

ARVIND VENKATARAMAN - Mridangam



A popular disciple of Sangeetha Kalanidhi Dr. Trichy Sri. Sankaran, **Arvind** has been under his tutelage for the past 10 years, learning the intricacies and nuances of the percussive arts of the Pudukottai Laya Bani. Arvind was initiated into Carnatic Music by his mother at the age of 5 and underwent vocal training

for 10 years. He was then introduced to the art of Mridangam playing in 1998 by Vidwan Pazhani. Sri. C. Kumar and also had his initial training with Vidwan Sri. Sriraam Subbaraman.

Arvind had his Arangetram on September 22nd, 2007 performing alongside his Guru, Sangeetha Kalanidhi Dr. Trichy Sri. Sankaran in the concert of Padma Bhushan Sangeetha Kalanidhi Madurai Sri.T.N. Seshagopalan. The occasion marked the 52nd anniversary of his guru Prof. Trichy Sri. Sankaran's Arangetram in the concert of the Legendary Alathur Brothers, who played in tandem with his Guru Maha Vidwan Pazhani Sri. Subramania Pillai.

Arvind has regularly accompanied sought after musicians and has performed at almost all the prestigious venues of Carnatic Music in North America. Most notably Arvind has performed alongside Sri. Ashok Ramani, Madurai Sri. R. Sundar, Sri. Jayshankar Balan, Smt. Geetha Sunderesan, Delhi Sri. V. Muthukumar, Sri. V.V.S. Murari, Smt. Padma Sugavanam, Toronto Brothers, and Sriranjani Santhanagopalan to name a few.

Arvind is an Electrical Engineer, with a Masters degree currently pursuing a career in research in the field of Renewable energy and Sustainability with University of Toronto.

RAMANA INDRAKUMAR - Ghatam



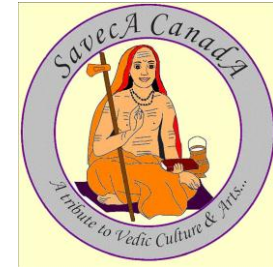
Ramana Indrakumar started his training in Mridangam at the age of 11 under Vidwan Sri. Vasuthevan Rajalingam. Through his guru, Ramana has had advanced training from various mridangists such as Neyveli Sri. Venkatesh, Sri. P. Satish Kumar, Madipakkam Sri. Suresh and Poovalur Sri.

Sriji. Ramana pursued not just the mridangam, but also the secondary percussion instruments of ghatam and kanjira. A great feat by Ramana was the pursuit to learn the ghatam on his own by watching great ghatam artists from today and yester years. His playing is appreciated for its rhythmical clarity and speed. Ramana has participated in various radio and television recordings, and has performed in many venues across North America.

During the last 18 years, Ramana has performed alongside many talented artists such as Sri. T.N. Seshagopalan, Sri. O.S. Thyagarajan, Chitraveena Sri. Ravikiran, Papanasam Sri. Ashok Ramani, Neyveli Sri. Santhanagopalan, Sri. Ganesh and Sri. Kumaresh, Sri. S.Shashank, Vittal Sri. Ramamurthy, Sri. B.U. Ganesh Prasad, Smt. Nithyasree Mahadevan, Mysore Sri. H.N. Bhaskar, Sri. Rajesh Vaidhya, Sikkil Sri. Gurucharan, Sri. V.V.S. Murari, Mullaivasal Sri. Chandramouli, and many more local and international artists. Ramana Indrakumar was awarded with the title "Mridanga Jyothi" by the Varasithi Vinayagar Temple of Canada in acknowledgement of his achievements in the field of music and the contribution to Carnatic music and the Carnatic society in Canada. Ramana is currently working as a Mortgage Advisor at CIBC. He started his school, Chandam – Institute of Percussive Studies, in 2003 and is currently teaching mridangam and other percussion instruments in Toronto and surrounding areas.

