, Vani Mahal, Chennai and the 'Isai Peroli' from Kartik Fine Arts, Chennai.

Shriramkumar has provided violin accompaniment in several commercial recordings and has had the blessed opportunity of participating in a very unique recording entitled 'Divine Unison' featuring the great veterans Shri Semmangudi Srinivasa Iyer and Smt M S Subbulakshmi. He also directed the music for a special television presentation on the Sringeri Sharada Peetham and has set to music a few compositions of the Acharyas of the Sharada Peetham. An alumnus of Padma Seshadri Bala Bhavan Senior Secondary School, Chennai, Shriramkumar graduated from the Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda College, Chennai with a Bachelors degree in Mathematics. He is also one of the founders of YACM (Youth Association for Classical Music), a premier forum for the promotion of classical music amongst the youth.



**Vidwan Malladi Suri Babu** hails from a family of musicians. Born in 1945 to Smt. Anasuya and late Sri Malladi Sri Rama Murthy, Suri Babu had his initial training from his father, a great carnatic musician and Harkadha exponent of Andhra Pradesh.

Suri Babu has participated in many musical features, operas and various music programmes in All India Radio, Vijayawada from his tender age of 9.

"Sangeetha Choodamani", Vidwan Sri Voleti Venkateswaralu, realizing the potentials of Suri Bobu, took him under his guidance and taught him a wide repertoire of carnatic music compositions in his popular Radio Broad Cast, "Sangeetha Sikshana".

Suri Babu sincerely grasped the fetters of his guru's music and accompanied him in many of his concerts. He is an acclaimed torch bearer of voleti's style of Music.

He had the opportunity to learn many rare compositions of the music Trinity, Padams and Javalis etc., from Padmabhushan Sangeetha Kalanidhi Dr. Sreepada Pinakapani who is the Guru of Sri Voleti and Sri Nedunuri Krishna Murthy.

Suri Babu has been performing in and outside the state in prestigious music Sabhas winning appreciations from the Vidwans, Connoisseurs and public at large.

He is an "A Top" grade vocal musician performing in All India Radio and Doordarshan regularly. He has been featured in the prestigious National Program of Music of All India Radio. He has many awards and titles to his credit from All India Radio and other noted music organizations. Suri Babu has trained many students in Carnatic, Devotional and Light music.

Suri Babu's music is noted for his sense of Sruthi, rich manodharmam with a very melodious voice. He has composed tunes for many compositions of Annamacharya, Narayana Theertha, Sadashiva Brahmendra, Bhadrachala Ramadasu, and Sai Bhajans. Has composed many solo bhajans, meere bhajans, surdas, kabirdas bhajans etc.

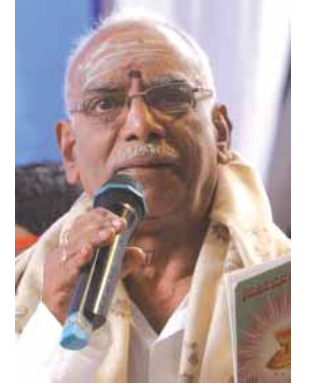
Several albums (cassettes and CD's) of Sri Suri Babu have been released by prestigious Audio companies like, Swathi soft solutions, Inreco, Leo etc. Sri Voleti's Ragalapana with a touch of Hindusthani music and superb setting of Bhajans, Sadashiva Brahmendra's compositions etc, all enclaves in music were imbibed in Suri Bobu.

Popular young musicians, "Malladi Brothers", Sri Rama Prasad and Ravi Kumar are the sons and Disciples of Suri Babu, who have won world wide recognition as front rank carnatic musicians.



సంగీతాచార్య శ్రీ మల్లాది సూరిబాబు వర్యులకు

“శ్రీకళాపూర్ణ” బిరుదు ప్రదాన మహోత్సవ సందర్భమున సమర్పించిన “అక్షరార్చన”



శ్లోకం 2 “శ్రీకళాపూర్ణ” సదనః

ధీ కళా పూరితాననః

సంగీత నిధి ర్మల్లాది

సూరిబాబు స్సమేధతాం

తేటగీతి 2 సర్వతో ముఖ సంగీత శాస్త్ర సార  
మహిత పాండిత్య వైభవ సహితుడైన  
ప్రథిత మల్లాది శ్రీ సూరిబాబు వర్యు  
డెల మి శ్రీవాణి కరుణ వర్ధిల్లు గాత!

