



**PUBLISHED ON
THE
25TH OF MAY 1998
TO CELEBRATE THE
10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
SHRUTHI LAYA SHANGHAM
OF GREAT BRITAIN**

**Concert by
Shri N.K. Pathmanathan on Nagaswaram
Shri R. Rathakrishnan on Violin
Shri K. Ganeshan on Thavil
Shri Balachandra on Mridangam**

Compere: Dr. Siva Kumar



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'Shruthi Laya Shangham's tenth anniversary celebration begin with the First Kengit Kachcheri in the U.K by Leading Artistes from Jaffna.

Brief Introduction to the Institute

Shruthi Laya Shangham of Great Britain was established in the U.K in 1988. Since then it has functioned as a charity run by volunteers providing Indian Classical music and dance events, workshops throughout the U.K. One of our main aims is inviting leading artistes from India ever since, for concerts, workshops, and demonstrations.

In our tenth year, we proudly invite top ranking artistes from Sri Lanka. They are Kalasuriar N.K. Pathmanathan, Shri R. Rathakrishnan and Kalimamani Nachimar Koviladi Ganeshan.

Refreshing Happy Memories

This concert is dedicated to Shri Yalpanam Thavil Maestro Dakshnamoorthy who was, and is, the premier Thavil player in the world of Indian Classical Music. (Please Note Yalpanam is a Tamil name for Jaffna)

The late Shri Daksinamoorthy has accompanied Shri N.K. Pathmanathan along with Kalimamani Nachimar Koviladi Ganeshan in many concerts in Sri Lanka and in South India.

The late maestro accompanied the legendary late Shri Karaikuruchi Arunachalam Pillai, the late Shri Ambal Ramachandran, the late Shri Vetharaniam Vedamoorthy, Dr Sheikh Chinna Moulana and Shri Sethuraman Ponnuchamy in Sri Lanka and in South India. The late Shri Daksinamoorthy, from Jaffna, was invited to South India to accompany many leading Nadaswaram artistes. He said one of the most sentimental highlights of his career, was when he was invited to accompany Shri Karaikuruchi Aunachalam Pillai, in Thituvaiaru Satguru Sri Thyagarajah Swamigal festival in the 1960's.

The late maestros Shri Daksinmoorthy was invited to perform in the three Shiva Temples, Mavitapuram Kandaswami Temple and seven other Ganapathy Temples in Northern Sri Lanka on numerous occasions. All these temples are old, historic and sacred landmarks in Sri Lanka.

The three Shiva Temples are:

a) Naguleswaram Shiva Temple Keerimalai: A rishi called Keeri Munivar came from India hundreds of years ago to Keeri Mali Yalpanam on pilgrimage to receive blessings from Lord Shiva. This is where, the Naguleswaram Shiva Temple is situated now. A Queen called Maruthapuravivahalli also brought a Ganapathy (Pillaiyar) statue from South India. Further details are in part d).

b) Thirukedeswaram Shiva Temple in Mannar, North West Sri Lanka: a child prodigy, Saint Thiruganasampatha Swamigal saw Lord Shiva and sang Tevaram in praise of Thirukedeswaram Shiva.

c) Thirukoneswaram Shiva Temple in Trincomali, North Eastern Sri Lanka: (near Trincomali Harbour). The same child prodigy Thiruganasampatha Swamigal saw Thirukoneswaram Shiva and sang Tevaram in praise of Thirukoneswaram Shiva. This temple is very familiar to Second World War veteran who served in Trincomale which was a naval base in the mid forties.

d) Mavattapuram Kandaswamy Temple, Mavattapuram, in North Sri Lanka. The legend goes that a Queen called Maruthapuravivahalli who was in South India with a horse face came to Mavattapuram on pilgrimage to receive blessings from Mavattapuram Kandaswamy Deity who was miraculously able to restore her to a human face. Later, she brought seven Ganapathy statues from South India. These statues are kept in seven locations in Jaffna. They are: Mavattapuram Kandaswamy Temple, Keerimalai Naguleswaram Temple, Kollankaladdy Verahathi Venayakar Temple in Tellippalai, Varamtharum Pillaiyar Temple in Pannalai, Alakollai Pillaiyar Temple in Alaviur, Kumpillavallai Pillaiyar Temple in Alaviur, and Perumal Kadavai Pillaiyar Temple in Alaviur.

