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Sugam Karnatica
Arts • Culture • Education

Volume 2

February 2013

Carnatic Stars 2013 Participants



Introducing the selected
20 selected Carnatic
Stars 2013:

1. Aparna Prasad



2. Darika Shree



3. Dhanieya Luxshmi Gunalan



4. Dhanya Lakshmi Vicknaraj



5. Kaushik P. M. Mahesan



6. Kayilainaathar Shanmugam



7. Naren Sivalingam



8. Naveen Shanmugaveil



9. Pranavee Pushpangathan



10. Rajarajeswary Kartigeyan



11. Sakthi Easwaren Kartigeyan



12. Sharmita Sivalingam



13. Suhaasri Batumalai



14. Suvarna Shanmugaveil



15. Thevanthiran Vasuthevan



16. Tickshnapreiya Ravindran



17. Vassundra Nair Murali



18. Vathennie Vasudevan



19. Veena Logenthiran



20. Vishnudev Indran



Congratulations to all of them!

Special points of interest:

- CARNATIC STARS 2013
- NEW PROGRAMME - RAGAM . THALAM

Inside this issue:

CARNATIC STARS 2013 PARTICIPANTS	1
LAUNCH OF RAGAM . THALAM	2
LAUNCH OF CARNATIC STARS 2013	3
MRIDANGAM MASTER SRI SURESH KUMAR PANJANATHAN	4

ಪುಸ್ತಕಾಭಿಮಾನಿ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯಸಭೆ

Launch of Ragam . Thalam Programme

Ragam.Thalam, with its tag-line “Bringing You Magic Through Music” is set to do just about that.

A monthly initiative, Ragam.Thalam aspires to take carnatic music and dance to places where opportunities to be exposed to them are minimal, such as less privileged homes.

The programme, which is joint initiative between Sugam Karnatica and the Vijayaratnam Foundation was launched on 16th of February 2013 at Sugam Karnatica.



Project director Ms Gunaavathy lighting the kuthuvilakku during the launch event.

The objectives of the programme are as follows:

- To bring joy through classical music for communities that are deprived of it
- To give underprivileged communities a

different variety of entertainment

- To expose and educate privileged arts students to the underprivileged communities and their lifestyle
- To create awareness on the needs of the Home/Centre to the surrounding community and solicit support for them



Violin performance during the launch event.

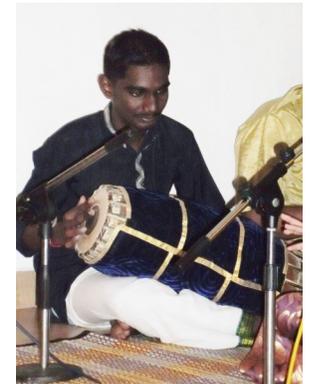
The hour-long Ragam.Thalam programme will comprise of songs and dances by artist and students of performing arts. This programme has also gained the support of other carnatic arts schools.

Besides bringing the magic of carnatic music and dance to the children, we also aim to encourage our students to experience the joy of giving to the less fortunate. To this end, a food sponsorship model has been set up and families may sponsor food in the respective homes.



Vocal students performing during the launch event.

Our next Ragam.Thalam programme will be held at Sinthamani Home in Keping on the 16th of March 2013.



One of SK's mridangam students in action.

If you are interested in contributing towards this initiative in the following months, you can contact project director Ms Guna, at gunaa@sugamkarnatica.org or call us at 012-2239356.

“...we also aim to encourage our students to experience the joy of giving to the less fortunate.”



Launch of Carnatic Stars 2013

The launch of Carnatic Stars 2013 took place on Friday, 8 February 2013 at the office of the Vijayaratnam Foundation located at Menara Qi in Petaling Jaya. The event was attended by Vidhwan Sri O.S.Arun, Dato' Sri Vijay Eswaran and Datin Sri Umayal Eswaran, as well as representatives from Sugam Karnatica, Minnal FM and the Qi group of companies.