సీసపద్యం 2 శ్రీదేవి వాగ్దేవి సేవింప నిరుగడల్  
భాసించు నే దివ్య భవ్య వదన  
సంగీత సాహిత్య సమలంకృతాంగియై  
వారలు నే లలిత లావణ్య సీమ  
సకలావనీ పాలన కళాత్మయై యొప్పి  
యలరునే చంద్ర రేఖావతంస  
శ్రిత జనాభీష్టసిద్ధి ప్రదాతయై  
చెలగు నే రత్నకాం చీ కలాప

తేటగీతి 2 అట్టి సత్కళా నికురుంబ అంబ! నేడు  
వర గుణో పేతు మల్లాది వంశ చంద్రు  
ఆయురారోగ్య భోగ భాగ్యంబు లొసగి  
వరలు నేలుత శ్రీ సూరిబాబు వర్యు!

తేటగీతి 2 సుతులు శిష్యులు తోడుగా శ్రుతులు గలుప  
నుతుల నందుమ! అస్మత్ ప్రణతులనంది  
“శ్రీకళాపూర్ణ” బుధ యశ శ్రీ ప్రపూర్ణ  
అందుకొనుమయ్య యీ “అక్షరార్చన”లను!

శ్లోకం 2 జయ త్వయమ్ సంప్రతి నాద విద్వా కూలంకషో జ్ఞానమయ ప్రదీపః  
జయ త్వయమ్ గానకళా వతంస స్సరస్వతీ సత్కృత కీర్తిసాంద్ర!!

శ్రీ విజయచైత్రం, శనివారం, ఏప్రిల్ 27, 2013

శ్రీ వేంకటేశ్వర స్వామి దేవాలయం, Aurora IL, USA

‘శ్రీ కళాపూర్ణ’, ‘సాహిత్యకళా సరస్వతి’ ‘శాస్త్ర విజ్ఞానభారతి’

ప్రొఫెసర్ డా. ఆచార్య శ్రీనివాస్ వేదాల

**Institute of Hindu Studies OK**

**Dr. Sriram Sriram Sonty MD - Founder Chairman SAPNA**

‘ప్రతిభా కౌముది’ డా. శారదాపూర్ణ శౌరి - **Founder Exe. Director SAPNA**

శ్రీ అన్నమాచార్య ప్రాజెక్ట్ ఆఫ్ నార్త్ అమెరికా సంస్థ వారి

రజతోత్సవ సంగీత సభల సందర్భాన, వీణావాదన సమావేశ పంచ వత్సర

ఉత్సవ సమయాన సమర్పించిన సన్మానం.

**Celebrating**

**25 years of Service to Performing Art Traditions of India in USA**

**Three day celebrations of Fifth Veena Conference and Festival.**











# Student Showcase



## Raja Veena School of Music : Guru "Srikala Purna"

Rajeswari Pariti  
Ravi Kumar Pariti  
Divya Pariti  
Annapurna Ganti  
Nitya Pariti  
Shylaja Chodavarapu  
Deepa Raj  
Aparna Ayyalaraju  
Pushpa Soundara Rajan

Rama Bhagavathula  
Sirisha Mantha  
Krishna Sarada Bathina  
Sri Lakshmi Dronamraju  
Geetha Rajesh  
Swathi Jonnavithula  
Rama Palacharla  
Shanti Yanamandra  
Anuradha Srirama



## 'Ensemble of Ragas' - Guru Saraswathi Ranganathan

Aparna Ayyah  
Latha Alwar  
Sukanya Venkatesan  
Swati Madugula  
Sreelaya Bhamidi  
Manjula Bhamidi  
Aditi Krishnan  
Gayatri Venkat  
Nithya Mahesh  
Anuttama Raghu  
Meher Malapaka  
Amulya Malapaka  
Aparna Sarma  
Sumana Akella  
Jayanthi Mukund  
Sri Vasudha Ramanujam  
Saraswathi Suryanarayanan  
Neeharika Kakuturu  
Malini Palagati  
Swapna Addagulla

