

SANGEET MELA 2017

4th Annual Indian Classical Music & Dance Festival

Saturday 2nd September

Queensland Multicultural Centre
Brisbane, Australia



Programme

Afternoon Session: 2:30pm to 4:00pm

1. SANGEET PREMI RISING STAR AWARD WINNERS:
 - a) KATHAK DANCE – Ku Sheena Rinky Bala with live ensemble
 - b) VOCAL (Carnatic) – Ku Madhuvanathi Muralidharan (Sydney)
2. TABLA SOLO – Sri Simranjit Singh (Golden Temple, Amritsar)

~ Interval: Tea ~

Sunset Session: 4:30pm to 6:45pm

1. BANSURI – Sri Taro Terahara (Japan)
2. BHARATANATYAM DANCE
– Smt Padmalakshmi Sriram and Ku Shivani Sriram
3. SAROD – Sri Rahul Bhattacharya (Melbourne)

~ Interval: Dinner ~

Evening Session: 7:30pm to 9:45pm

1. VOCAL (Hindustani) – Smt Sunita Tikare (Mumbai)
2. SARASWATHI VEENA – Smt Nirmala Rajasekar (Chennai/USA)

Please enjoy delicious refreshments in the lobby. No food to be brought into the auditorium. Please be seated in timely fashion and be considerate of fellow listeners.

Due to the extent of the programme we must run on time.

Please enter and leave the auditorium between items.

From the Festival Organisers



Festival Director

Shen Flindell (EthnoSuperLounge)

Well here we are at the 4th annual Sangeet Mela in Brisbane. It is an pleasure to bring together this amazing variety of artists presenting the very best kind of music and dance: Indian classical! From Hindustani to Carnatic, dance, vocal, instrumental and percussion solo, the breadth and depth of this genre is just unmatched around the world.

Every year Sangeet Mela presents young talent under 25 through the Sangeet Premi Rising Star Awards. Looking back at some of our past winners - Our inaugural winner in Hindustani vocal, Senjuti Maitra, is currently spending most of the year in Kolkata learning from Pt Ajoy Chakraborty. And our first Kathak dance winner, Dr Helena Joshi, is fast becoming established as one of Australia's premiere Kathak performers and teachers through her Infinity Kathak Dance Company. I'm very excited about her plans to bring her guru-ji Smt Prerana Deshpande to perform here in early November. Bringing people together in an event like Sangeet Mela creates a magical experience.

Many thanks to this year's platinum sponsor Yoga King who has not only given a generous financial contribution but has assisted directly with staff for some of the graphic design and marketing work, as well as being a hands on volunteer at our programme launch event in May.

Thanks also to Cr Jonathan Sri of The Gabba Ward for giving support once again through the Lord Mayor's Suburban Initiative, to our regular silver sponsors Sitar Restaurant, Homeopathy for Health, and Sahaja Yoga. and to our team of volunteers. I want to give special thanks this year to Murali Ramakrishnan and Susmitha Ravi who have helped me with some of the admin work in the months leading up to the event.

As much as it is a pleasure putting together this programme, this project requires more than an individual effort. Sangeet Mela takes hundreds of hours throughout the year to bring together and it is only through a true team effort that we can continue to grow this event. We welcome and invite you and/or any of your friends to come forward to help with funding applications, seeking high level sponsorship, collaborating with bigger festivals or institutions, accessing mainstream media, effective marketing to wider audiences, graphic design, video production, or just general volunteer work.

Indian classical music transcends so many boundaries: regional, religious, and even national borders. Sangeet Mela 2017 features artists from Bengali, Tamil, Punjabi, Maharashtrian, Telugu, Gujarati, Fiji Indian, Anglo-Australian, and Japanese backgrounds! I call on all the various subcontinental cultural associations to take an active stake in Sangeet Mela and promote the best of the subcontinent's culture to the wider community.

