



**Prakriti
Foundation**

**The Festival of Sacred Music, Thiruvaiyaru
(2017)**

About FOSM 2017

The Festival of Sacred Music (FOSM), a 3-day festival that takes place in Thiruvaiyaru celebrating the cultural importance of this holy ground, aims to restore the pride of the Music Centre that existed in the town at the time of Saint Thyagaraja. The festival intends to showcase true and pure forms of music, with the goal of bringing something new to the local art and music landscape of Thiruvaiyaru. It features stand-out performances by artists who are the true torchbearers of their respective fields, carrying forward the tradition of music.

We at the Prakriti Foundation started the festival as a community initiative to acquaint the people of the Thanjavur district to exceptional performances and new worlds of music, and that too gratis. As with all Prakriti Foundation projects, the Festival of Sacred Music is founded on visionary principles - the idea behind conducting the festival at Thiruvaiyaru is not only to popularise music forms, but also to make the world aware of the rich heritage and tradition of the town, thereby encouraging heritage preservation and rural tourism. We work in close collaboration with Dr Rama Kausalya's Marabu Foundation and Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH).

The festival opens its doors to people all over the country and the world, inviting them to experience the art, culture and glorious heritage of the special place, Thiruvaiyaru and become etched in its fascinating history. The best part being that it is non-ticketed and is open to all!

The 2017 edition had a line-up of stellar artistes such as Kiran Phatak (Hindustani Classical Vocals and English Bandish), K. Sivaprasad (Carnatic Concert in Whistle), Karthick Iyer (Fusion Music) and N. Ravikiran (Chitravina Recital) performing at various places in Thiruvaiyaru.

Schedule

Hindustani Classical Vocals and English Bandish by Kiran Phatak

Synopsis: Vocals and *Bandish* by Kiran Phatak, accompanied by Pratik Joshi on Vocals, Shreyas Govitrikar on Harmonium and Kedar Phatak on *Tabla*.

Date: 17th February, 2017

Time: 6.00 pm

Venue: Husoor Palace (Diwan Wada)



Carnatic Concert in Whistle by K. Sivaprasad

Synopsis: Carnatic concert in whistle by K. Sivaprasad, accompanied by V.V. Srinivasa Rao on Violin, Lakshmi Padmavathi on Veena, Kapa Srinivasa Rao on Mridangam, V.B.V Prasad on Ghatam and Gotta Mukkala Venkatesh on Morsing.

Date: 17th February, 2017

Time: 7.00 pm

Venue: Husoor Palace (Diwan Wada)

Fusion Music by Karthick Iyer, Live

Synopsis: Karthick Iyer on the Violin and Vocals along with Vikram Vivekanand on Guitar, Reshwin Nishid on Bass Guitar, Sumesh Narayanan on Mridangam and Percussion and Ramkumar Kanakarajan on Drums.

Date: 18th February, 2017

Time: 7.00pm

Venue: Pushya Mahal Ghat

Chitravina Recital by N. Ravikiran

Synopsis: Chitravina by N. Ravikiran along with Vittal Rangan on Violin Patri Sathish Kumar on Mridangam and Karthick on Ghatam.

Date: 19th February, 2017

Time: 7.00pm

Venue: Panchanatheeswara Temple Mandapam

Artiste Profile

▪ *Kiran Phatak*

A noted author of many books on different subjects in Indian classical music, Kiran Phatak has been performing classical recitals for many years. A firm believer in the fact that art should always go through evolution, he embarked on a new journey of understanding rap, pop and rock, but found them too alien. The singer inferred that these Western musical styles were mostly sung in English, which may be the reason for their mass appeal. To explore this idea further, Phatak decided to sing popular Indian classical ragas in English – the language of choice of today's youth. And he gave birth to



the IREL: Indian Raga English Lyrics. Phatak deciphered around 20-25 *bandishes* into English – some were direct translations, while in others he would take the core of the *bandish* or the emotion and revise them in English accordingly.

