



CLASSICAL ARTS SOCIETY HOUSTON



Presents the 2018 Fall Concert

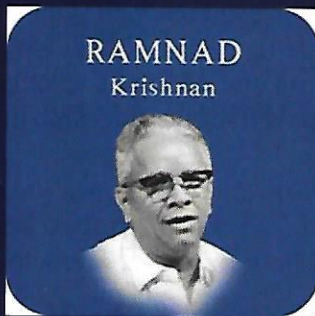
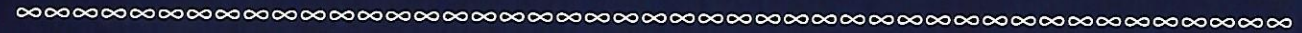
T.M. Krishna

R.K. Shriramkumar on the violin

K. Arun Prakash on the mridangam

Saturday, Sep 8, 2018, 3:45 PM to 6:30 PM.

MATCH, 3400 Main, Houston, TX 77002



The Fall Concert Honors the Birth Centenary of Sri Ramnad Krishnan.

Sri Ramnad Krishnan (1918-1973) was born in Kerala and grew up in Ramnad district, Tamil Nadu. His talent for music was discovered early. He first music teacher was his own brother Sri Lakshminarayana and later Sri Ramnad Sankarasivam. At age 18, he moved to Chennai and started performing and gaining the attention of veterans like G.N. Balasubramanian (GNB).

Introduction to the family of Veena Dhannammal family, Smt Brinda and Smt Mukta strongly influenced his style of music. Sri Krishnan believed that *soukhya* in music was what mattered most and stuck steadfastly to this principle. He was passionate about what he believed to be aesthetic and pure music as he was steadfast in creating his own path while still among several performing greats of his times. Ramnad Krishnan was a musician with a revolutionary streak, who innovated and experimented with aesthetic brilliance. His raga singing gave a revelation of the emotional and the intellectual content of the raga. His rendering of rakthi ragas, notably Begada and Sahana, and ragas like Madhyamavathi and Shankarabaranam, are considered unmatched. Today, he is described as an ideal musician and role model for aspiring Carnatic vocalists.

Dr. Barbara Lange, Prof of Ethnomusicology at the University of Houston, described Sri Ramnad Krishnan as an exceptional musician in a recent email to the Classical Arts Society of Houston and added that she plays Sri Krishnan's recordings for her students!

Sri Ramnad Krishnan served on the faculty of Government College of Carnatic Music in Madras. He was also a visiting Professor at Wesleyan University.

The centenary celebrations for Sri Ramnad Krishnan have been ongoing now for a year. We are fortunate to have in our midst Sri T.M. Krishna who has been a lead voice for the celebrations. At an inaugural event in Sept 2017 in PS High School in Chennai, featured speakers such as Sri Spencer Venugopal, Chitravina Ravikiran and T.M. Krishna set the trend. Sept 12, 2018 is the actual 100th birthday. As we approach the true centenary, Classical Arts Society of Houston is proud to celebrate the music of Sri Ramnad Krishnan. Sri T.M. Krishna is dedicating his concert to Sri Ramnad Krishnan.

Program

- 3:45 PM – Welcome by Anuradha Subramanian
3:50 PM – Ramnad Krishnan Commemorative Address by T.M. Krishna
4:00 to 6:30 PM – Ramnad Krishnan Centenary Concert by T.M. Krishna & Party
6:35 – Artists Recognition – Sudha Mani and Prabha Bala
6:40 PM – Vote of Thanks by Prabha Bala
6:45 – End of program.



About the Concert Artists

T.M. Krishna



As a vocalist in the Karnatik tradition, Thodur Madabusi Krishna's musicality eludes standard analyses. Uncommon in his rendition of music and original in his interpretation of it, Krishna is at once strong and subtle, manifestly traditional and stunningly innovative.

As a public intellectual, Krishna speaks and writes about issues affecting the human condition and about matters cultural. Krishna has started and is involved in many organizations whose work is spread across the whole spectrum of music and culture. He has co-authored *Voices Within: Carnatic Music – Passing on an Inheritance*, a book dedicated to the greats of Karnatik music. His path-breaking book *A Southern Music – The Karnatik Story*, published by Harper Collins in 2013 was a first-of-its-kind philosophical, aesthetic and socio-political exploration of Karnatik Music. For this he was awarded the 2014 Tata Literature Award for Best First Book in the non-fiction category. His long-form essay *MS understood*, for *The Caravan* was featured in *The Caravan Book of Profiles*, as one of their "twelve definitive profiles." It has been translated into Tamil and published as a book '*Katrinile Karainda Tuyar*' by Kalachuvadu Publications.

He is the driving force behind the Urur-Olcott Kuppam Festival and the Svanubhava initiative, and has been part of inspiring collaborations, such as the Chennai Poromboke Paadal with environmentalist Nityanand Jayaraman, performances with the Jogappas (transgender musicians) and bringing on to the concert stage the poetry of Perumal Murugan. In 2016, Krishna received the prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Award in recognition of 'his forceful commitment as artist and advocate to art's power to heal India's deep social divisions'. In 2017 he received the Indira Gandhi Award for National Integration Award for his services in promoting and preserving national integration in the country. In 2017, he has also received the Professor V Aravindakshan Memorial Award for connecting Carnatic music with the common man.

His new book '*Reshaping Art*' published by Aleph Book Company, asks important questions about how art is made, performed and disseminated and addresses crucial issues of caste, class and gender within society while exploring the contours of democracy, culture and learning.

