



FESTIVAL OF SACRED MUSIC

THIRUVAIYARU ON THE CAUVERY



2nd - 4th February, 2018

Tenth Edition



Vocal Concerts by
**Madras Youth Choir &
Baby Sooryagayathri**
Kalyan Mahal
2nd Feb, Friday | 7 pm



Percussion Concert Curated by
Jus Drums Murali
Panchanatheeswara Temple
3rd Feb, Saturday | 7 pm

Vocal Concerts by
**Aruna Sairam &
Dominique Vellard**
Pushya Mahal Ghat,
on the banks of river Cauvery
4th Feb, Sunday | 7 pm



All are welcome!

For Details: ☎ 8754415362/8608685156 | ✉ prakritifoundation@gmail.com

Collaborators (4th February)



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Thiruvaiyaru: Indian Music's Holy Ground

Situated on the banks of the River Cauvery, in Tamil Nadu, Thiruvaiyaru is a small, quiet town. However, its modesty belies its importance as a pilgrim centre. Home to the ancient Panchanadheeshwara and Aiyarrappar Temples, this town is flocked by pilgrims throughout the year. That being said, Thiruvaiyaru is most renowned for its association with Saint Thyagaraja, who, along with Muthuswami Dikshitar and Shyama Sastri, were the flag bearers of the ancient art form of Carnatic Music. They are now popularly referred to as the Trinity of Carnatic Music and are the prolific composers of the genre. Thyagaraja spent a major part of his life in Thiruvaiyaru and some of his magnum opuses, which now form the foundation of this art form, were envisioned and created on this sacred ground. Saint Thyagaraja's samadhi is also located on the banks of the Cauvery where musicians and music lovers from all over the country and across the globe visit to pay their respects and hold an annual festival in January called Thyagaraja Aradhana.

This region was the main centre of the famous Chola dynasty who ruled here as early as 300 BCE. Thiruvaiyaru and its surrounding towns are home to some of the most magnificent and well-preserved art and architectural marvels of these times, which further enrich the cultural sanctity of this part of the country.

Festival of Sacred Music and Prakriti Foundation

Now in its 10th year, the Festival of Sacred Music (FOSM) is a 3-day festival that takes place in Thiruvaiyaru and celebrates the cultural importance of this holy ground. Festival of Sacred Music showcases stand out performers who are the true torchbearers carrying forward the tradition of music in India. Starting out as a community initiative by the Prakriti Foundation, the festival introduced the people of the Thanjavur district to exceptional performances and new worlds of music and that too gratis.

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

Music is certainly not the only experience at the Festival of Sacred Music. As a precursor to the evenings concerts, there are a ton of sites featuring the pristine art and architecture of the Chola period, which are only a day's trip or less away from Thanjavur/Thiruvaiyaru and can be regaled at leisure during the day:

Around Thiruvaiyaru

1. Airavateshwara Temple, Darasuram

This temple is one of the finest examples of Dravidian architecture located near Kumbakonam. This temple is a storehouse of art and architecture and has some exquisite stone carvings. Although this temple is much smaller than the Brihadeesvara Temple, it is more exquisite in detail. This is because this temple is said to have been built with nityavinoda, “perpetual entertainment”, in mind. [source: Wikipedia]



2. Big Temple, Thanjavur

This is the largest temple in India and one of India’s most prized architectural sites. The temple stands amidst fortified walls that were probably added in the 16th century. The vimana (or temple tower) is 216 ft high and is among the tallest of its kind in the world. The Kumbham (apex or the bulbous structure on the top) of the temple is carved out of a single stone and it weighs around 80 tons.

It is a UNESCO World Heritage site and has been preserved in immaculate form since its creation in 1010 BC. [source: Wikipedia]



3. Muchukunda Murals at the Tyagarajaswamy Temple, Thiruvarur

The ancient Tyagarajaswamy Temple houses the Muchukunda Murals, which happens to be one of Prakriti Foundation's main preservation/restoration projects. These are a collection of incredible art depictions from the 17th century commissioned by the Chola king and grace the ceilings of one of the pavilions of this temple.