Cultural Bonding between India, Sri Lanka and U.K.

Grants and sponsorships are given for specific cultural events. Such events link three different countries together, through music. Many great Indian musicians have taught and performed in Ramanathan Music Academy in Jaffna and other parts of Sri Lanka. To name a few, Smt. M.S. Subhalakshmi, Smt. D.K. Pattammal, Shri D.K. Jayaraman, Shri Palghat Mani Iyer, Shri T.N. Krishnan, Veena S. Balachandar, Shri T.N. Seshagopalan, Shri Maharajapuram Santanam, Smt. M.L.Vasanthakumari, Dr. Bala Murali Krishna, Shri K.J. Yesudas, Shri Maduri Somasundram, Shri V. Ramachandran, Smt. Mani Krishnaswami, Smt. Sowmya and Smt. Charumathy Ramachandran.

Great Sri Lankan musicians have performed in India as mentioned above and their students are now in the U.K, Sri Lanka, India, and other parts of the world. These activities can be traced back to hundreds of years, thus historical, cultural, and religious bonding between India and Sri Lanka have always been very strong.

Indian Musicians have been performing in the U.K. since the mid sixties. Now some leading Sri Lankan artists who have performed both in Sri Lanka and India, have been invited by Shruthi Laya Shangham of Great Britain to perform and to conduct workshops for music teachers and local students in the U.K.

Natives of the U.K, U.S.A. and the EEC have started to learn and perform Barathanatyam and other Indian Arts. Sri Lankan Tamil and Singhalese girls in Sri Lanka have successfully been introduced to this fascinating Indian dance. There are more Tamil and Singhalese girls learning Barathanatyam under one roof in Adayar Music College in Madras and in Colombo than ever before. This is a significant step in a positive direction. Once again the performing arts are allying the foundation for better understanding between different nations.

Indian and Western musicians in the U.K. and other parts of the West have successfully experimented, linked and created a new kind of music by combining both Indian and Western music.

This harmonious musical bonding, despite many cultural differences, has united three countries. Shruthi Laya Shangham of Great Britain is proud of being part of this harmonious unity. We are confident that this unity by cultural bonding will take us a long way.

About the artists

Shri Kalasuriar N.K. Pathmanathan

In the greatness and glory of the Nagaswara Kalai if there is anybody who has today established a wide reputation in Sri Lanka, it is Shri N.K. Pathmanathan of Alaveddy, son of the equally famed father Kanasamy. He has had performances in Malaysia, Singapore and Tamil Nadu. It is to his credit that several young artists have come to the forefront in Nagaswara Kalai. He was honoured by the Sri Lankan Government in 1983.



Shri R. Rathakrishnan



Shri R. Rathakrishnan started his vocal and violin training under his father, R. V. Unithirepathy, for six years at the age of ten. He then trained in Jaffna for two years. In 1968, He went to South India and was trained by Mr. M.S. Anantharaman for one and a half years. Under him, he developed as an extraordinary violinist with a style of his own. He has earned a name as the foremost violin solo artist of Sri Lanka. He has performed over 2000 violin solo recitals in Sri Lanka as well as other countries.

In 1972, he had the opportunity of being an accompanist for the vocal vidwan B. Rajam Iyer at the Thiruvaiyar festival. In 1975, he gave a solo recital at Carnatic College Adayar which was highly appreciated. He has been the violin accompanist to many leading South Indian Artists like Maharajauram Santanam, S. Kalyana Krishna, Bhagavathar, S. Kalanaraman, Chittoor Subramaniam Pillai, Maduri Somasundaram, P.A.S Rajasekaram and B. Rajan Iyer. He has accompanied Sri Lankan Artists like N. Shanmugaratnam, Param Thillai Rajah, Iyakandu Deshikar, S. Shanmugar Raghavan, S. Sivasakthi, S. Pathmalingam, Pon Sundralingam and many more.