R. K. Shriramkumar



R. K. Shriramkumar belongs to the *Rudrapatnam* family of musicians, a family with a glorious musical tradition. He is the grandson of the much respected *Vidvan* Shri R K Venkatarama Shastri.

Having had his initial lessons in violin playing from *Vidushi* Smt Savitri Satyamurthy, Shriramkumar was trained in violin playing and vocal music by his grandfather Shri R K Venkatarama Shastri.

He later received guidance in violin playing from *Vidvan* Shri V V Subrahmanyam and in vocal music from *Sangita Kalanidhi* Shri D K Jayaraman.

His skills were further honed through the association and knowledge that he gained by accompanying the doyens of Carnatic music like *Sangita Kalanidhis* Shri Semmangudi Srinivasa Iyer, Smt M S Subbulakshmi, Smt D K Pattammal, Shri D K Jayaraman, Shri Palghat K V Narayanaswamy, Smt T Brinda and others.

Shriramkumar's discography includes, apart from his solo recordings, his violin accompaniment with reputed artistes and has had the blessed opportunity of participating in a very unique recording entitled '*Divine Unison*' featuring the veterans Shri Semmangudi Srinivasa Iyer and Smt M S Subbulakshmi.

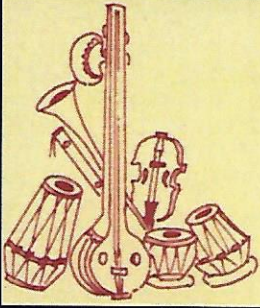
A recipient of many awards, Shriramkumar has traveled far and wide on concert tours. His solo performances, lec-dems and outreach programs have also been greatly received and appreciated by audiences world-wide.

He has set to music many a lyric and has also composed the music for many dance productions. '*Sri Sharada Stuti Manjari*' – a recording rendered by Smt Bombay Jayashri that contains the compositions of the *Jagadgurus of Sri Sringeri Sharada Peetham*, '*Sita Vishlesha Trayam*' – a dance production by Dr Vyjayantimala Bali and '*Sayujya*' - a collaborative production by Smt Priyadarsini Govind & Shri T M Krishna are a few notable works, amongst many, that feature Shriramkumar's musical creations.

K Arun Prakash



Son of the famous music composer Shri L. Krishnan, Arun Prakash learnt the art of playing mridangam from Ramanathapuram M.N. Kandaswamy Pillai from the age of 9. Arun started playing in concerts from the age of 11. He has given performances all over the world. His playing style is incredibly musical and he enhances the music to a different level altogether. His presence of mind and his composing skills merge together to give a different dimension to the *kriti niraval* and *swara* that is rendered on stage. He has won several awards and prizes. Arun has composed numerous pallavis sung by many musicians and he can be easily called a "thinking" musician.



CLASSICAL ARTS SOCIETY OF HOUSTON

About Classical Arts Society

Formed in 1993, the Classical Arts Society of Houston is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting and maintaining the rich heritage of the classical performing arts of India. The Founders of the Classical Arts Society are Late Mrs. Indu Krishnamurthy, Mrs. Nalini Mukhopadhyay and Mrs. Prabha Bala.

Founding Members

Late Mrs. Indu Krishnamurthy
Nalini Mukhopadhyay
Prabha Bala

Board Members

Nalini Mukhopadhyay
(Chairman)
Prabha Bala
(President)
Anuradha Subramanian
(Secretary)
Krishna Mudan
(Treasurer)
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Chitra Dharmarajan
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Sudha Ravi Mani
Ranjana Narasiman
Manjula Rao
Lakshmi Srivaths

Advisory Board

Ganesh Balasubramaniam
Rama Krishnan
Vivek Natarajan
Kamala Raghavan
Nalini Sadagopan
Sheila Sriram

The objectives of the Classical Arts Society are:

- To present music and dance recitals of high quality by leading contemporary performers.
- To educate through talks, lecture demonstrations and symposia by experts in the fields of Indian classical performing arts.
- To create an endowment for the promotion of Indian classical arts in the greater Houston area.

41 years ago an ad-hoc group formed under the leadership of the late Mrs. Indu Krishnamurthy and started conducting the annual Sri Tyagaraja Music Festival in Spring of each year in the Houston area. This effort was formalized in 1993 with the formation of the Classical Arts Society of Houston. Following a few initial years the venue for this festival moved to Sri Meenakshi Temple in Pearland. The serene ambience of the temple has been an ideal location to host the annual Houston Tyagaraja Utsavam (Festival) over the years. The co-sponsorship by the Temple for the Utsavam is an added blessing. Classical Arts additionally holds a Spring Festival and a Fall Festival each year either at the temple or other venues such as the Stafford Civic Center or the MATCH. A full list of programs by visiting artists presented by Classical Arts is published in annual program books.

The Classical Arts Society of Houston is a 501 (C) (3) tax-exempt organization. All programs presented are open to the public, mostly free of cost. It is funded by donations by the attendees and patrons of its programs. The donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Donations in excess of expenses will be used for the endowment and for staging programs during lean years. The Classical Arts Society gratefully acknowledges its patrons, donors, advertisers and volunteers for their generosity. Occasionally, Classical Arts has sought to supplement the funding by ticketing certain concerts. A Board, an Advisory Board and dedicated individual volunteers strive for excellence in running the Classical Arts Society activities.



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