



morning  
raga  
2013

FUSION CONCERT BY  
PADMASHRI  
SUDHA RAGUNATHAN  
ENSEMBLE



**Organizing Comittee**

Ramrao Mysore (301-922-4566)  
D. Sundararaman (301-395-9301)  
R.S. Venkatachalam (240-476-9341)  
K.G. Venkatraman (Ramani) ( 301-646-1232)

On Saturday May 18, 2013, 4PM

At DeKelbourn Concert Hall,  
Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center,  
University of Maryland, College Park, MD

Master of ceremony : Jaishri Shankar



# About the artistes

The passion and experience of Padmashree Smt. Sudha Ragnathan with her golden voice, mixed with the dexterity of Sri. Amit Heri on the lead guitar, and the musical creativity of other leading musicians, will create an eclectic and enigmatic fusion of modern and classical music that will

## Sudha Raghunathan - Voval

A leading Carnatic Music female vocalist, Sudha has a distinctly stunning vocal style with which she has ignited musical imagination and spirit across languages, frontiers and ideologies.

Her deep relish for tradition and mystical old world charm is cloyingly addictive. As the "heiress apparent" to her Guru the legendary vocalit the late Smt. M.L. Vasanthakumari, Sudha has succeeded in holding aloft her Guru's banner simultaneously imbuing her style with her own innovations (the Morning Raga Concept is one such example). Sudha's renditions of a song, raga alapana or swaraprasthara are noted for their crispness, imagination and sparkle without appearing theatrical or contrived. Sudha has several awards to her credit both given by Institutions/Govts. In India and abroad (too numerous to be mentioned here!!!). Suffice it to say she had the unique honor of singing Vandemataram at the Central House of Parliament in New Delhi on 27th January 2000 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Sovereign Democratic Republic of Inida. Her grace, with and charm have added to her reputation as one of the best Cultural Ambassadors from India to the world.



## Sri. Amit Heri: Lead Guitar

One of India's biggest names in Jazz fusion music, Amit holds a scholarship from prestigious Berklee College of Music in Boston, where he studied Jazz Performance and composition.

Amit has shared the stage and worked with numerous internationally renowned artists including Charlie Mariano, Robert Miles, Angelique Kidjo, George Brooks, Matt Garrison, Dominique DiPiazza, Karl & Keith Peters, Aka Moon, Zakir Hussain, Salif Keita, Trilok Gurtu, Ramamani & the KCP, Shankar Mahadevan, U Srinivas, Sudha Raghunathan, Kala Ramnath, Louiz Banks, Ranjit Barot and Selva Ganesh. He is also among the few exceptional Indian musicians to have performed in many prestigious international festivals, including WOMAD, London Jazz Festival, Montreux Jazz Festival, Berlin Jazz Festival, Rome World Music Festival and the World Social Forum.



## Keith Peters - Indian Bass Guitar Prodigy

History hasn't been kind to his tribe. But then, bass guitarists go unsung because they like to keep it low key. No flashy, flamboyant solos, no eccentric body language or loud costume because their performance isn't about lung-power or screaming showmanship, their role is to just be there rock-solid as the backbone of the band.

Keith Peters, arguably, is the best bass guitarist in the country. Chennai-based Keith is a veteran of over five thousand live gigs, has played for over thousand songs and has worked with most music directors in the country, continuing to be A.R. Rahman's ever-dependable bass guitarist.

enthrall the audience as they have a conversation with each other through the music they play- with no bar on nationality, age or seniority. This unique fusion concert is a must-attend concert for any citizen looking for a niche composition that will quench their musical thirst.



**Sri. B Raghavendra Rao: Violin**

Raghavendra Rao was initiated into music at an early age of five by his father B. Sudarsana Rao. Attracted by the lure of classical music, he trained rigorously on the violin for several years and he is presently the disciple of the violin "Maestro" Sangeetha Kalanidhi Shri. T.N. Krishnan.

He has won several prizes and awards from various sabhas in Chennai. Raghavendra has performed internationally and has participated in numerous music festivals of Indian Council for Cultural Relations [I.C.C.R.] and the prestigious "Festival of India" programs. He has widely travelled all over the world, including the U.S.A, Canada, France, Germany, Australia, New Zealand, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Mauritius and the Middle Eastern countries. Raghavendra's devotion and his quest for perfection finds its expression in his instrument.



**Sri. Tiruvarur Vaidyanathan: Mridangam**

Born in a family of percussionists, Tiruvarur Vaidyanathan was initiated into mridangam at the tender age of 6. His natural sense of rhythm and affinity with the instrument enabled him to perform in concerts even as he was learning.

He has accompanied many music doyens like Dr. Balamuralikrishna, Smt M.L. Vasanthakumari, Dr N. Ramani, Sri Maharajapuram Santhanam, Sri K.J.Yesudas, Sri K.V. Narayanawamy, Smt D.K. Pattamal and many others. His playing style is characterized by melodic richness, technical dexterity, balanced use of the left and right sides, clarity at higher tempos and a keen sense of anticipation which all together provides a complementary percussion support that enhances the performance of the main artist and takes the concert to great heights.