SANKARA VEDIC CULTURE & ARTS INC SAVECA Canada/SAVECA Music Academy

(www.saveca.ca)
A Not-for-profit organization



Proudly Presents

CARNATIC VOCAL CONCERTS

by

Meenuja Viswathasan & Srimidhi Sridharan

Disciples of Suswara Sukhalaya Swara Raaga Saraswathi

Smt. Raji Gopalakrishnan

With

Keerthana Sankar (Violin)
Arvind Venkataraman (Mridangam)
Ramana Indrakumar (Ghatam)

SUNDAY JULY 1, 2012

FAIRVIEW LIBRARY THEATRE
35 Fairview Mall Dr, Toronto ON

Indo Canadian Music Talent Show:
A Canada Day Celebration

Event financially supported by:

Sankara Vedic Culture and Arts Inc., a not-for-profit organization, has been organizing carnatic music workshops for the benefit of music students in and around Toronto since 2004. Carnatic workshops are conducted by Suswara Sukhalaya, Swara Raaga Saraswathi Smt. Raji Gopalakrishnan, an A-grade artist in India, who has won several prestigious awards in India and abroad for her contribution to music.

If you wish to register for future workshops, please submit an online registration form by visiting our website www.saveca.ca.



Smt. Raji Gopalakrishnan with students before Guru Vandhana Presentation. Students who have performed debut concerts since 2007: *Prashant, Vaaraki, Srinidhi, Meenuja, Myuran, Abhishek Vaidyanathan, Abhishek Iyer*



Canadian
Heritage

Patrimoine
canadien

Canada



MEENUJA VISWATHASAN - Vocal

Meenuja began her musical journey at the tender age of 4 under Sangeetha Pooshanam Smt. Poomani Rajaratnam, followed by Dr. Alakananda. The desire to enhance her knowledge in the art led her to Smt. Raji Gopalakrishnan in 2003, who has been giving advanced training to date. Meenuja performed her debut carnatic vocal concert in 2010. She has successfully completed the Grade 7 (Teachers grade) examination conducted by Thamilisai Kalamamram and received the “Isai Kala Bharathi” title. Meenuja is also an accomplished Carnatic violinist. She has trained under gurus Sri. Anand Srinivasan, Sri. Vittal Ramamurthy and Sri. Mullaivasal Chandramouli. As an accomplished bharatanatyam dancer in the Kalakshetra style, Meenuja enjoys the full spectrum of both classical dance and music. She successfully completed her Bharathanatyam arangetram in 2003 under the guidance of Dr. Alakananda. Meenuja has two Gold medals to her credit, the 2004 Isai Kuyil Gold Medal awarded by Dr. K.J. Yesudas and the 2008 M.S. Subbalakshmi Gold Medal awarded by Thamilisai Kalamamram.

Meenuja is currently studying Life Sciences at McMaster University, and continues to be an active member of the classical dance and music community in Toronto.



SRINIDHI SRIDHARAN - Vocal

Srinidhi began his training under the tutelage of Dr. Alakananda Nath, in Toronto at the age of 10. At the age of 14 he began advanced training under Smt. Raji Gopalakrishnan who brought Srinidhi to the concert stage. In 2009, Srinidhi completed his debut concert under her guidance, and continues to give concerts in North America and in Chennai. Srinidhi has also won prizes in the Cleveland Music Competition in 2007-2008. Additionally, Srinidhi has received training in Mridangam and Kanjira from Sri. Sundaram Ganapathy, a student of Sri Tanjore Upendran and Sri TK Murthy.

Under the guidance of his gurus, Srinidhi performs with a unique style that combines melody, bhavam and layam.

Srinidhi has performed in various Sabhas such as Hamsadhwani (2010, 2011), Kapali Fine Arts (2009, 2010), ICC Classical Music Society (2011), SVBF(2010), Hindu Society Venkateshwara Temple (2010), Saveca Canada (2009), MACA (2008).

Srinidhi is pursuing Bachelors in Mathematics & Quantitative Finance from Wilfrid Laurier & University of Waterloo (currently in his 3rd year).



KEERTHANA SANKAR - Violin

Keerthana Sankar from Auburn Hills, MI started learning violin at the age of 6 from Shri. Jayshankar Balan. She is currently learning from Shri. Delhi Sunder Rajan. She gave her first solo violin concert at the age of 11 in Detroit. Keerthana has won several prizes in Krithi, Kalpana Swaram and Alapana categories at Cleveland festival and Chicago Tyagaraja Utsavam. She started her debut as an accompaniment for a visiting artist from India in 2008 and since then, she has been providing accompaniment for senior artists such as Madurai Sundar, Shashi Kiran, Sangeetha Swaminathan, Ashok Ramani, Sankaran Namboodhiri, Prapancham Sitaram and several others across the country and in Canada. Keerthana is also undergoing vocal music training under Shri. Madurai Sundar. Along with her sister, Keerthana has given several vocal concerts in US, Canada and India.

Keerthana is studying pre med in University of Michigan.