I'm committed to continue this journey of presenting Sangeet Melas in the future and already working on the 5th Sangeet Mela in 2018. I hope we have an effective and dedicated team working on the next one so that it is not the last. With the continued support of audiences, VIP supporters, sponsors and other funding sources, we can grow Sangeet Mela into an event attracting the biggest names of Indian classical music to Brisbane.

email: shen@sangeetmela.org



Sangeet Premi Club Secretary

Usha Chivukula

In Hindi "Sangeet Premi" means "a lover of music", and in 2011 we established the Sangeet Premi Club to promote an appreciation of all kinds of music. It gives us great pride and pleasure to support Sangeet Mela, an annual event that celebrates the musical traditions that not only underpin so much of Indian popular music, but have inspired music lovers world over to create and collaborate. Each year the organising committee is humbled and astonished by the performing talent we discover, and this year is going to be no exception. Since 2014 we've seen the Sangeet Mela festival grow from its infancy and three years on, it is our honour to play a part in showcasing the next generation of classical Indian musicians – both our homegrown Australian performers, and the international artists who have graced our stage over years. On behalf of the Sangeet Premi Club I wish to thank all our sponsors, patrons, performers and volunteers for making this wonderful event happen.

email: sangeetpremiclub@gmail.com

Featured Artists



Smt. Nirmala Rajasekar - Saraswathi veena

Nirmala Rajasekar is a master veena artiste and vocalist. A dynamic and vibrant performer, she is one of the most recognized names in the world of Indian Classical music today. She began training in this art from the age of 6 and began her career as a concert performer when she was 13.

Nirmala's music is marked by a repertoire that reflects her adherence to the rich patantra (lineage and heritage) of her Gurus. Her several creative works explore the veena and the voice in the paradigm of world music. Many honors have been conferred on Nirmala and she has been recognized by many institutions around the world for her contributions to music and education – including best performance awards from top music organizations in India- The Music Academy, Narada Gana Sabha and Sri Krishna Gana Sabha, Madras and the Bangalore Gayana Samaja.

Nirmala has received the Bush Artistic Fellowship, the McKnight Performing Artist Fellowship and several other commissions and grants from the American Composers Forum, the Minnesota State Arts Board, the Jay Phillips Center for Inter faith Learning, Meet the Composer New York et al. She has also been feted with several other awards including the Vocational Excellence Award from the Rotary Club International, a Lifetime Achievement award from the India Association of Minnesota. Nirmala is a top ranking artiste, a regular performer in Radio and Television around the world including the BBC (London), AIR (All India Radio), ABC (Australian Broadcasting Corporation) and many radio networks in the USA. Her concerts have been featured in many countries in North America, Europe, Asia and Australia. She has performed in world renowned venues including Carnegie Hall, United Nations New York City, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan London, Musee Rietburg Zurich, and BBC London. Her concert at the International Festival of Music in Konya, Turkey was the first veena concert in that country in 50 years. Her performances have been featured at several special events including playing for His Excellency the President of India Dr. Abdul Kalam and Jazz great Ornette Coleman among other world luminaries. Nirmala's concerts are seen every year at the famed December Festival of Music in Chennai, India at all the reputed venues and organizations. Nirmala is scheduled to tour Australia and New Zealand in late summer 2017 and also a tour of the USA in October and November before heading out to India for her winter music Festival tour there in December 2017 and January and February 2018.

Nirmala has recorded extensively over the three decades of her career. She has many albums to her credit under various record labels. She has showcased Carnatic music and performed in a collaborative setting playing and singing alongside other forms of music including western classical music and jazz. She has been featured as a special guest artist by the 3-time Grammy award winning group 'Sounds of Blackness' in their album which won 'Outstanding World Music Album of the Year 2012'.

Nirmala is a passionate educator. Her unique methods and approach to education in the realm of Indian classical music has been a topic of many featured programs on television and the print media. She serves in an advisory capacity on the boards of many organizations in the USA and India. Nirmala teaches at the 'Naadha Rasa Center for Music' based in Plymouth Minnesota and serves as its artistic director. Her students, who live in many countries and train with her, are accomplished veena players and vocalists who have won awards and recognitions for their performances.

Featured Artists



Smt Sunita Tikare - Hindustani vocal

Sunita Tikare is an outstandingly melodious Vocalist inclined towards Indian Classical music from early childhood. An inspiring pat on the back for a flawless performance coupled with an ardent admiration by Late Honorable Prime Minister Smt Indira Gandhi for this lead singer at a tender age of Nine (later also Late PM Shri.Rajeev Gandhi) at the Faizpur Adhiveshan was a inspiring moment in the Music career of this young debutant.