**Sri. Arun Kumar: Drums**

Inspired by his father Sri B.S. Sukumar who is a drummer, Arun ventured into the field of Percussion music at the tender age of 7. Later he received Carnatic percussion training under Sri S. V. Giridhar, advanced training in percussions under the rich guidance of eminent artiste Layakala Pratibhamani Sri Anoor Ananthakrishna Sharma and is presently learning the subtleties of Jazz drumming under renowned drummer Sri Ranjit Barot.

Arun plays on western drums, morsing and several Indian folk percussion instruments. He has been in the field of music since 1986 and rendered percussion support to Carnatic Classical, Talavadya, Jazz Music, Light Music and dance performances. Arun has given performances all over India and has extensively toured USA, UK, Canada, Germany, Holland, France, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Belgium, Spain, Luxemburg Hong Kong and Sri Lanka.



**Sri. Guruprasad: Ghatam**

Guruprasad had his initial training under his father and later had gurukulam under Ghatam Maestro Shri T.H. Vikku Vinayakram who made him play many thala vadhya concerts at a very early age.

Subsequently he joined Shri V. Suresh, another prominent Ghatam Vidwan, as a sishya and learnt Shri Kodhandarama Iyer's fingering technique for playing the Ghatam. His quest for learning advanced Carnatic music brought him into the able tutelage of Laya Chudaroli Madurai Shri T. Srinivasan. Under his guidance, Guruprasad picked up many concepts for simplifying intricate mathematics of Thala Vadhya.

He gave his debut performance at the age of 16. Till now he has accompanied all the established artistes in their respective fields of Carnatic music.



# Guru Krupa Foundation

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Email: mp@guru-krupa.org



Guru Krupa Foundation (GKF) is a private foundation incorporated in New York State. The purpose of the foundation is to fund several charitable causes. These causes may be broadly classified as being (i) Social (ii) Educational or (iii) Religious/Cultural.

Our principles and philosophy, derived from the value system of Hinduism, may be succinctly summarized as:

1. Help those who are less fortunate than yourself
2. Support causes related to the acquisition of knowledge (both materialistic and non-materialistic)
3. Preserve the heritage and knowledge that has already been acquired

## Social projects

The standard of living today varies, by several orders of magnitude, between the most and least fortunate of people, and there are, unfortunately, too many people who don't even have access to what one might consider basic material needs. Consequently, there is no shortage of vulnerable and disadvantaged people on earth, who suffer, seemingly for no fault of their own. The "Social" projects of GKF are meant to improve the lives of impoverished people who do not have access to basic material needs. As one might imagine, there is a greater concentration of such people in undeveloped/developing countries of the world. Most (but not all) of our supported projects in this category are in India. Examples include financial support for non-profit schools, non-profit health services, non-profit housing, orphanages, non-profit organizations addressing adult illiteracy, etc.

## Educational projects

Our understanding of the physical world in which we live is constantly evolving. The desire to "understand nature, and the physical laws that govern it, a little bit better than we do today", is a never ending quest. This quest for knowledge is best nurtured in higher study programs in the halls of academia and research think tanks. The "Educational" projects of GKF essentially fund fellowships at well recognized universities -- these fellowships in turn provide financial support to deserving students interested in advancing the frontiers of such knowledge.

## Religious/Cultural projects

Religion addresses the non-materialistic aspect of human life. It thrives on faith and also nurtures it. It shapes our value system and the way we think. It also expresses itself through our culture and customs, and gives us a sense of identity. Several religions have arisen and evolved over the millenia - of these Hinduism is one of the most ancient. The vast amount of knowledge acquired over several millenia is codified in its scriptures, religious practices and prescribed manner of living. The "Religious/Cultural" projects of GKF support activities related to preserving and nurturing the Hindu Dharmic way of life. Examples of such projects include providing financial support to temples, ashrams, gurukuls etc.

## AN APPEAL

### **Kashmiri Pandits, Tribes of North East India**

In 1987, the outbreak of militancy and violence against them in Khamir valley resulted in the displacement of Kashmiri Pandits from the valley in very short time. The affluent Kashmiri Pandits migrated to metropolitan cities in India and to other nations. Majority of the Pandits had no option but to remain in camps and live in abject conditions. They have undergone great misery in trying to protect their lives and

### **Some References:**

*K.C. Santha: Rethinking the Guiding Principles: the case of Kashmiri Pandits"*  
*The Kanchi Sankaracharyas through direct contact with several Pandit group have been helping the Pandits living in camps and elsewhere.*  
*The Sankaracharyas through volunteer groups from Kolkata, Bhuvanewar have been helping the Adivasis by providing living, educational and medical facilities*  
*The Following Video and Movie give a moving account of Adivasis:*  
*Tribes of North East India in Facebook*  
*Miss Gita: Within Territories a film on displaced tribes people in North east India*