4. Mangala Guest House, Thirupugallur

If you are looking for a quiet getaway and an authentic village experience of Tamil Nadu, visit the link below to read more about Mangala Guest House which is a typical village house that has been tastefully refurbished and renovated with the comforts of urban travellers in mind.



Venues

1. Diwan Wada

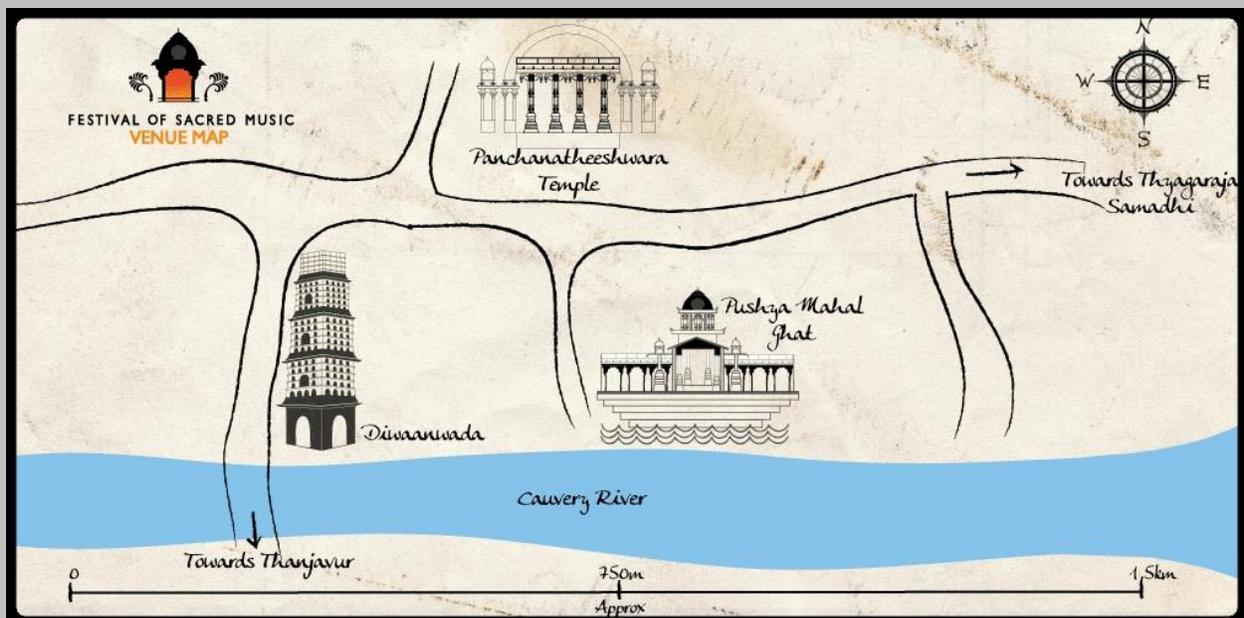
Is the beautiful ruin-like remnant of the Maratha Husoor palace. It is dotted with some typical architectural signatures such as the Pura Koonda – dove cote inspired by the Chinese Pagodas – and overlooks the Cauvery.

2. Pushya Mahal Ghat

Is an exquisitely designed ghat on the banks of the river Cauvery. It flaunts unique architecture and is neighboured by other interesting heritage buildings of Thiruvaiyaru.

3. Panchanadeeswara Temple

This temple is the major landmark of the town and is one of the more ancient Shiva temples from the Chola Dynasty built in the first century BC. The temple and the deity gets their name from the river Cauvery and its tributaries (5(pancha) in total). This temple is built in an area of approximately 60,000 sq. meters, has five ‘prakarams’ (outer precincts used for religious purposes) and many ‘mandapams’ (great halls).



How to Get There?

A) Flights

Flights Available to Trichy from Chennai:

[The nearest airport is Trichy. Thanjavur is a one-hour journey from there.]