Suhitha Irukulla  
Yavna Sakti  
Sujatha Ramkumar  
Shreya Ramkumar  
Ruchira Hariharan  
Rishabh Hariharan  
Radhika Hariharan  
Shruthi Senthil  
Shriya Maturi  
Rhea Thomas  
Neelima Maddulapalli  
Anjali Maddulapalli  
Ananya Maddulapalli  
Ram Ranganathan  
Katyayani Ranganathan  
Dhanya Chandrasekharan  
Anagha Chandrasekharan  
Sunitha Chandrasekharan  
Kamale Paridas



# Student Showcase



## **"Veena Gaana" School of Music - Guru : Vasanthi Jaggi Iyer**

Anushri Devaramanai	Veena Sundar
Moksha Muthukrishnan	Aparna Ananthakrishnan
Akshya Raghavan	Meera Dullur
Rithika Somu	Neha Narayan
Ravali Thimmapuram	Suhitha Shankar
Shveta Subramaniam	Anupama Udayakumar



## **"RAMA" - Rama Advanced Academy of Music - Guru : Rama Gurupalli**

Anupama Palakodeti	Pushpa Koya	Monica Muthaiyya
kavitha chekuri	Jalaja Potluri	Satvik gurupalli
Lavanya Chandrasekhar	Kavin Lavari	
Padmaja Budhavarapu		



## **Pallavi School of Music : Guru Dr. Jaishree Prasad**

Anjali Nallavittil	Anika Veda
Abhinav Bhasyam	Apurva Sanagavarapu
Hamsini Rajasekhar	Nithya Arun
Amara Jammalabadaka	Kevin Jacob
Roshan Nallavittil	Sivapriya Sreedhar
Roshni Arun	Anusha Jayaprakash
Sanjana Rajesh	Hiranmayee Kundeti
Nishika jayaprakash	Vinod menon
Sweta Jagannath	Venkat Sivaneshwaran
Shreyah Prasad	Ragha Janaswamy
Nethra Senthilkumar	Harshita Gudipati



## Other performance, students, solo artists



### **Vikram P. Sundararaman**

Vikram's music training was by his father Dr. P. Sundararaman and later formally under the training of visiting teachers at the Sri Venkateswara Temple, Pittsburgh Summer Music School. There he started instruction in Carnatic music under eminent musicians like Ramnad Raghavan, Prabhakara Varma, T.R. Subrahmanyam, and S.R. Janakiraman. In the summer of 1994 Vikram came under the guidance of the renowned musician Sangita Kalanidhi Sri T.K. Govinda Rao. Sri TKG's style of bhavaladen, traditional music encouraged him to take his musical study to a more serious level. For the past two decades, Vikram has visited Chennai numerous times to study under Sri TKG during his vacation time from school and University in both summer and winter. He has performed along with his Guru in concerts as vocal support on numerous occasions and has given solo concerts in the USA and India as well. Vikram holds a BS and MS in Bioengineering from the University of Pittsburgh and a dual-degree PharmD-MBA from the University at Buffalo-SUNY. He and his wife Soumya are settled in Chicago with their first son Srikrishna Govindan Sundararaman.



**Saraswati Rajagopalan** has been acclaimed as one of the leading Veena artists of Karnatic music today. Hailing from a music loving family, she started rendering solo performances from the age of 12. Initial training was from Smt. Radhamani Sharma of Karaikudi Sambasiva Iyer School and was later trained by Sangeeta Kalanidhi Shri. KS Narayanaswami and Shri TS Raghavan. Saraswati has fine awareness and grip on the idiom of ragas and rhythm, a rich repertoire of classical compositions, and a mind open to new ideas, all of which has given an innovative and interpretative quality to her rendition with a fine blend of aesthetics. Has received accolades for chaste and scholarly music rendered with maturity and flawless fingering technique. Saraswati's music abounds in nuances akin to vocal singing - gayaki ang. She has endeared herself to music lovers by her fascinating style, graceful, original and rooted in tradition. Her virtuosity on the instrument, with rich tonal quality has won her appreciation from music loving audiences all over. She has presented several concerts