Trained in the famed "Jaipur-Atrauli Gharana Gayaki", earnest words by Shri Tulsidas Borkar to the Leading lady and Music Maestro of yesteryears Vidushi Padmavati Shaligram Gokhale to tutor Sunita and bring her latent talent to the notice got her the best tenor as a disciple for over 9 years. Her strict and disciplined tutelage imbibed in her the "Jaipur Gharana Gayaki" of the North Indian style. Sunita is fortunate to continue her learning now under Padma Vibhushan Gana-sarawati Smt Kishori-tai Amonkar the jewel on the crown of Indian Classical music. Sunita's determined passion and zealous attitude to master in her art took her journey step by step from a small town in Maharashtra to Mumbai during which she got invaluable tutelage initially from great mentors- Late Pt.Vasantrao Kulkarni , Babanrao Haldankar and Pt Ajay Pohankar. Sunita while shaping up as an Artist completed "Sangeet Visharad" from Gandharva Mahavidyalay with 1st rank in year 1988. She later completed Master of Fine Arts from Mumbai University in Hindustani Classical music. An effortless 1st class in all the music exams, various firsts, awards and prizes in Classical and other Light & semi-classical music forms in the initial phase of her career gave her all rounded music personality, thought process and approach that becomes distinctly clear when heard in her concerts.

Sunita's khayal gayaki constitutes of systematic raag badhat, intricate and graceful taans, gliding meends, gamaks and layakari. Persistency and commendable performance in Thumri-dadra, Abhanga/Bhajans, Bhavgeet/Bhaktigeet, traditional Marathi Natyageet out of her avid intent to deliver these varied forms in its justifiable temperament are due to her complimenting voice quality. Very few singers today attempt to quench the thirst of audience with such an omnipotent versatility.

Recipient of the Citation Award as "Maharashtra Vaibhav" from Maharashtra Kalaniketan, "Surmani" from Sursingar academy, "Gandharva Samman" , "Sangeet Kala- Ratna Samman", "Sangeet Ratna Samman" backed up from Ministry of Culture, Government of India are some of the indicative laurels of her contributions to the Hindustani Classical vocal music. She has received Swarsadhika Award from Malaysian Government and Bhutan Government Award. She is acknowledged as an A Grade artist forThumri-Dadra by the All India Radio which she dedicates to Late Mohatarma Begum Afroz Bano who taught her the Thumri stylized diction, talimon harkat and nazakats apart from the golden collection she had straight from Banaras.

Sunita has travelled extensively all over India for participating in prestigious music conferences and Sangeet Samarohs; her concerts have been acclaimed in the UAE and Thailand too. She has travelled to Switzerland, Paris, Mauritius, Bankok and Thailand for concerts. She fairs with a sizable collection of the rich cultural heritage and the traditional bandishes as old as over 150 years in front of her listeners with ease and dexterity, thus making it difficult for people to forget her voice and its aesthetic quality. These secrets of her appreciation and an enduring rapport brings us today an artist of new generation yet shouldering the commitment and feat to continue on the pathways defined by the old masters of rich Indian Classical music.

Featured Artists



Sri Taro Terahara - bansuri

Taro Terahara is one of the leading musicians in the thriving and highly competitive Indian classical music scene in Japan. Taro was passionate about music from a very early age. His path to the bansuri began with a stable seven years of the trumpet, moved to the Indonesian gamelan and the Japanese flute until finally he came into contact with Indian classical music the age of 23. It was the music of the world-renowned master of bansuri, Pt. Hariprasad Chaurasia, that awakened Taro to the certainty

that "the voice of the bansuri was calling" to him. From that moment on his fervent journey along the onerous path to mastering the great Indian bansuri began. In 1992 he became a student of the long-time disciple of Pt. Hariprasad Chaurasia, Mr. Hiroshi Nakagawa. A brush with a life-threatening illness led Taro to devote himself entirely to the practice of Indian classical music and there began four years of intense training under the revered Pt. Hariprasad Chaurasia. In 1996 he became a disciple of the late Pt. Nikhil Banerjee's acclaimed student, Sri Amit Roy in Japan, who guided and refined Taro's musical talents with dedication and passion, carefully instilling the deep and meaningful soul of the music of his lineage.

Taro Terahara has performed Indian classical music in India, throughout Japan as well as in Australia, USA and Europe. Terahara's music, like that of his teacher Sri Amit Roy, is tempered by a beautiful humility and devotion to the mood and spirit of the raga guaranteeing to engage the mind and deeply touch the heart. As a student in the long line of Maihar gharana he is a unique and deep individual whose music crosses boundaries and blends souls. It is no chance that this young man came across the music of the bansuri in 1991. His vocation is to bring the beauty and expansion of Indian classical music to parts of the world that have yet to hear it, joining individuals and nations as one.