- Air India AI – 9557 [07:35 – 08:35]
- Jet Airways 9W-2748 [09:55 - 11:00]
- Jet Airways 9W-2411 [16:30 - 17:35]
- Jet Airways 9W-2789 [20:10 - 21:15]

Flights Available to Chennai from Trichy:

- Air India AI – 9558 [09:05 – 10:20]
- Jet Airways 9W-2751 [11:25 - 12:30]
- Jet Airways 9W-2408 [18:00 - 19:05]
- Jet Airways 9W-2790 [21:40 - 22:50]

B) Trains

Trains Available to Thanjavur:

- Train No: 16853, Train Name: Trichy Express, Departs from Chennai Egmore station, Departure: 08:30, Arrival: 14:33.
- Train No: 16105, Train Name: Tiruchendur Express, Departs from Chennai Egmore station, Departure: 16:05, Arrival: 22:08
- Train No: 16101, Train Name: Rameswaram Express, Departs from Chennai Egmore station, Departure: 19:15, Arrival: 01:53
- Train No: 16179, Train Name: Mannai Express, Departs from Chennai Egmore station, Departure: 21:20, Arrival: 03:30
- Train No: 16183, Train Name: Uzhavan Express, Departs from Chennai Egmore station, Departure: 22:30, Arrival: 06:10

Trains Available to Chennai:

- Train No: 16106, Train Name: TCN Chennai Express, Departs from Thanjavur station, Departure: 04:15, Arrival: 11:25
- Train No: 16854, Train Name: Chennai Express, Departs from Thanjavur station, Departure: 10:45, Arrival: 17:50
- Train No: 16184, Train Name: Uzhavan Express, Departs from Thanjavur station, Departure: 21:20, Arrival: 04:30
- Train No: 16180, Train Name: Mannai Express, Departs from Thanjavur station, Departure: 22:45, Arrival: 05:45

- Train No: 16102, Train Name: Chennai Express, Departs from Thanjavur station, Departure: 23:20, Arrival: 06:35

Where to Stay?

- **Hotel Svatma:**
Telephone - 04362 273222, Website - www.svatma.in
- **Hotel Sangam:**
Telephone - 04362 239451, Website - www.hotelsangam.com
- **Hotel Gnanam:**
Telephone - 04362 278501, Website - www.hotelgnanam.com
- **Hotel Abi's Inn:**
Telephone - 04362 232207/8, Website - www.hotelabisinn.com

For Queries

Feel free to contact us via mail or phone.

Email - prakritifoundation@gmail.com | Call - 8754415362/8608685156

Festival of Sacred Music (2018)

The tenth edition of this festival, taking place from the 2nd to 4th February features an eclectic mix of performances – choral music, bhajans, percussion concert, Carnatic music and French medieval music.

Schedule

Vocal Concert by Baby Sooryagayathri

Synopsis: Vocals by Baby Sooryagayathri, accompanied by artistes on Mridangam, Violin, Tabla and Dukki.

Date: 2nd February 2018

Time: 7 pm

Venue: Kalyan Mahal

Vocal Concert by Madras Youth Choir

Synopsis: Vocal Concert by Madras Youth Choir. Madras Youth Choir is one of the oldest Indian choral music groups formed in 1971 by the Late Shri M B Srinivasan, one of the pioneers of Indian choral music.

Date: 2nd February 2018

Time: 8 pm

Venue: Kalyan Mahal

Percussion Concert curated by Jus Drums Murali

Synopsis: Percussion Concert Curated by Jus Drums Murali with Violinist Karaikal S.Venkatasubramanian, Pianist and Keyboard player Varun Ramakrishnan, Mridangam Artiste Madurai B Sundar, Chanda artiste Mahesh, Tamil folk drums Thudumbu, Uruttu and Thappattam by Team Guru, African Djembe by Keshav, Naren, Karpaka and Akshaya (students of Jus Drums).

Date: 3rd February 2018

Time: 7 pm

Venue: Panchanatheeswara Temple

Vocal Concert by Aruna Sairam and Dominique Vellard

Synopsis: Presented in association with Bonjour India, the artistes will explore the ancient poetic sources of both cultures: the tradition of Tirukkural and the French medieval poetry and maxims. In the seven words of each Kural (poem or saying) is embedded a very simple, yet profound life principle. They will juxtapose this tradition with that of the French poetry. The project will create a dialogue in which Kurals and other poetic forms will be recited and set to music, interspersed with musical interludes.