all over India and abroad and has enthralled the layman and connoisseurs alike. Concerts are regularly featured in National Program of Music on AIR and Doordarshan and Akashwani Sangeet Sammelan. Has rich experience in composing music for Orchestra. Solo performances in prestigious organizations/institutions: widely traveled and performed both within the country and abroad. Received great acclaim for her "Veena-Venu-Violin" and Jugalbandi Concerts. Done many lecture demonstrations across the world. Saraswati has been teaching Veena to students, both in India and abroad, over many years.



## Other performance, students, solo artists



**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.

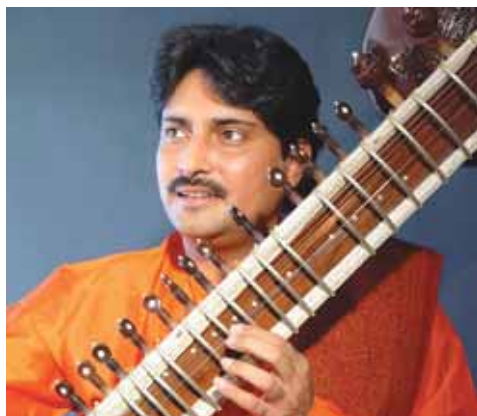


**Athrey Nadhan**, from Chicago, IL started learning the art of playing the Mridangam at the age of five and is currently undergoing advanced training from the esteemed professional, Srimushnam Sri V. Raja Rao in Chennai, India. Athrey has accompanied several leading musicians including Flute T.S. Shankaran, 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.



**Kiranmayi Saragadam**, Hails from Visakhapatnam, a coastal city and under the cutelage of Guru SathGuru Sri Sivananda Murthy garu. Kiranmayi advanced for interest and dedication to her work in bringing out the aesthetics of artist. Printing and Designing is her passion and has been in the field for the past 12 years. Now Kiranmayi is striving to reach the greter heights by herself by establishing her own Printing centre "*SathGuru Design & Prints*".

## Other performance, students, solo artists



**Sitarist Indrajit Banerjee** is one of the leading exponents of the Maihar Gharana. He was born in a musical family, unique due to the large number of accomplished artists in Hindustani Classical Music. Some of these family members include his guru, Pandit Kartick Kumar (Sitar), Pandit Barun Kumar Pal (Hamsa Veena), Niladri Kumar (Sitar), Partho Das (Sitar), Aparna Roy (Surbahar). He got inspiration from his sitarist mother, Manju Banerjee, who was a disciple of late Nikhil Banerjee, and afterwards, Santosh Banerjee. Indrajit's training began with his maternal grandfather, Bankim Kumar Pal, who was the disciple of Inayat Khan, and Birendra Kishore Roy Chowdhuri (Kochi Babu). He then took training under Pandit Manilal Nag of Bishnupur Gharana. Later on, he took intensive training from his uncle, Pandit Kartick Kumar, who is a senior disciple of Pandit Ravi Shankar. All of this training developed a strong foundation for Indrajit's music, and creative individuality. Indrajit has a special touch on Sitar combined with technical virtuosity and sensitivity. Indrajit is

an A-grade artist of All India Radio and television and also an approved artist of I.C.C.R (Govt. of India). He was awarded the Gokul Nag Memorial Medal in 1987 by Bangia Sangeet Parishad, (W. Bengal), "Sur Mani" in 1990 by Sur Sringal Samsad Bombay.



**Neela Devi Amaravadi** is an upcoming Carnatic veena artist of Dhulipala sampradayam. She began learning veena from Smt. D.L. Thulasi garu and continued advanced training from her son Sri Dhulipala Srinivas garu (The Best Vainika award recipient 2011) who is a Top grade Veena artist in India. She had keen interest in learning carnatic veena and vocal throughout her life. This passion carried on and she was able to get renowned Veena artists to mentor her along the career path. As an example, she was mentored by Smt. Rajeshwari Padmanabhan garu during her short time in Chennai. She arrived in USA in 2007 and in her quest for improvising her skills, she was fortunate to become a disciple of Smt. Rajeshwari Pariti garu. Under her mentoring, she had found a path to excel her

veena skills. She established "Sri Guru Krupa school of Carnatic music" and started running her own coaching classes. She now handles a team of students at Hindu Temple of Greater Chicago as part of community volunteering program.