Sri Rahul Bhattacharya - sarod

Rahul (Sabyasachi) Bhattacharya is a Hindustani (North Indian) musician who plays the 19th string sarod. Hailing from the city of Varanasi he commenced his musical studies at the age of 5 with vocal training and also undertook studies in Western Classical Guitar. He migrated to the sarod in the late 80s, and received tutelage from Ustad Amjad Ali Khan, the foremost exponent of the sarod. In addition to this he has also sought training in different instrumental styles from sitar virtuosos Ustad Shahid Parvez and Pandit Sugato Nag. One of the few performers of this difficult instrument in Australia, he performed the first ever Concerto for Sarod with the Preston Symphony Orchestra,

wrote the first ever book on sarod playing and collaborated with instruments such as the cello, saxophone and musicians from Chile, Sri Lanka and Iran. Due to his exposure to multiple schools of music, he is now engaged in actively documenting masterpieces from his gurus to make them publicly available.

Featured Artists



Smt Padmalakshmi Sriram & Ku Shivani Sriram - Bharatanatyam

Smt. Padmalakshmi Sriram is a professional Bharatanatyam Classical Dancer from South India. Bharatanatyam is one of the most ancient amongst eight classical Indian dance forms. It originated in the temples of Tamilnadu, India and is known for its grace, purity, tenderness, and sculptural poses. Lord Shiva is considered the God of this dance form. In today's times, it is increasingly gaining popularity and is practiced by both male and female artists all over the world. Padmalakshmi is a talented performer, choreographer and teacher. She has performed for

various festivals and organizations in India and since having moved to Brisbane in July 2013, has performed in several events organized by local councils, communities and prestigious platforms including Queensland Multicultural Center, Brisbane City Hall and Selva Vinayagar Temple, to name a few. She has been teaching and choreographing dance for more than 15 years. In doing so, she imparts India's rich traditional and cultural values to her students. Her dance school runs at Sunnybank, Brisbane. Her most cherished memories include performing for Guinness World Book of Records at Thanjavur, India, to mark the 1000th year anniversary of the Brihadeshwara temple.

Shivani is the daughter of Smt Padmalakshmi Sriram and has been ardently following her mother's footsteps and learning Bharatanatyam since the tender age of 7. She has been a quick learner and has mastered the quintessential 'Bhava' or, expressions, that are key in transforming this dance form to a soulful and lively performance on stage. Being a grade 12 Student, she consistently strives to balance both her studies and art. Her sincere dedication to this dance form has been moulding her to be a graceful dancer. She has won critical acclaim for her performances in the prestigious Queensland Multicultural Centre and Brisbane City Hall. She has accompanied her mother to all major dance performances. She has also been noticeably performing in her mother's Guru, "Smt Ambika Kameshwar's" production during the much anticipated Margazhi Festival in South India. Shivani has won many prizes and praises in several dance competitions back home. She also teaches dance to beginners and is an intrinsic front runner of her visionary mother's established dance school Lalitha Kalalaya's annual concert.



Sri Simranjit Singh - tabla solo

Simranjit Singh started learning the basics of tabla the age of 9 from his school teacher Mr. Daljit Singh, before going into the depths of the Punjab Gharana with Ustad Jaspal Singh ji Jawaddi Taksal. A specialist in tabla solo, he has performed 6 times at Harivallabh Sangeet Sammelan as well as many other great stages of Indian classical and Gurmat Sangeet music. In his school and college days he participated in and won many competitions, and is a two time gold medallist from Punjabi University of Patiala (Punjab). He now works as full time tabla player at Golden Temple (Amritsar/Punjab), currently visiting Brisbane Sikh Temple as a full

time tabla Player. In this connection he has performed solo and accompaniment around the world including Australia, Canada, Singapore, Malaysia, and Kenya.