Founder of Bharatiya Sangeet Vidyalaya, Kiran Phatak regularly organizes seminars and workshops on classical music. His major books are Shuddha Swar Alankar, Sangeet Nibandhawali, Khayal – Ek Vichar, Raagachhya Parighakadun Kendrabindukade, Swarkiran, Pratibhavanta, Music Dictionary, Bandish - how to present Raag & the study of bandish.

▪ ***K Sivaprasad***

For K. Sivaprasad, whistle music is a rare and specialized art in the melodious world of music. And it would be only fair to say that he has mastered it to perfection, finding himself a prestigious place in the galaxy of enchanting musicians. A gifted prodigy of ‘Carnatic and Hindustani Music on Whistle’, Whistle Wizard Siva Prasad, the 9th child of Late Sri K.S.V. Subba Rao and Smt. Rajya Lakshmi was born in Bapatla, a coastal town of Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh, India.

Hailing from a family of scholars, he received no formal initiation into the world of music nor any special instruction other than his own intense interest and enthusiasm for performing music through whistling. He had the rare opportunity of attaining guidance from the legendary Carnatic Vocalist Dr. M. Balamurali Krishna.

His meetings with the immortal Shehnai Maestro Ustad Bismilla Khan inspired and rekindled in him the love and fascination for ‘Hindustani Music’. Added to this, the grammar and text of music imparted by the reputed flute Vidwan Sri N.S. Srinivasan has enriched his talent and made him ‘The Complete Artiste’.

▪ ***Karthick Iyer***

With over 20 years of classical Carnatic experience, Karthik’s musical journey started at the age of 8. He has been captivating audiences with his soulful voice and emotion-led violin pieces across *sabhas* and other venues. Seeking to broaden his horizons, he started playing in the Indian film industry, with AR Rahman, Imman, Devi Sri Prasad and other notable music directors. He composed a song for a Bollywood movie along the way, as well as jingles for multiple TV ads.

Karthick then spent a few years performing across the world, on stages like Glastonbury (UK), Kennedy Centre for Performing Arts (US), WOMAD (Spain), One Movement (Perth), BBC’s ‘Later with Jools Holland’ and MTV Coke Studio – collaborating with internationally renowned artists The Raghu Dixit Project, Susheela Raman and Indo-acoustic band – Emergence.

The journey has brought him to IndoSoul and led him to form his own band, 'Karthick Iyer Live'. The band consists of musicians from diverse musical backgrounds - Vikram Vivekanand on the guitar, Naveen Napier on the bass, Ramkumar Kanakarajan on drums, Sumesh Narayanan on the mridangam and percussion, and Karthick Iyer on violin and vocals. Karthick Iyer Live seeks to introduce IndoSoul to people around the world, and inspire them to appreciate music that they might not have sought out on their own.

▪ ***N. Ravikiran***

Chitravina Ravikiran's maiden chitravina performance was at age 11. He has been hailed as a versatile virtuoso in world music for many years and has contributed unique techniques to slide instruments as a whole. Ravikiran presented concerts to packed audiences for major organisations in various cities until the age of 10, after which (anticipating a voice change), he switched over to playing the beautiful 21-stringed chitravina.

However, he resumed his vocal recitals in 1999 and now presents both vocal and instrumental concerts. His immense knowledge of music, musical acumen, imaginative approach, breath control, vocal techniques, and diction, have made him a desired artiste in prominent venues both in and outside India.

From 1986-96, Ravikiran has had the rare privilege of learning from the celebrated vocalist T Brinda, widely acknowledged as a musicians' musician. His interaction with her added a whole new dimension to his perception of the microscopic nuances of music. His thematic vocal recitals on works of venerated composers such as Tyagaraja and Oottukkadu Venkata Kavi have won approbation from music lovers.

Press

The Hindu, Chennai, March 02, 2017

<http://www.thehindu.com/entertainment/music/Sacred-Music-Festival/article17393842.ece>

Verve Magazine, April 03, 2017

<http://www.vervemagazine.in/arts-and-culture/parmesh-shahani-thanjavur-and-focus-photography-festival>