Since 1991, he is working as a part time violin lecturer at Ramanathan Fine Arts Academy, University of Sri Lanka, (Jaffna campus)

Shri. Kalimamni Nachimar Koviladi Ganishan



Shri Ganishan started to learn to play the thavil at the tender age of eight, in 1940 under Mr. S. Subramaniam in Sri Lanka. In 1944 at the age of twelve Shri Ganishan started to give performances. He has played alongside great Sri Lankan widwans like the late Shri Dakshanamoorthy, Shri Pathmanathan, Shri Balakrishnan, Shri Govindaswamy and Shri M. Rasa Uruthurapathi to name a few.

He has played for a number of leading Indian musicians like Mr. Raja Ratnam Pillai, ShriKaraikuruchi Arunachalam, ShriK. Pichiappa and Shri A.K.C. Natarajan. In 1989 he was awarded the title Asthna Widwan by Kamakodi Peedam. In 1991, he was awarded the Kalaimamni title by the Tamil Nadu government. In 1996 he was awarded a number of awards in Sri Lanka.

Shri Ganishan also plays the genjra and has accompanied Palghat Mani Iyer and Shri Umailpuram K. Sivaraman in India. Shri Ganishan attributes his success and progress to the late Shri Dakshanamoorthy and late Shri Chinna Raja Mani.

Shri Balachandar



Shri Balachandar is one of the best Mridangam artists in the U.K. today. He is affectionately known as Bala and is popular with musicians and music lovers in the U.K. and India. Bala has won the hearts and minds of music lovers in the U.K. by his humility and kindness. He is the resident mridangam teacher at the Bhavan Centre, U.K., and has accompanied many famous musicians and Bharatanatyam dancers from India and Sri Lanka.

Rare Combination of instruments (nagaswaram, violin, mridangam and thavil)

The West has never seen this combination of instruments and artist before. What is significant in this concert is that these high calibre artists started this rare combination of instruments in the late sixties in Jaffna and have earned great respect from leading artists in India, Sri Lanka, and other Far Eastern countries. We can safely say that they have created an awareness about this combination in the Far East and have been tremendously successful. This is mainly because of their innovative and excellent artistic skills. We expatriates and our children and locals have been deprived of enjoying this feast for more than two decades and now the dream has come true.

Dedicated Service to Indian Classical Music by our visiting artists in Sri Lanka (Shri N.K. Pathmanathan, Shri R. Rathakrishnan, and Shri Ganishan)

These artist have performed dedicated service in the field of Indian Classical music, in addition to teaching at Ramanathan Academy (the oldest and the most popular Indian Fine Arts Institute) and other small institutes and performing in temples, school functions, as well as weddings and other functions in Jaffna and other parts of Sri Lanka when they were undergoing a very difficult period. This group had ample opportunities to emigrate to the West but were determined to remain in Jaffna to continue the good services. As a token of our gratitude, for their dedicated service to music in Sri Lanka, we have invited them to the U.K. and organised this concert to provide an exciting experience for our audience, and to give these artists the opportunity they rightly deserve.

Details of our projects

Part One

This project involves making educational video documentaries of our classical music songs. There are about 7700 krithis (songs) to be translated into English on to video, CD ROM and audio tapes. These include songs in Sanskrit, Tamil, Kannada, Telugu, and Hindi bhajans, and the Tamil songs in Thevaram, Thirupughaz, Thirupavai.

Students learning music (vocal, venna, violin, and percussion etc.) need to understand the meaning, and in the case of vocalists, to be able to pronounce each word of these songs. The British born Asians and others interested in learning carnatic music, lack the understanding of these songs because they do not know the different languages.

These video and audio tapes will be of great help to them and will be permanently held in our library. They will be available for loan to students from other schools for a small fee. The tapes will also be beneficial to teachers of carnatic music in this country and around the world.

we believe this unique project, never previously attempted anywhere in the world, will benefit students, teachers, and music lovers in the U.K.

It will provide a unique documentation of songs composed and sung by Yalpanam Shri N. Veeramani Iyer and the late Shri Papanasam Sivan, and other songs sang by our saints over three centuries ago; as such is an important element of our musical heritage.