Date: 4th February 2018

Time: 7 pm

Venue: Pushya Mahal Ghat

Artistes Profile

▪ Madras Youth Choir

Madras Youth Choir is one of the oldest Indian choral music groups formed in 1971 by the Late Shri M B Srinivasan, one of the pioneers of Indian choral music. They are a not-for-profit, voluntary organization and are affiliated to the Sangeet Natak Akademi. Their goals are to popularize Indian choral music and the idea of singing together apart from spreading it to the masses and training children, including the under privileged in this genre of music. Their compositions are a blend of Indian classical melodies with western techniques of harmony, counter point and counter melodies. They believe that the repertoire is aimed at spreading messages of love for humanity, richness of our languages and the greatness of our poets. Themes of their songs are centered on National Integration, Unity, Human; Social Values, Environment; Women Empowerment and are sung in over 10 languages.

▪ Baby Sooryagayathri

Sooryagayathri is a charming, young girl with a golden voice who is capturing the hearts of music lovers across the globe. The videos on several social media sites featuring Sooryagayathri in the Vande Guru Paramparaam - spiritual musical series, produced by ace Carnatic vocalist, Sri Kuldeep M Pai, have raving reception in nations far and wide. Ten-year-old Sooryagayathri hails from the village of Purameri in Vadakara, North Kerala. She is formally trained in Carnatic music by Smt. Anandi and Sri Nishanth. Sri Kuldeep M Pai has been her mentor both musically and spiritually whose guidance has helped her navigate her role as an outstanding musician. Her father, Sri P.V. Anilkumar is an accomplished Mridangam artist in Kerala and her mother, Smt. P.K. Divya is a poetess with a natural flair. Inherently humble and unassuming in nature, she is focussed on making music a way of life, under the able guidance and tutelage of her immensely talented gurus.

▪ Jus Drums Murali

Muralikrishnan is one of the most sought-after percussionists in South India. His continuous experiments and collaborations with eminent artistes from all over the globe has won him accolades. His work for the Indian film industry is another subject worth mentioning in his musical journey. Murali's brain child, Jus Drums, is one of the premier institutions in India imparting the art of drumming. He is also the founding member of the Fusion band Taalathma which has been performing for over two decades now. Murali has completed 8 grades in the drum kit at Trinity College of music, London. His passionate collection of drums varies from the African Djembe to the Indian Khanjira including the Nigerian Udu and few more. Some of his popular performances include welcoming A.R. Rahman when he returned with the Oscars, opening ceremony of Indian Super League with A.R. Rahman, jugalbandhi with his Guru, Legendary Mridangam maestro Dr.Umayalpuram.K. Sivaraman.

▪ Aruna Sairam

Aruna Sairam is a Carnatic vocalist, composer, collaborator, humanitarian and speaker. In addition to her performances in India, from little hamlets to the Rashtrapati Bhavan, Aruna has taken Carnatic music to the global arena, with performances in prestigious venues like Royal Albert Hall, Royal Festival Hall and Carnegie Hall. Currently Vice Chairperson of Sangeet Natak Akademi, Delhi, she was appointed by the then Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu as the Advisor to the Department of Culture. Aruna works towards the musical education of underprivileged students, through the Nadayogam Trust, which she founded. Her music erased geographic borders when she first incorporated Abhang, a Western Indian musical form, into a traditional, South Indian concert, as also in her collaborations with Dominique Vellard, since 1996. She has been decorated with the Padma Shri, for distinguished contributions to Indian culture and society.

▪ Dominique Vellard

Since 1979 Dominique Vellard has been the inspirational driving force behind the Ensemble Gilles Binchois– some three decades of research and performance that have led to the creation of some of the essential recordings in the catalogue, especially of music from the medieval and early Renaissance periods. Since 1982, he has served as the Professor of Interpretation of Medieval and Renaissance Repertoires at la Schola Cantorium de Bâle, where students from different parts of the world come together to follow his courses. He is also the Creative director of the festival Les Rencontres Internationales de Musique Médiévale du Thoronet. Dominique Vellard has made more than forty recordings, whether as soloist, conductor, or at the head of the Ensemble Gilles Binchois. He has been recently awarded Chevalier de la Légion d’Honneur”.