## Other performance, students, solo artists



### Ethirajan Ramanujam

Ethirajan Ramanujam has been learning Mridangam for the past 14 years. A software engineer by profession, Ethirajan is currently working in Wipro Technologies (USA). He is the Vice-President of the Youth Association of Classical Music (YACM, Chennai). Hailing from the Pudhukottai school of Mridangam, Ethirajan had the initial training from Ramanathapuram Sri. M.N. Kandaswamy Pillai. Later, he had the initial and advanced training from Sri. Sivashankara Reddy (disciple of Sri. M.N.Kandaswamy Pillai). Currently he has the versatile training from Sangita Kalanidhi Sri. T.K.Murthy (Tanjore School of Mridangam). Ethirajan has a total of more than 1400 concerts to his list of concerts, all over India and Abroad. He has played in many prestigious Sabhas like The Music Academy, Mylapore Fine Arts, Krishna Gana Sabha, of Chennai , Shanmukanandha Hall (Mumbai), RR Sabha (Trichy), Neyveli Sabha, RR Sabha (Madurai), Tamil music circle (Jamshedpur), Kalaivani arts (Mysore) .Ethirajan has been awarded the "Ilam Isai Mamani award" from the Madras Kali Bari Temple, received honors from Krishna Gana Sabha He, Music Academy, Mylapore Fine arts, TAMBRAS, Krishna Gana Sabha . He has also given concerts in Chicago, Minneapolis, Columbus (Ohio) and Virginia, and other parts of the country.



Sanjay Subrahmanyam



Abhay Ram



Gana Ranganathan



# Contributions of Ramamatya and Venkatamaki to Indian classical music in their great works “Swaramela kalanidhi” and “Chaturdandi Prakasika” with special reference to the development of the Veena.

- Dr. Jaishree Prasad (Ph.D. Music)



## Introduction:

The middle of 17th century can be marked as a golden age of Karnatak music. Several important milestones of Karnatak Music evolved during this period, enriching this traditional art form. Some of the most important developments in both Lakshana (theoretical) and Lakshya (practical) aspects of music took place in this era.

Many of our ancient musicologists like Bharatha , Matanga and Sarngadeva made our Music immortal, by their great contributions to music theory and practice through their scientific experimentations. They were not only great thinkers and musicologists but were also great scientists and researchers. The Chala Veena and Dhruva Veena experiments of Bharatha and Sarngadeva hold good even today for the demonstration of the 22 sruthis.

Swaramela Kalanidhi is one of the standard works in Sanskrit on Karnatak Music .From the verses referring to the authorship of this work, it is understood that Ramamatya belonged to the Todarmal family and was a native of Kondavidu in Andhra Pradesh.

Swara Mela Kalanidhi was written around 1550 A.D , in response to a request by Rama Raja, King of Vijayanagar (Karnataka). Swara Mela Kalanidhi took its birth as the king desired that all conflicting views prevalent at that time in the theory and practice of music be reconciled. Ramamatya followed the footsteps of Sarngadeva in description of “Principle of Lakshya”, giving importance to the practical music and said that the theory of music should always follow practical music.

Ramamtya is credited with the invention of the prototype of the present day Veena with four main playing strings and three tala or drone strings, to produce all the Suddha and Vikriti Swaras in all the registers. He gives a detailed description of the different varieties of Veenas in the Veena Prakarana and explains the different swaras in terms of Veena.

In the beginning of the third chapter of Swaramela kalanidhi, he states the construction and importance of Veena , which is the embodiment of

all gods and is therefore very auspicious.

According to him the Veena in Practice is found to be of three types.

- 1) Suddha Mela veena
- 2) Madhya Mela Veena
- 3) Achutarajendra Mela veena

Each one of the above three kinds falls into two varieties, namely,

- 1) Sarvaraga Mela Veena and
- 2) Ekaraga Mela Veena.