These songs, composed by the saints, have been sung for the last three hundred years and this project ensures their continued use by musicians and students in the future.

Part Two

We are conducting a series of concerts to raise funds for one of our projects involving Western and Indian classical music. This include young disadvantaged musicians from different ethnic groups.

We have already started the project thanks to grants from the London Borough of Lewisham and the National Lotteries Charities Board, but we still need additional finance to see it through to a public concert displaying this subtle fusion of Indian and Western classical music.

Acknowledgments

We would like to thank

Shri R. Venkataraman (former president of India and our patron) for his kind support.

Our Local Member of Parliment Mr. Gim Dowed for his support from the start

Mr Norman Goodman, Principal Arts Councillor, Lewisham Council, and other staff of the library arts section for their continuous support and encouragement.

The Chief Priest Shri Naganatha Shivan Gurukul of London Sri Murugan Temple for being very supportive to all our visiting artists and to our institute - his contribution has been priceless.

Dr. K. Siva Kumar for compereing our concerts and giving us all the support.

Shri Kandiah of Tamil Times and Dr Jothylingam for their kind support.

The Foreign Office for being very supportive by dealing with all the formalities promptly at a time when an unexpected situations arise.

Shri K.K. Subramaniam and Shri Siva Haran of Colombo for making the necessary arrangements for our artists to leave for the U.K.

Smt. Payakiyrajah, Smt. Sivashakthy Sivanasan, Shri Siva Shankar, Smt. Sivatharini Sahathevan, Smt. Annapoorani Sathiyamoorthy, Smt. Kamalini Manorajan and Smt. Senthil Vamanananandan for playing a crucial role not only by prompting the sales of the tickets but also advised us of matters which are of paramount importance for this type of concert.

Smt. Lalitha Subramaniam, Smt. Swaminathan, Smt. Navukarasi Ponnampalam, Dr. Balaseharam, the management of Illam Kalingar Manram, TWAN and Tamil Pages for helping us to sell tickets. Ability Printing for producing this brochure so well in such a short space of time.

All members, students and parents for being supportive.
All those who helped us in selling tickets on our behalf.
Everyone who has helped and supported us in this concert.

For more details please write to

**Shruti Laya Shangham, 6 Sunnydene Street, Sydenham, London, SE26 4ES,
Tel: 0181 778 0633**

Shuruthi Laya Shangham Questionnaire

Please help us by filling this questionnaire for us to give you a better service, preferably before you leave this hall or please post this page to Shuruthi Laya Shangham, 6 Sunnydene St., London, SE26 4ES. The answers and the information supplied by any members of the audience or well wishers will be treated as strictly confidential under the terms of the Data Protection Act 1994. Please fill in the blanks in part I, part II, part III. and part IV. Part I is optional.

Part I

Name:

Address: Tel:

Part II

To encourage more local classical music students to attend concerts of this nature, we are considering giving a concessionary rate to students. If you are interested, please fill in the blank in part II and tick as appropriate.

a) Are you a music student? Yes No

1a. Indian Classical Music 2a. Western Classical Music.

b) If yes, please write your name in capital letters:

Address in capital letters:

Tel:

c) Are you under nineteen? Yes No

d) Date of birth

e) The name of your music or dance teacher

Tel:

Part III

a) Do you like to attend vocal concerts? Yes No

b) Do you like to attend Instrumental Solo concerts? Yes No

c) Do you like to attend Barathanatyam (Indian Classical Dance) performances? Yes No

d) Do you like to have an intermission in a 2^{1/2} or 3 hour concert? Yes No

Part IV

After witnessing today's performance, you should now be aware that there are many excellent artists in north and east of Sri Lanka whom we would like to invite to the U.K. for concerts and workshops.

a) Would you like to experience many more such concerts from the same and different Sri Lankan artists? Yes No

To contain the cost and maintain affordable ticket prices, we need to secure concert sponsorship.

b) Would you accept such a step being taken? Yes No

If you have any comments, please use a separate sheet of paper.

Name in capital letters

Signature Date

