

Veena Arangetram

(INDIAN CLASSICAL SOLO VEENA DEBUT)

OF

Kumari. *Arrutpa Radhakrishnan*

Disciple of Acharya Ratna

Guru Smt. **Subathra Raguraman**

Sunday @ 10:00 am | August 25th, 2024



Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Mylapore Chennai
Web: Arrutpa.com

My journey to Veena Arangetram

I have always been interested in music since I was a child. As a toddler, I would accompany my mother as she took my older siblings to their music lessons. This is how I came to learn my first instrument, the violin. I then went on to learn Western Classical Singing as well.

I am currently singing in my school choir and playing as the lead violinist in my school orchestra. I also play the violin in my local youth orchestra, and I have participated in local music competitions. I have

achieved a Grade 8 certification in both singing and violin. I am also a member of the British Suzuki Music Association and played the violin with them in the Royal Albert Hall last year in front of an audience of over 1500 people. I enjoy playing both Western classical music and Indian classical music, as I feel they both have their own unique and complex features and rich histories.

My first exposure to Indian classical arts was through Bharathanatyam. I have been practising this art form since I was six years old, and have learnt lots of ancient Indian culture through my lessons. I am currently working towards grade 7 and have participated in multiple annual shows organised by my guru, Usha Raghavan. I especially like how the dance is not only a physical challenge but a blend of many aspects like abhinayam and acting. It has allowed me to learn more about my Tamil roots and feel more connected to my culture.

My father bought a veena for me when I was one year old, and I remember growing up hoping that one day I would be good enough to play this beautiful looking instrument. Now that I am sixteen I can see how far I have come on this journey. I started learning the veena when I was eight years old from my teacher, Guru Smt Subathra Raguraman. A year later, I also started to learn Carnatic singing from her. This supported my learning as I understood Carnatic music more and could play the veena more thoughtfully. I have always enjoyed playing the veena and appreciated it as a special and divine instrument. Its cultural significance in history and distinctive sound make it unique, and I am grateful for having the opportunity to learn to play from a skilled and experienced teacher.

I am always inspired by my teacher's talent and dedication and was excited when given the opportunity to do my Arangetram. I understand that this is only a step in my musical journey, and I look forward to advancing in this field.



About Guru

Acharya Ratna Guru Smt. Subathra Raguraman had her initial training under Sri Venkatachalam in Shencottai. Having received the scholarship for advanced training in Veena, She joined the legendary guru Smt Kalpagam Swaminathan and trained rigorously under her for eight years. Subathra was appointed as an Asst. Professor of Music at the prestigious Madras Music Academy's College of Music, working with the legendary Veena Vidwan Sri R Venkataraman. Moving to the UK in 2002, Subathra continued her musical journey as a teacher and performer. Over the years, she has trained many vocal and Veena students to an exemplary level. The Trinity College of Music, London, awarded her the title FTCL, a Fellowship for Indian Music, considering her services in music here in the UK in 2006. In 2018 Subathra was awarded the 'A Grade' from All India Radio for Veena. Subathra continues her services to Indian Music as a teacher and performer at various stages in the UK and India.

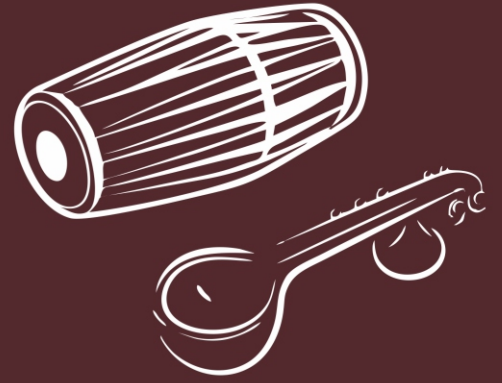
Guru's Message

It gives me great pleasure in presenting my student Kum. Arrutpa's veena arangetram today. Teaching Arrutpa over the last eight years has been a unique experience. I have seen her interest and knowledge grow wider. Arrutpa gained a larger vision of Western singing & violin, which is widely practiced in Western world. I have always looked forward to teaching Arrutpa as she is a studious girl and equally brings a challenge to her training too. Today's achievement has been a result of tremendous hard work (hours of practice) combined with a lot of dedication and sincerity. SmtDr. Roopa and Sri Dr.Radhakrishnan have provided immense support to their daughter's learning.