In the Sarva Raga Mela Veena, the frets are fixed and , it is made to produce all the ragas in all the octaves. In the Ekaraga Mela Veena, the frets are moved so that only the swaras of one particular raga can be played .The frets have to be moved every time a raga is changed.

Therefore it implies that Ramamatya’s Veenas were of six kinds and all of them were provided with frets. In the Sarvaraga Mela Veena , the frets were immovable as in the case of the present day veena . In the Ekaraga Mela Veena ,they were not fixed and therefore movable as in the case of modern Sitar.

Ramamatya’s veena with four main playing strings and three side strings called sruthi strings seems to have laid the foundation for the concept of Saraswathi Veena of modern times.

Following Ramamatya’s great work, Venkatamakhi wrote “Chaturdandi Prakashika”, the famous treatise on Karnatak music in the year 1660 A.D.. This work , written in the middle of the 17th century ,influenced and shaped the future of musical forms in the years to come.

Venkatamakhi, the son of Govindacharya, is often regarded as the grammarian (Panini) of Karnatak music. The name Chatutradandi refers to Gita, Thaya, Alapa and Prabandha, the four important aspects (pillars) of Karnatak music.

Venkatamakhi says that the earlier musicologists classified the Veena into three types - Suddha Mela Veena, Madhya Mela Veena and Raghunathendra Mela Veena.

Each of the above veenas have two varieties; the Ekaraga Mela Veena and the Sarvaraga Mela Veena. Similar to the description of the veenas of Ramamatya, in the Ekaraga Mela Veena, the swaras pertaining to only one raga could be played in the middle and higher octaves while the Sarvaraga Mela Veena, consists of frets in the middle and higher octaves.

Venkatamakhi also mentions a third variety in the Madhya Mela Veena. It is called the Ekatantri Veena.

The tuning of the strings is the same for both the Ekaraga and the Sarva varieties of Suddha Mela Veena. The main difference between them lies in the fixing of frets. The Ekaraga Mela Veena being constructed out of movable frets and the Sarvaraga Mela Veena with fixed frets.

To sum up, the six varieties of Veenas prevalent in his times were:

- 1) Ekatantri and
- 2) Dwitantri (two kinds)
- 4) Suddha Mela Veena
- 5) Madhya Mela Veena
- 6) Raghunatha Mela veena

**Madhya Mela Veena :** Both Ramamatya and Venkatamakhi have adopted the same tuning except for a slight change in the nomenclature of the swaras. Antara Gandhara, Kakali Nishadha, and Shadja of Venkatamakhi are called by Ramamatya as Chyuta Madhyama Gandhara, Chyuta Shadja Nishadha, and Suddha Shadja respectively.

The tuning of the four upper strings of the Madhya Mela veena of Ramamatya and Venkatamakhi are as follows.

**1) ANUMANDRA PANCHAMA :** Producing Suddha Dhaivatha, Suddha Nishadha, Kaishiki Nishadha, Kakali Nishadha, Shadja. Abd Suddha Rishabha.

**2) MANDRA SHADJA :** Produces Suddha Rishabha, Suddha Gandhara, Sadharana Gandhara, Antara Gandhara, Suddha Madhyama and Varali Madhyama,

**3) MANDRA PANCHAMA :** Produces the same set of swaras as in Anumandra Panchama of the first upper wire but at one octave above than Anumandra Panchama..

**4) MADHYA SHADJA :** Produces the same set of six swaras like the Mandra Shadja but at one Octave higher than the Manandra Shadja.

The tuning of the three side strings is as follows.

The first tala string is tuned to Tara Shadja and is called "Teepi". The second string is tuned to Madhya Panchama and is called "Tantrika" and the third string is tuned to Madhya Shadja and is called "Jhallika". These three side strings are also called Sruthi Strings.

**Raghunatha Mela Veena :** This Veena results from a slight variation in the tuning of the two Veenas, the Suddha Mela veena and Madhya Mela veena respectively. Raghunatha Mela Veena also admits of two varieties, the Ekaraga Mela Veena and Sarva Raga Mela Veena.