Visiting Accompanists



Sri B.U. Ganesh Prasad - Carnatic violin

B.U. Ganesh Prasad hails from a family of connoisseurs of classical music & his blazing talent was recognized at a very young age by his father late B.S. Umakanth. He had his initial violin training under Basavanagudi Nataraj & vocal guidance from Bangalore S. Shankar during his formative years. It was under the able guidance of violin maestro V.V. Subramaniam, Ganesh was able to further hone & nurture his skills. An accomplished vocalist himself he is able to vocalize his violin style with fluency. He is currently the disciple of Sangeetha Kalacharya P.S.Narayanasway of Semmangudi school. Acknowledged as a violinist par excellence, Ganesh Prasad is an "A" graded artist of All India Radio & Doordarshan.



Sri Murugaboopathi - mridangam

Thanjavur Murugaboopathi aka Boopathi is one of the world most celebrated mridangam players of today. His techniques and creative ability in accompaniment, solo renditions, and jugalbandhi programs with his North Indian brethren have earned him a critical acclaim around the world. Sri Murugaboopathi was born 19th April 1965 in Madras, India and hails from a family of musicians and artistes of several generations. He has the unique honor of staying with his Guru and learning via the age old tradition of 'Gurukula' with his Guru Tanjore Upendren. He had his initial training under Sri T R Srinivasan (Mridanga Vidwan and

Lecturer) at the Tamil Nadu Music College Chennai. Sri Murugaboopathi was conferred the "Vadya Visharada" with distinction by the Music College. After about two years of stage experience, he underwent further training in the gurukula tradition under the late Mridangam Maestro Tanjore Upendran for over 10 years. His percussion career has been a colorful spectrum of accompaniment to a legion of reputable virtuosos in Carnatic Vocal and Instrumental music.



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 and also won 1st prize for National Youth Festival Tabla Competition in 1994 at Jaipur. He also performed at Saptak Festival's

concerts quite often in front of Pt. Kishan Maharaj, Ustad Shahid Parvez, Ustad Zakir Hussain, Pt. Rajan-Sajan Mishra, Late Ustad Allarakha Khan, Pt. Ronu Majumdar etc as the audience!

The 2017 Sangeet Premi Rising Star Awards



Ku Sheena Rinky Bala - Kathak dance

Sheena (Rinky) Bala has always been passionate about dance, and it was after discovering her Guru in 1998, Namita Debroy at the age of 6, that she found her love for Kathak. Her Guru, Namita Debroy was trained by the esteemed Pt. Bihari Lal Sing and Dr. Umashankar Chakraborty (disciple of Pt Birju Maharaj) at Agartala Music College in Lucknow University. Since then, she has been a student of Nritya Bharati School of Kathak, located in Brisbane. Through her Guru's complete dedication and love for dance, Sheena has learnt and is continuing to learn about the Lucknow Gharana style of Kathak. She has performed in many cultural events around Queensland and is a member of the Bengali

Society of Queensland where she participates each year in their many cultural festivals. In 2012, she won the GOPIO Queensland Inc. Young Achievers Award for Performing and Visual Arts. While she was away studying a year in Sydney, she learnt Jaipur Style of Kathak from Swastik Institute of Dance. However, upon returning back to Brisbane in 2016, she is back to her home dance school, and continues to learn from her Guru. Sheena completed her Honours Degree at University of Queensland and recently finished her Masters in Actuarial Science at Bond University in 2016.



Ku Madhu Murali - Carnatic vocal

Madhuvanathi Muralidharan began her musical journey at the age of 5 from Smt. Raji Krishnamoorthy between 1999-2004 (Adelaide, SA), and then trained under Smt Rasika Vishwanath (Singapore) between 2004-2008 and Smt. Suma Rudrapatna (Adelaide, SA) between 2004-2014. She has since been under the tutelage of Smt. Bharathy Subramaniam (Canberra, ACT). Apart from her formal training, she has been a regular performer of Carnatic music since 1999. She has participated regularly in Shruthi Adelaide events (a cultural non-profit organisation dedicated to promoting South Indian Classical Music in South Australia) as well as performing in the Navarathri festival conducted annually by the Ganesh temple, Adelaide. Notably, she

has given student concerts of 1.5-2 hrs length in informal settings organised by the Fourth-Friday Music community, a platform to encourage student concerts. Currently as a resident of Sydney, she performs in events organised by Karpahavalli Carnatic music organization. She has also performed in events organised by Brisbane Music Circle. In appreciation of her efforts and interest in performing arts, Madhu was awarded the "Chinni Krishna Memorial Award" in the year 2011.