As Arrutpa understands this is a small step in the field of Music, the world out there should also understand Arrutpa is a great ray of hope that's waiting to join the elite class of musicians in the years to come. My Husband Sri Balu Raguraman and our children Abhishek & Aparna join me in wishing Arrutpa all the best in all her endeavours and may the goddess Saraswati shower her choicest blessings on her, helping her continue this rich tradition of classical music. Subathra Raguraman



Accompanying artists



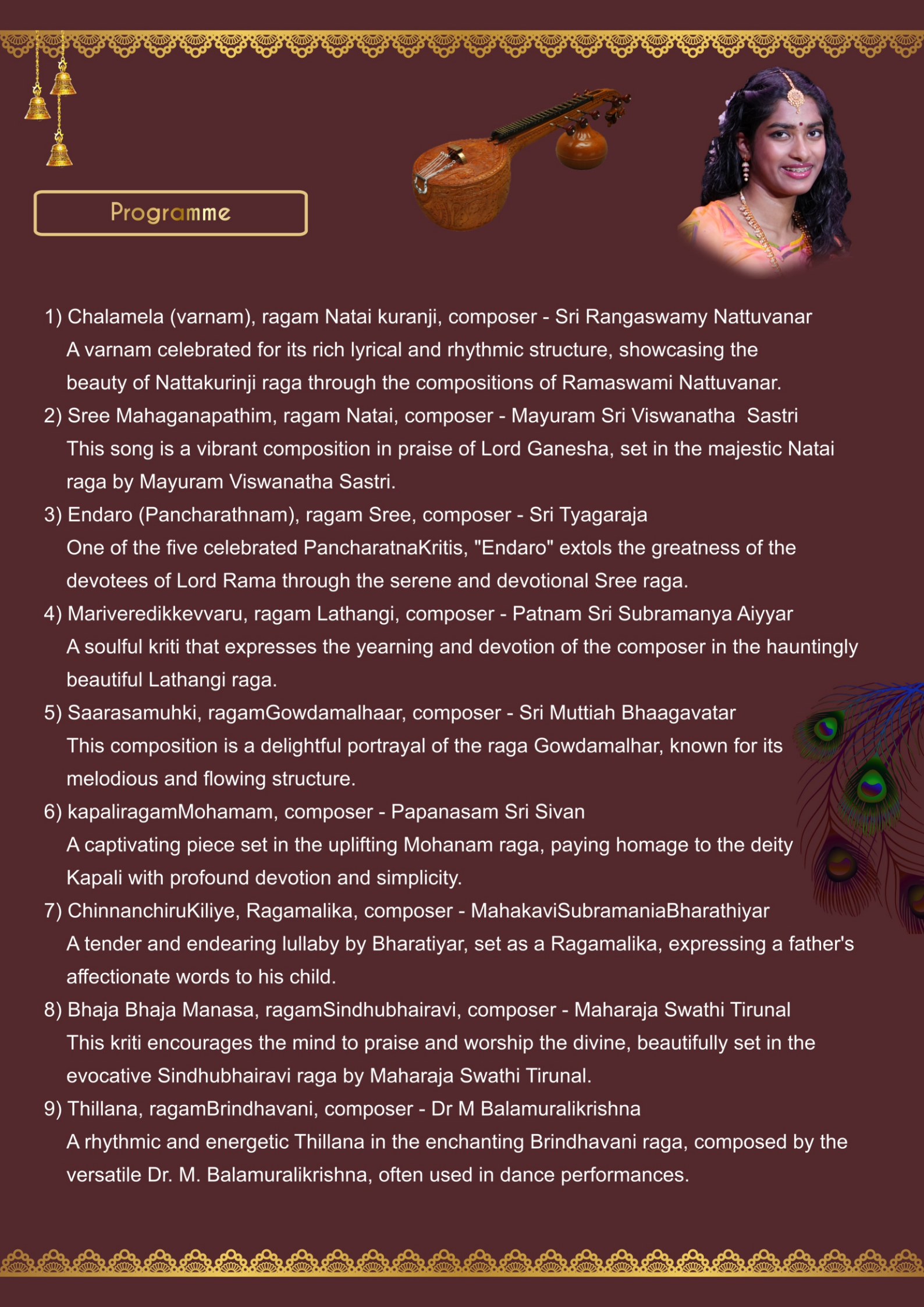
Sedhalapathi Sri B. Ganapathy Raman

Sedhalapathi Sri B. Ganapathyraman, a celebrated mridangist from a prestigious musical lineage, began his training at age seven under the guidance of renowned teachers like Srimushnam Sri. V. Raja Rao and Kumbakonam Sri. Rajappa Iyer. He has accompanied numerous luminaries in Carnatic music, including Dr. M. Balamuralikrishna and Lalgudi Sri G. Jayaraman. Recognized with multiple awards, including the Asthana Vidwan of Sri Kanchi KamakotiPeetam, Ganapathyraman continues to be a sought-after artist worldwide.

Sri H Sivarama Krishnan

Sri Sivaramakrishnan based his initial training under Madurai Sri.A.Krishna Iyengar. He further had his advanced training under the legendary Sri.T.H.Vinayakaram. He has been accompanying leading artists in India and abroad. He has been recognised as the Astana vidwan from Shri Kanchi Kamakoti peetam.





Programme



- 1) Chalamela (varnam), ragam Natai kuranji, composer - Sri Rangaswamy Nattuvanar
A varnam celebrated for its rich lyrical and rhythmic structure, showcasing the beauty of Nattakurinji raga through the compositions of Ramaswami Nattuvanar.
 - 2) Sree Mahaganapathim, ragam Natai, composer - Mayuram Sri Viswanatha Sastri
This song is a vibrant composition in praise of Lord Ganesha, set in the majestic Natai raga by Mayuram Viswanatha Sastri.
 - 3) Endaro (Pancharathnam), ragam Sree, composer - Sri Tyagaraja
One of the five celebrated PancharatnaKritis, "Endaro" extols the greatness of the devotees of Lord Rama through the serene and devotional Sree raga.
 - 4) Mariveredikkevvaru, ragam Lathangi, composer - Patnam Sri Subramanya Aiyar
A soulful kriti that expresses the yearning and devotion of the composer in the hauntingly beautiful Lathangi raga.