Apart from the above three varieties of Veenas that were in vogue in his time, Venkatamakhi gives an account of two other Veenas that were designed by himself. These Veenas were known as Dwitantrika consisting of two strings but differing in tuning. The first string is made of brass and the other made of steel. In the first variety, the first string is tuned to Mandra Shadja and the second to Mandra Madhyama. The first string produces the swaras Shadja, Rishabha, Gandhara and the second string comprises the frets of all the three registers beginning from Mandra Sthayi Varali Madhyama. The Veena is longer like the Ekatantri to accommodate all the frets. Other details are similar to the first variety of Dwitantrika.

While, Ramamatya is credited with evolving the Veena with four main playing and three tala strings, similar to the present day (Saraswathi veena), Venkatamakhi's original contributions to the theory and Practice of karnatak music is noteworthy. He devised the twelve Swarasthanas in an Octave on the basis of Veena, and for convenience suggested slight change in the nomenclature for example, Chyuta Madhyama Gandhara of Ramamatya was changed to Antara Gandhara which is meaningful. The nomenclature used by Venkatamakhi continues to be used even at present. Venkatamakhi demonstrated the the twenty two sruthi scheme in the Madhya Mela Veena. He derived the swarasthanas from the sruthis and placed the frets in their relevant swarasthanas. This procedure is commendable from the point of view of modern scientific method.

# Music fest in Chicago

(Published in *The Hindu, India* - April 12, 2013)

Carnatic classical strains will reverberate in Chicago and Aurora, U.S., when the Fifth Veena Conference and Festival begins from April 26 to 28. The event is put together by SAPNA (Sri Annamacharya Project of North America), a non-profit organisation promoting the classical arts.

This year, the thematic presentation revolves round 'Thillaana.' Chitravina Ravikiran will present traditional as well as world music performances on April 26, at the Hindu temple, Greater Chicago, Lemont II. He will perform with Carlo Basile (flamenco guitar), Greg Nergaard (bass) and Saraswathi Ranganathan (veena). On April 27, Malladi Brothers will be felicitated and will later perform. The last day will feature 'Swara Pravaaham -- Thillana', a thematic presentation. The venue for April 27 and 28 is the Sri Venkateswara Balaji Temple, Aurora II.

SAPNA is a not for profit organisation run by Saradapurna and Shriram Sonty for over 25 years, to propagate Indian heritage, Carnatic classical music and dance in the U.S. Five artists and their schools from Chicago will participate and support this festival -- Rajaveena School, run by Rajeswari Pariti, Vasanthi Iyer, Mysore style exponent Dr. Jaishri Prasad, Rama Gurupalli and Ensemble of Ragas School of Saraswathi Ranganathan.

As it is a non-profit organization, SAPNA welcomes support from art patrons. For donations and other information, logon to [www.sapna25.com](http://www.sapna25.com)





## Fusion Artists



### Subrata Bhattacharya

As an accompanist of choice of some of the most renowned classical exponents, he exhibits his command over the tabla and his comprehension of the intricacies of the notes and sounds of classical music. He has to his credit numerous performances at some of the most prestigious venues in India

and abroad. Subrata has impressed audiences in the USA, the Middle East, and Europe. Audiences at the Dover Lane Music Conference (periodical), ITC Sangeet Sammelan Calcutta, Gunidas Sangeet Sammelan, Salt Lake Music Festival, Bhawanipur Sangeet Sammelan, Dakhini Sangeet Sammelan, Golpark Rama Krishna Mission Annual Music Conference, Calcutta, A.I.R. Concerts and Radio FM Music Concert, to name a few, have had the opportunity to see this immensely talented musician perform. He has also performed in Sparsh in Lucknow, and at the National Center for Performing Arts, Mumbai, and India International Center, Delhi. He has received his taalim under Shri Tamal Krishna Chatterjee, Shri Nripen Karmakar and Shri Tapan Kr. Banerjee before he was finally accepted as a pupil of tabla maestro Pt. Shankar Ghosh, all of whom honed his talent to the level of refinement now witnessed by audiences everywhere. He has since proved himself a worthy exponent of the Farukhabad Gharana. Recognition of his talent has come in the form of such awards as the Sangeet Prabhankar and the Gold Medal and the Saangeet Praveen from Prayag Sangeet Samiti, Allahabad, and Sangeet Bhushan from the Bhatkhande College, Lucknow. Being an accompanist is an essential aspect of any tabla player's expertise, and here too Subrata has made his mark. Renowned artists whom he has accompanied in the past few years are Pt. Vishwa Mohan Bhatt, Dr. L. Subramaniam, Dr. N. Rajam, Pt. Buddhaditya Mukherjee, Ustad Shahid Parvez Khan, Ustad Ali Ahmed Hussain, Pt. Tarun Bhattacharya, Pt. Ronu Majumdar, Chitraveena Ravikiran, and Pt. Tejendra Narayan Majumdar, Pt. Samresh Chaudhury. He is a visiting professor at the University of Urbana Campaign ,IL.



