

*The Inaugural Brisbane*

# **SANGEET MELA**

*North Indian Classical Music & Dance Festival*

**Sunday 7th September, 2014**

Queensland Multicultural Centre  
Brisbane, Australia



# Programme

## *Morning Session: 10am to 12 noon*

1. WORKSHOP - "RAGAS AND TALAS" - presented by Sri Govinda Chakraborty (tabla) and Sri Sangeet Mishra (sarangi)

~ Interval ~

## *Early Afternoon Session: 1pm to 3:20pm*

1. ODISSI DANCE – Ku. Lillian Warrum
2. SITAR - Ku. Anjuha Ketheeswaran (Rising Star Award, Instrumental)
3. VOCAL – Sri Eman Rawi (Rising Star runner-up)
4. TABLA SOLO – Sri Arka Tito Basu (Rising Star Award, Percussion)
5. SARANGI – Sri Sangeet Mishra

~ Interval ~

## *Late Afternoon Session: 4pm to 6pm*

1. KATHAK DANCE – Ku. Helena Joshi (Rising Star Award, Dance)
2. VOCAL – Ku. Senjuti Maitra (Rising Star Award, Vocal)
3. TABLA DUET – Sri Govinda Chakraborty and Sri Shen Flindell
4. VOCAL – Sri Rahim Zullah

~ Interval ~

## *Evening Session: 7pm to 9pm*

1. KATHAK DANCE – Smt. Darshana Hingu
2. SITAR – Sri Saikat Bhattacharya
3. VOCAL – Dr. Vivek Apte

Please enjoy delicious refreshments in the lobby, supplied by Sitar Restaurant.

No food and drinks to be brought into the auditorium.

Please be seated in timely fashion and be considerate of fellow listeners.

# *From the Festival Organisers*



## *Festival Director* *Shen Flindell*

The concept for Sangeet Mela 2014 came firstly from the great Indian classical music conferences like Dover Lane and Sankat Mochan, and also from the annual all-night Sangeet Melas I have joined in Japan. These kinds of events are a focal point for the community of performers and listeners to come together and celebrate Indian classical culture in a convivial atmosphere conducive to bringing out the best in the artists. It is my sincere hope that this can become a successful annual event in Brisbane, bringing great musicians and dancers from around Australia and overseas to collaborate with local artists, inspiring young artists to immerse themselves in riyaz, and giving happiness to the audience and sponsors who make such events possible. I welcome your feedback on how to make Sangeet Mela 2015 even better.

*email: [shen@sangeetmela.org](mailto:shen@sangeetmela.org)*



## *Sangeet Premi Club President* *Yousuf Alikhan*

One of the aims of Sangeet Premi Club Inc is to promote, support and sponsor local, inter-state and international practitioners of Indian Music and to provide a platform to showcase their skills. We are delighted that the inauguration of Sangeet Mela will go a long way in fulfilling our objective. We are extremely excited to add Sangeet Mela to our annual schedule of musical events.

Brisbane has a wealth of Indian classical music talent which deserves a proper platform to develop and prosper. In particular we are keen to foster young talent, and hope that the Sangeet Premi Rising Star Awards will give encouragement to our young classical artists to continue to learn and practise their art and develop into world class artists. We look forward to these young artists presenting Indian classical music and dance at future Sangeet Mela events and other cultural events throughout the year.

We welcome the connoisseurs of Indian classical music to a spectacular display of dance and music and thank them for their support and sponsorship. We also thank our illustrious artists for devoting their time for the inaugural Sangeet Mela and we hope that with support of the audience and the artists Sangeet Mela grows into a premier event on Australian Indian Classical Music calendar.

Putting together an event on this scale on a shoe string budget requires foresight, patience and organisational skills. We are grateful and thankful to our member and Festival Director, Shen Flindell for putting together the first day-long Indian classical music event which brings together well known local, inter-state and international artists.

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# Visiting Artists



## *Dr. Vivek Apte - vocal*

Dr. Vivek Apte has been trained in Hindustani classical singing during his early school years at the Gandharva Mahavidyalaya in India. In Sydney, he has received Hindustani classical vocal training under the guidance of Mrs Ketaki Dongre – a highly accomplished singer and a music teacher. Over the years, Vivek has performed at numerous public and private concerts in India and Australia. He is a well known singer and a harmonium player in the Indian community in Sydney and Melbourne.