 - 5) Saarasamuhki, ragam Gowdamalhaar, composer - Sri Muttiah Bhaagavatar
This composition is a delightful portrayal of the raga Gowdamalhar, known for its melodious and flowing structure.
 - 6) kapaliragam Mohamam, composer - Papanasam Sri Sivan
A captivating piece set in the uplifting Mohanam raga, paying homage to the deity Kapali with profound devotion and simplicity.
 - 7) Chinnanchiru Kiliye, Ragamalika, composer - Mahakavi Subramania Bharathiyar
A tender and endearing lullaby by Bharathiyar, set as a Ragamalika, expressing a father's affectionate words to his child.
 - 8) Bhaja Bhaja Manasa, ragam Sindhubhairavi, composer - Maharaja Swathi Tirunal
This kriti encourages the mind to praise and worship the divine, beautifully set in the evocative Sindhubhairavi raga by Maharaja Swathi Tirunal.
 - 9) Thillana, ragam Brindhavani, composer - Dr M Balamuralikrishna
A rhythmic and energetic Thillana in the enchanting Brindhavani raga, composed by the versatile Dr. M. Balamuralikrishna, often used in dance performances.
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Message of Thanks

I want to thank my parents for introducing me to Carnatic music and giving me the opportunity to learn the Veena. I appreciate their consistent hard work, driving me to lessons every week and always reminding me to practice.

I am thankful to my teacher for always encouraging me and giving me confidence as a musician. She has made learning the Veena an extremely enjoyable experience by giving me constructive feedback, patiently correcting my mistakes, and inspiring me in many different ways.

I would also like to thank Balu Master for helping composing the swarams, giving me important advice, and making jokes all the time.

I am thankful to my family for their support in preparation for this event. Thanks to my mother for helping me get stage-ready for concerts and photoshoots and my brother and sister for preparing speeches and doing my make-up. Thanks to my Appa for his hard work and dedication in organising key elements for this event and making sure the day runs smoothly. Thank you to my Ammamma for her endless love.

Thanks to all the key people for giving their valuable time and generous blessings. I would not have been able to perform at such an event without everyone's help.