**Carlo Basile**, guitarist, has a Master's Degree in Classical Guitar performance and pedagogy from Northeastern Illinois University. His Master's Degree performance was titled "Flamenco Music and Spain's Nationalist Composers." Carlo studied Classical guitar with Anne Waller at Northwestern University for 7 years. He continues to study flamenco guitar

in Cordoba and Sevilla Spain with various teachers including Luis Ruiz ("Calderito"). Internationally, Carlo has travelled to and either performed, lectured, or collaborated with musicians from Rajasthan, India; Mirissa, Sri Lanka; Chang Mai, Thailand; Cebu, Philippines; Merzouga, Morocco; Camaguey and Havana, Cuba; Limassol, Cyprus; Zabalo, Ecuador and Paracho, Mexico. As a composer, Carlo written music for Clinard Dance Theater productions, various radio and television spots, and recently he co-wrote and performed all of the music for the Steppenwolf Theatre's production of "Sonia Flew."

### Greg Nergaard

#### Acoustic & Electric Bass

Greg performs with a variety of ensembles including Anne Harris, Las Guitarras De España, Do No Dawn, embracing styles from jazz to pop, R&B to punk to flamenco, Latin and other ethnic styles. His involvement in music began at an early age, inspired by his musician parents. His education continued in high-school band and chorus and led to a scholarship at Beloit College as a vocal major. He found that bass was his true calling, and this led to studies at American Conservatory. Greg's performing experience has taken him to Spain (2001), West Africa (2002) and even a stint playing in a Sudanese wedding band in Egypt (1996).



# The Five Veena Festivals & Conferences - 2009-2013

2009



2012



2013



2013



2010



2011





# Vth Veena Conference & Festival -2013

## Acknowledgements

Illinois Arts Council, ICMS India Classical Music Society, SRI Foundation, HSBC Corp, AON Foundation, Yedavalli Foundation, Villivalam Foundation, Bharathi Theertha, MET LIFE, TV Nathan Associates, Ensemble of Ragas, Raja Veena, RAMA - Schools of Music

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- Preparing Audio, video material , Publishing research Books , Commentary, Music  
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- Conducting Competitions, Presenting Awards, Taking part in International world Music  
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**Sri Annamacharya Project of North America SAPNA**

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Annamacharya Aradhana Utsavam : **"Annamacharya Sankeertana Saarasvata Sourabham"**

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Kandlakunta, Sri PVRK, Dr. Medasani, Dr. Madugula, Dr. kamisetty, DrSaradaPurnimaSonty, Dr. William Jackson, are few who has shared their understanding with literary enthusiasts at large.

- SAPNA Conducts Literary symposiums, conferences, Presents talks, lectures, commentaries, about Annamacharya compositions.
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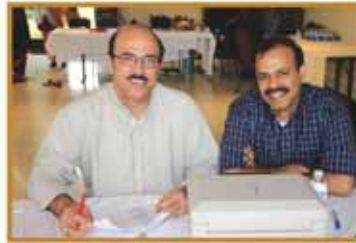
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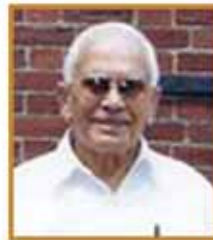
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