## *Sri Sangeet Mishra - sarangi*

Young Maestro Sangeet Mishra has learnt music from his father Pandit Santosh Mishra and represents the 8th generation of sarangi masters in his renowned musical family. He has also received advanced training from his paternal and maternal grandfathers Maestro Bhagwan Das and Maestro Narayan Das Mishra respectively. Sangeet has performed on several music platforms in India and overseas. Sangeet is a talented musician and a capable exponent of the Benaras tradition.



## *Sri Govinda Chakraborty - tabla*

An outstanding exponent of tabla, Govinda is a senior disciple of Tabla Wizard Sri Ashutosh Bhattacharya, who was a noted disciple of Tabla Samrat Pt. Kanthe Maharaj of Banaras. Govinda has been awarded the title of TAAL-MANI by Sur-Singar Samsad, Bombay. An established solo percussionist, Govind has also accompanied most of the top-ranking Classical Vocalists, Instrumentalists and Dancers of India and has performed widely throughout the world.



## *Sri Maharshi Raval - tabla*

Maharshi is a promising tabla player from Benaras Gharana (school) living in Sydney. Maharshi is a student of Late Pt. Nandan Mehta who was a disciple of the legend of Benaras Gharana Late Pt. Shri Kishen Maharaj and has been learning for the last 25 years at Saptak School of Music in Ahmedabad. He has travelled extensively to various parts of the world as an accompanist to Indian Classical Vocalists, Instrumentalists and Kathak Dancers.



## *Ku. Lillian Warrum - Odissi dance*

Lillian has been dancing classical dance styles since 4 years old. She trained as a classical ballerina from a young age and later fell in love with the enchanting melodies and grace of Odissi dance and music. She started studying Odissi in India and later moved to Melbourne to study with Monica Singh, who is her Odissi teacher and mentor. She wishes to pursue Odissi dance full time and in the future teach in Australia with the blessings of her teacher.

# Resident Artists



## *Smt. Darshana Hingu - Kathak dance*

Darshana is one of the most prominent Kathak artists of the present generation in Australia. Her performances show a rare command over fundamentals of Kathak dance style. Her performance has always presented a rare combination of expression, rhythm and grace. Her aesthetical approach is reflected in both the interplay of complex rhythmic technique, and in expressive interpretation of emotive poetry. Endowed with a vivacious stage presence, Darshana's total involvement in dance and joyous spontaneity brings to her performance a rare dignity and intensity. Darshana is postgraduate in dance from Faculty of Performing arts, M.S. University, Baroda, India. She trained under the very special guidance of renowned guru of Jaipur Gharana, Pandit Harish S. Gangani.



## *Sri Rahim Zullah - vocal*

Rahim Zullah was born in Suva, Fiji. He comes from a family of music lovers with its roots in Indian classical music and has 5 CDs to his credit – Fiji Ka Safar (A Fijian Journey) Vol. 1 & 2, Tum Ho, Multi Faith Songs, and Music Masala – a spicy blend of Brisbane's musicians, released and recorded by Radio 4EB. Rahim's goal is to impart his experience and training to music lovers of all cultural backgrounds, to ensure that the tradition of Indian music remains alive in Australia and to encourage and support such music lovers on the path of the sound of music.



## *Sri Saikat Bhattacharya - sitar*

Saikat Bhattacharya has been playing the Sitar for over twenty years. Playing the sitar is his passion and devotion, beginning in the early nineties under the supervision of his Guru Pandit Manilal Nag of Calcutta, in India. Pandit Manilal Nag comes from the Vishnupur Gharana, which is the one and only school of music that originated in Bengal with its roots, embedded in the "Senia Gharana" of Delhi. Since coming to Australia, he has regularly performed in various programs like the Queensland Multicultural Music Festival and the Woodford Folk Festival.



## *Sri Shen Flindell - tabla*

Shen Flindell started learning tabla in Melbourne from Sri Debapriya Bhattacharya in 1994 and soon went to the holy city of Varanasi in India to study under Pt. Kaviraj Ashutosh ("Ashu Babu") Bhattacharya, a great tabla master of the Benares Gharana. Since his guru-ji's passing in 2004, Shen has taken lessons from several great tabla players including Sri Govinda Chakraborty, Pt Nayan Ghosh and Pt Suresh Talwalkar. In Brisbane he has founded the Ashu Babu Memorial Tabla School, currently teaching about 25 students and including activities such as an annual student concert and internationally accredited exams.