Above all, thanks to our audience for creating the beautiful atmosphere in the auditorium, encouraging me to play the Veena and making it a memorable day.



Chief Guests

Sengottai Rajamani

Born in 1932, Sri Sengottai Rajamani developed a deep passion for Carnatic music and mridangam from a young age, encouraged by his father, an advocate in Sengottai. He began his rigorous training under Sri V. Ramaswamy Iyer, a disciple of Thanjavur Vaidyanatha Iyer, and later continued his studies under the legendary Palghat Mani Iyer and Palghat Sri Raghu. Rajamani's mridangam debut (arangetram) took place at the age of 11 during the 1943 Ramanavami season in his birthplace, Adaichani. Over his 80-year career, he has accompanied numerous Carnatic music stalwarts, contributed significantly to AIR Trivandrum's projects, and participated in international workshops. Recognised with numerous titles, including "Mridangam Choodamani" and "Sankara Laya Saarbhouma," Rajamani is celebrated for his dedication to the art. Beyond performance, he has nurtured many disciples, organised the Thyagaraja Aradhana Festival at Sengottai, and served as a judge for various music institutions.

Srimushnam Rajarao

Srimushnam Sri VRajarao received his initial training in Mridangam from his father S. Venkataramana Rao. He was later a student of Shri Kumbakonam M Rajappa Iyer. He has also received training in Carnatic vocal music from eminent teachers, including Sarvashri Papanasam Sivan, Calcutta Krishnamurthy, and Mayuram Vaidyanatha Iyer. Besides Mridangam, he also plays the Kanjira and Morsing. He has worked as a visiting professor of Mridangam at the University of California, Berkeley, USA.

Guests of Honour



Dr. R.S. Jayalakshmi

Sangeetha Kala Acharya Dr. R.S. Jayalakshmi, born in 1950, is a decorated Carnatic musician and veena virtuoso celebrated for her remarkable 55-year career. A prodigy who mastered both vocal music and veena from a young age, she has earned global recognition for her performances and scholarly contributions. As a dedicated educator, she served 33 years at the University of Madras, where she mentored countless students and earned her Ph.D. in Music. Today, Dr. Jayalakshmi continues to shape the future of Carnatic music, holding prestigious roles at The Music Academy, Narada Gana Sabha, and the University of Silicon Andhra, California, while inspiring a new generation of musicians worldwide.

Usha Raghavan

Nritya Acharya Ratna Usha Raghavan, a post-graduate in Indian Philosophy from Madras University and master of Bharatanatyam, trained under gurus Sri Adyar K. Lakshman and Smt. Kalanidhi Narayanan. Since her 1969 debut, she has performed extensively across India, including at Chennai's December Festivals. In 1972, she joined Kalasagara, founded by her mother, Smt. Radhamani and her sister, Smt. Malathy Thothadri. Since 1980, Usha has been a visiting professor at European cultural centres and has conducted international workshops and performances in France, Switzerland, Italy, Germany, the USA, and the UK. Now based in London, she continues to train dancers worldwide.

Balu Raguraman

Acharya Ratna Balu Raguraman, a sought-after violinist in the field of Carnatic music in the UK, has established himself as a multi-faceted artist, teacher, and educator. As an 'A Grade' artiste of All India Radio, His experiences as a performer with many of the legends in the field of artistes of the past and the present make him a popular musician. As the resident teacher at The Bhavan Centre in London, Balu Raguraman takes pride in continuing the tradition of Indian classical music and training a number of students to an exceptional level.



Ensemble

Veena: Arrutpa Radhakrishnan

Miruthangam: Sedhalapathi Sri B. Ganapathy Raman

Ghatam: Sri H Sivarama Krishnan

Special Thanks

Compère and commère: Adhav and Attsaya Radhakrishnan

Photography: Chandru, Bhavan Chennai

Videography: Nambu, Bhavan Chennai

Sound and Lighting: Shankar, Bhavan London; Murugan & Nambu, Bhavan Chennai

Stage, Reception, Hall decoration: Tharani, Ambika & Suresh, Bhavan Chennai

Flex and Brochure Design: Unique Digital Printing

Invitation Design: Imagine That

Venue: Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Chennai Kendra.

Event Management: Roopa Radhakrishnan