Judging Panels:

Kathak dance: Dr Helena Joshi, Sri Mohit Lal, Sri Rahim Zullah
Carnatic vocal: Smt Susmitha Ravi, Smt Usha Chivukula

The Sangeet Premi Rising Star Awards were instituted to give an incentive for young students of Indian classical arts to pursue their practice diligently year by year, practise regularly with other musicians, give classical performances at community events, visit India for the purposes of talem and riaz, and aim to present themselves as artists with attractive photos, biodata and video. In so doing we hope to foster the development of Indian classical music broadly in the community. We look forward to many more talented applicants next year.

Accompanists



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.



Smt Usha Chivukula - Hindustani vocal

Usha Chivukula is a passionate promoter of the Indian traditional performing arts, and an experienced performer in dance, drama and music herself. She received training in Carnatic and Hindustani vocal music, and also in the veena, for many years in India, before going on to be selected as an All-India radio artist. More recently Usha has performed classical and popular music concerts across India, Australia and the USA. She has released albums of devotional and light classical ghazal music. Additionally, she is also an exponent of Bharatanatyam and Kuchipudi, the traditional dance forms of Southern India, training under the internationally renowned dance guru and musicologist Sri Nataraja Ramakrishna.



Sri Darshil Shah - bansuri

Darshil is an upcoming flautist and has been playing the Bansuri (Bamboo Flute) for the last 14 years. He has had the privilege of learning from three senior disciples of the great flute maestro Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia with current guru being Shri. Partha Sarkar. He specializes in the North Indian or the Hindustani style of Classical Music. Darshil has been performing both nationally and internationally with musicians from different genres. Although he has experience

in playing with Ghazal, Bhajans, Light classical, yoga, meditation, and world fusion music, his primary goal is to keep the ancient Indian Raga culture pure, alive and pass whatever he has learnt to the next generation of musicians. He has been teaching the flute for the last 9 years with students in India and around Australia.



Sri Aswin Narayanan - Carnatic violin

Aswin Narayanan has been playing Carnatic Music on the violin for over 15 years. He grew up in Singapore where he started learning the violin under Sir CN Thyagaraju. He later moved to New Zealand where he continued learning under his current teacher of over 11 years, Dr Ashok Malur in Auckland. Aswin has often performed across various stages in Auckland as a lead and accompanying artist. Aswin studied Biomedical Engineering and is working as a Software Developer at the Centre of Advanced Imaging in Brisbane.

Accompanists



Smt Namita Debroy - Padhant & Kathak Choreography

Namita Debroy is the founder and director of Nritya Bharati School of Kathak Dance, established in 1998 in Brisbane with 2 branches at Hamilton and Sunnybank Hills. An accomplished Kathak dancer, she was ranked first (East Zone) in her Bachelors in Performing Arts (Lucknow University), trained under the instruction of Pt Bihari Lal Singh and Dr. Uma Shankar Chakravarty. Since coming to Australia she has performed in various cultural program organised by NGOs and State Government, multi-cultural and fund-raising programmes in Brisbane, Gold Coast and Townsville, as well as 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 passed away in 2004, Shen has received training from a wide range of tabla masters including Pt Govinda Chakraborty, Pt Nayan Ghosh, Pt Suresh Talwalkar, Pt Pooran Maharaj, and Sri Hari Om Hari (in light classical styles). In recent years Shen has taken up pakhawaj as a second instrument, with some guidance from Japanese pakhawaji Sri Tetsuya Kaneko. Shen opened the Ashu Babu Memorial Tabla School in Brisbane in 2006, following his Guru-ji's traditional classical style of

teaching. Shen initiated the proposal for Indian music and dance examinations to be recognised for Queensland Certificate of Education which was successful in 2015. He also supplies and repairs tabla and tabla accessories, trading as Tabla Wala Australia.



Sri Balaram Ramagiri - mridangam

Balaram Ramagiri began playing khol from the age of eight, which later inspired him to develop his knowledge of percussion by learning mridangam. Starting at the age of twelve, Balaram received his mridangam training from Arthavan Selvanathan, taking him from the basic lessons to thani aavarthanams that included different nadais and spanned various thaalams. He has demonstrated these skills in both individual and group performances over the past six years at annual concerts organised by Arthavan's School of Mridangam. In the last two years, Balaram has also visited Chennai for extensive training with Arthavan's guru, Sri J Ganesan, learning higher level thani aavarthanams and song accompaniment. He has simultaneously built

on these skills with the guidance of Arthavan.

Organisers



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