# Kathak Accompanists



## *Dr. Mansey Kinarivala - vocal*

Dr. Mansey Kinarivala started learning classical vocal music at the age of 6, from Shri Krishnakant Parikh, disciple of Shri Pandit Jasraj. She completed her Bachelors in Classical Music (Sangeet Visharad) in 1998, then pursued further vocal classical music training with Surmani, Dr Monika Shah of Kirana Gharana. In 2001 she was the winner of Pandit Omkarnath Thakur Spardha. She has performed in India, including performances on Aakashvani (radio) and Doordarshan (national TV), as well as internationally.



## *Smt. Menaka Visvanathan Thomas - vocal*

Menaka Visvanathan Thomas has been a student of Karnatic Classical music since the young age of 5 years. She received tutelage under the loving and inspiring guidance of her mother, Mrs Vijaya Visvanathan, the principal of the Sri Krishna Music Academy in Brisbane. She has a passion for sharing the divinity of Indian music, and has performed at many community events and festivals, including Woodford Folk Festival, Queensland Multicultural Festival and the Encounters India Festival.



## *Sri Joseph Abhay Nand - harmonium*

Joseph Abhay Nand is a stalwart participant in the Brisbane Indian classical community. Originally from Fiji, he learnt harmonium from Ustad Mohammed Hussein from Pakistan and Ustad Mehmood Dholpuri from India. He is also accomplished in both tabla and vocal. He learnt tabla from his elder brother Sri Viveka Nand, Ustad Mubarak Khan, Pt Surendra Bhatt and Ustad Hashmat Ali Khan, and learnt vocal from Ustad Ghulam Sadiq Khan.



## *Sri Murali Ramakrishnan - bansuri*

Murali Ramakrishnan had his training in Hindustani (North Indian classical) music from Pandit Krishnanand of Kirana Gharara. Murali learnt Karnatic (South Indian classical) music under the guidance of Sikkil Sisters Neela and Kunjumani. Murali draws inspiration from both music styles and creates soulful music that touches the heart. Murali has been living Australia from 1999 and has been regularly performing. He teaches music in both Hindustani and Karnatic styles.

# *The 2014 Sangeet Premi Rising Star Awards*



## *Ku. Helena Joshi - Kathak dance*

Growing up learning various styles of Indian and Western dance, Helena Joshi always had this intuitive feeling and resonance towards Classical Indian Dance. Two years ago whilst studying Medicine, destiny answered her intention and introduced her to her Guru Prerana Deshpande whilst travelling to India. Since then she has travelled to Pune, India three times and learnt Kathak in a guru-shishya parampara for a total of 5 months over 2 years and return to Australia in the year and engage in daily 'riaaz' whilst continuing full time university.



## *Ku. Senjuti Maitra - vocal*

Senjuti Maitra started taking formal lessons in classical music in Kolkata, Agarpura from Amit Chakraborty, Bhavna Sangeet Academy. Since moving to Brisbane in 2008 she is continuing lessons through Skype from Amit Chakraborty. She has performed commercial and semi-classical music several times on various platforms like the Bengali Society of Queensland Cultural Programs, Girmit Society and Sangeet Premi Club, Brisbane.



## *Ku. Anjuha Ketheeswaran - sitar*

Anjuha Ketheeswaran commenced learning Sitar in March 2011 from Smt Shrabani Choudhury of Vishnupur Gharana. Notable performances have included 'Nrityanjali' – Indian Classical Dance Festival at BEMAC and several festivals at Sri Selva Vinayak Kovil. Before the sitar, she played the violin in both Carnatic and Western styles, which she began in 2002.



## *Sri Arka Tito Basu - tabla*

Arka Tito Basu has been learning tabla for 11 years now, since 2003, and recently received a distinction in the Grade 8 Tabla Exam from Pandit Ram Sahai Sangeet Vidyalaya (PRSSV), London. He has also received three first places in the Ashu Babu Memorial Tabla School concerts and has had the opportunity to perform with his guru-ji Shen Flindell at Woodford Folk Festival, Noosa and Gold Coast. Tito's mother, Sulagna Basu, is a well-known classical and semi-classical vocalist and dancer in Brisbane.

# Organisers



# Thanks to our sponsors

