

has accompanied various artists, including some senior musicians, in concerts in the San Francisco Bay Area and in India. He has participated in competitions at the Cleveland Thyagaraja Aradhana and has won several prizes there. 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.

Sowmiya Narayanan started his initial training from the brothers V. Rajasekar and V. Suresh. Presently Sowmiya is continuing his ghatam training, lessons and guidance from Sri. Vijay Ganesh of Ashburn, VA. Sowmiya is also taking advanced training in India under Trichy Sri Harikumar and ghatam maestro Dr. S. Karthick. Sowmiya has accompanied many eminent artists including Dr. M. Balamuralikrishna, Smt. Gayathri Venkatraman, and many others.

World Music Guest Artists

Sudha Raghunathan, vocalist

with

Kamalakaran Vinjamuri, violin

Vignesh Venkataraman, mridangam

Sowmiya Narayan, ghatam

SUNDAY, 7:00 P.M.

APRIL 7, 2019

CAPISTRANO CONCERT HALL

*In keeping with traditional Indian custom, the **raga** (melodic framework) and **tala** (underlying rhythmic framework) will be announced at the beginning of each piece.*

Indian Classical Music

Indian classical music is generally divided into two broad categories; the North Indian Hindustani tradition and the South Indian Carnatic tradition. This evening's event is on music from the South Indian (Carnatic) tradition, which has its emphasis on vocal music. Carnatic music is taught and learned through compositions, which encode many intricate musical details, also providing scope for free improvisation.

The **raga** is the melodic framework of Indian music and is based on a scale of five, six or seven notes. Its characteristics include melodic ornamentations of certain notes, inclusions of microtones, certain characteristic phrases and the existence of certain important notes over others. All of these make the raga recognizable. Each musician tries to elaborate the raga according to his capacity but always staying within the notes applied to the raga.

The **tala** is a rhythmic cycle of a certain number of beats that act as a metrical framework for musical compositions and rhythmical improvisations. The tala is usually kept with different hand gestures such as clapping, counting and waving. The listeners can enjoy the music by anticipating the variations in the gamakas by the performers and expecting how the performers handle the intricate details of different ragas.

Tonight's event is co-sponsored by Sacramento Aradhana.

Smt. Sudha Raghunathan received her initial training in Carnatic music from her mother V. Choodamani. From the age of three, she began to learn bhajans (Hindu devotional songs). Her tutelage continued under B. V. Lakshman. In 1977, she received an Indian government scholarship to study music under a doyen of Carnatic music, Dr. M.L. Vasantha Kumari, whose student she remained for thirteen years.

Sudha has performed and collaborated with artists all over the world. She has performed at the United Nations, the Théâtre de la Ville in Paris, and at Alice Tully Hall, Lincoln Centre, to commemorate 50 years of the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan. Raghunathan has performed at the Madras Music Season every year since 1990, and is considered one of India's leading Carnatic performers. In 2013 she was awarded the Sangita Kalanidhi of the Madras Music Academy. She was awarded the Padma Bhushan, India's third-highest civilian honor, in January 2015.

Kamalakaran Vinjamuri plays Carnatic music on the keyboard, harmonica, and violin, having had his initial training from his grandfather, Sri. Parthasarathy Iyengar. His father, Mr. Subhash Vinjamuri started teaching him violin at the age of seven. Kamalakaran has given several performances in the U.S. and in India. When visiting India, he is under the tutelage of Ms. Kanayakumari Garu. He has won several prizes in different music competitions, both in the U.S. and in India.

Kamalakaran participates in Kuchipudi dance ballets choreographed and taught by his aunt, Smt. Mrinalini Sadananda. Kamalakaran has won first prizes in the Sangeetha Kalanidhi Sri KV Narayanaswamy memorial music competition and in competitions conducted by the Mahati Music Academy, held in Chennai. He accompanied several up and coming and leading musicians in Chennai during the December music festival in 2009 and 2010.

Vignesh Venkataraman is a mridangam artist hailing from Umayalpuram Sri. K. Sivaraman's school of music. Vignesh was initiated into playing mridangam by Sri. Anand Iyer, from the same school. Over a period of five years, Vignesh traveled to India every summer to undergo advanced training under the tutelage of Umayalpuram Sri. K. Sivaraman. Vignesh