



Courtesy: Sruti

Chitravina Ravikiran

Chitravina **Chitravina N. Ravikiran**
Violin **Hemmige V. Srivatsan**
Mridangam **Trichy Sankaran**
Ghatam **Ravi Balasubramanian**

PROGRAM

There will be no intermission.



Saturday, October 10 @ 7 PM

Zellerbach Theatre



This performance is co-presented with
Sruti, The India Music and Dance Society

PROGRAM NOTES

Chitravina N. Ravikiran will present a traditional Indian Carnatic classical instrumental concert, performing on the Chitravina, a 20-stringed slide. Carnatic is India's oldest classical music system and is renowned for its balance between well-structured compositions and creative improvisation. Ravikiran will be accompanied by an ensemble of musicians that includes the winner of Carnatic Music's most prestigious award, Sangita Kalanidhi; Trichy Sankaran on the percussion instrument Mridangam as well as Hemmige V. Srivatsan on the Violin and Ravi Balasubramanian on the Ghatam (clay pot).

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Chitravina N. Ravikiran (Chitravina) was a prodigy from age two and is acclaimed as "The Mozart of India" (*Wisconsin State Journal*). He presented vocal concerts from age five, Chitravina recitals since age 11 and played a non-stop 24-hour concert at age 18. He created Melharmony, a revolutionary concept in world music in 2000, while working with members of the BBC Philharmonic at the UK Millennium Festival. Hailed as "perhaps the greatest slide instrumentalist in the world" (Radio National, Australia) for his "teasing precision and dazzling effects" (*New York Times*), Ravikiran has performed across the world in major festivals and "brought new audiences to Indian music" (CNN Television). He has recorded extensively for major labels and collaborated with top world artists like Taj Mahal and Glen Velez as well as the BBC Philharmonic.

Perhaps the first to introduce Carnatic music in Slovenia, Slovakia and Croatia, he is also the pioneer of tele-teaching and online courses in Indian music and the creator of the revolutionary visual rhythm software, Taal Acharya. He was the first to introduce Indian music and Melharmony in school districts in the United States through orchestral compositions. Ravikiran has composed over 700 pieces including the bestselling operas *Ramayana* and *Mahabharata*. The youngest to win the President of India's Sangeet Natak Academy Award, he has international awards such as citations from the cities of Houston, Texas and Tulsa, Oklahoma, and numerous titles including Sangeeta Ratnakara, Sangeeta Choodamani and Sangeeta Kala Sarathy. The city of Middleton, Wisconsin decreed that the third Saturday of November every year was to be celebrated as Melharmony Day as an honor to Ravikiran. He attributes his success to his gurus Chitravina Narasimhan and T. Brinda.

Hemmige V. Srivatsan (Violin) is a highly regarded vocalist and violinist in the classical Carnatic tradition. He was introduced to music by his parents, Shantha and Hemmige Varadarajan, and received training as a violinist under Sri Anoor Ramakrishna, Principal of the Ayyanar Music College in Bangalore. In 1985, Srivatsan had the opportunity to tour North America with the renowned singer Sri Palghat K.V. Narayanaswamy and following this, Srivatsan became a disciple of KVN, learning the art of singing from him as well.

Srivatsan accompanied his guru to the 1988 Adelaide Arts Festival in Australia and has also provided vocal support for him. He has accompanied many other legendary musicians including Sri Semmangudi Srinivasa Iyer and Smt. M.S. Subbulakshmi. As a violinist, Srivatsan pays particular attention to classical and tonal purity. He has been featured in a number of albums and is an 'A' grade artist of All India Radio.

Trichy Sankaran (Mridangam) 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, 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 Konnakkol (Solkattu). Sankaran has performed at major festivals in India, South-East Asia, Europe, Australia and North America. In his six decades of concert experience in Carnatic music, he has accompanied all of the top ranked artists of India. In 2012, Sankaran received the most coveted honor of 'Sangita Kalanidhi' from the prestigious Music Academy of Madras. Sankaran has published two major textbooks: *The Rhythmic Principals and Practice of South Indian Drumming* and *The Art of Konnakkol*.

Ravi Balasubramanian (Ghatam) is the most sought-after Ghatam artist in North America and is known for his energetic and sensitive accompaniment and solos. Having performed over 500 concerts, Balasubramanian has extensive experience in Carnatic percussion, including performing the Ghatam at top musical institutions such as the Chennai Music Academy and the Cleveland Aradhana for nearly 20 years. He received the title Yuva Kala Bharathi in 2003 from Bharat Kalachar, a music organization in Chennai, for excellence and dedication in the art of Ghatam. Balasubramanian expanded the use of the Ghatam in music when he presented special "GhataTarang" concerts with seven Ghatams as the lead melody and percussion instrument for the first time outside India. He has had the rare honor and experience of performing with leading artists including Sangita Kalanidhi vocalists, violinists, flautists and mridangists in India, the United States, Canada, Singapore, Malaysia and Australia.

Balasubramanian received his initial tutelage from Palghat Sri P. K. Sekar and Sangitha Kalanidhi Dr. T. K. Murthy, and later pursued advanced training from Sri V. Suresh in Chennai, India. He has given lecture-demonstrations on the Ghatam at Yale University, Wesleyan University, the University of Pittsburgh and Chatham College in Pennsylvania, and has been featured in several local and national media articles. He is also a Guru to several students in the United States, guiding them in Indian percussion theory and performance. He recently published an article in *Sruti* magazine, India's leading arts magazine. He received his doctorate in Robotics from Carnegie Mellon University and is currently a professor in Oregon State University.