SK's team at the event

The event started off with an invocation prayer and was proceeded with speeches by Datin Sri Umayal Eswaran, Chairperson of the Vijayaratnam Foundation; Ms Sumitra Jayaseelan of Sugam Karnatica, Dato' Sri Vijay Eswaran and Sri O.S. Arun.

Datin Sri thanked the support provided by the sponsors and partners of the Carnatic Stars 2013 programme, namely Sugam Karnatica and Minnal FM. Referring to Sri O.S Arun as the 'Prince Charming of carnatic music,' she expressed her deepest grati-

tude to him for finding time in his busy schedule to be a part of this inaugural programme in Malaysia.



Dignitaries at the event

Our very own Ms Sumitra rained praise on the Vijayaratnam Foundation as the Foundation has proven time and again that it places significant value not only on physical development projects but more on intangible development projects and programmes, like Carnatic Stars 2013. She further welcomed this initiative by the Vijayaratnam Foundation and hoped that the programme will become an annual one, to attract and benefit more and more children and teenagers to explore the field of carnatic music.



Dato' Sri Vijay Eswaran with Sri O.S. Arun

In his speech, Dato' Sri Vijay Eswaran emphasised on the capacity building of

musical talents and encouraged parents to break free from the conservative mould of pushing children into professional careers which they may not enjoy or excel in. "Our country has already lost many O.S Aruns who are sitting in banks and hospitals, simply because they were not given the encouragement to pursue music when they were young," he said. He further noted that he has plans to incorporate music education into the syllabus of Qi-owned Quest University in Ipoh, Perak.



Vidhwan Sri O.S Arun

Sri O.S. Arun applauded the Vijayaratnam Foundation for organising such a programme and pledged his support to Dato' Sri in other future musical endeavours. Sri O.S Arun also delighted the audience by singing a number – 'Naan oru vilaiyaattu bommaiya' in ragam Navarasa Kanada.



"Our country has already lost many O.S Aruns who are sitting in banks and hospitals, simply because they were not given the encouragement to pursue music when they were young."

Dato' Sri Vijay Eswaran

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Sugam Karnatica is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to the development of children by using the components of performing arts and the deep Indian cultural science of wisdom. All activities in Sugam Karnatica use performing arts as its base to impart positive development like discipline, dedication and determination in the young. We believe these values will enhance the chances of the child excelling in any endeavour undertaken. The school offers children lessons in Indian cultural music, life skills via its after school enrichment programs, camps and its Sugam Sunday School.

“Enriching Lives by experiencing the treasures of a profound heritage”



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**Sugam
Karnatica**

Mridangam guru at Sugam Karnatica - Sri Suresh Kumar Panjanathan

Our Mridangam Master Sri Suresh Kumar Panjanathan is a well accomplished Mridangist who is from a family of Indian Classical Music lovers. Together with his brother Sri Hari Chandran, he took formal Mridangam classes from the legendary Mridanga Vidwan, the late Sri R Thangavelu Pillai. He started learning at the age of 13 and within 3 years, started accompanying student performances at temple and school functions.

His Mridangam Arangetram was held in Feb 1985 at the PJ Sri Sithi Vinayagar Temple. He went on pursuing advance Mridangam classes from the late Mridangam Vidwan Chennai Sri K Deenadayalan at the Singapore Indian Fine Arts Academy. In the year 1992, he was awarded the Best Student for Mridangam by the Academy.

Master Suresh graduated from the National University of Singapore with a Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical En-



gineering. Having a demanding career in Engineering, he always kept focused on Indian Classical Music, and never once contemplated giving up playing the Mridangam. His constant

desire to learn more technicalities in Thalam lead him to meet the Thavil Maestro Thirunageswaram Sri T R Subramaniam Pillai from Tanjore, India, from whom he learnt advanced calculations and in depth theory of rhythmic art in Carnatic Music.

Master Suresh has been playing the Mridangam for the past 28 years, and has accompanied musicians, both locally and from India from various disciplines. He is well sought after by music societies/personalities for various kutcheris held locally. Sugam Karnatica is proud to have Master Suresh as our Mridangam guru since the year 2007.

