

Dakshina Chitra



THE LIVING MUSEUM

CELEBRATING



1997 - 2017

Utsavam

11th & 12th February 2017

*An annual symposium on classical
music, dance and theatre*

EVENT PARTNER



Utsavam, an annual festival hosted by DakshinaChitra, is an immersion into the classical music, dance and theatre of South India.

Utsavam 2017, the 2nd edition of the festival, will feature interactive sessions and presentations by several prominent artists and experts, on two timeless art forms
- Carnatic Music and Bharatanatyam.

This year is very special for us at DakshinaChitra as we celebrate our 20th anniversary, which coincides with the 250th birth anniversary of the legendary Carnatic music composer Tyagaraja. As a part of the festival, speakers will bring to light and share their reflections on this prolific composer's influence on the art form. Every evening, we will present interactive, informal jam sessions by some of the finest exponents of each form.

The festival has been carefully curated to offer the audience a unique experience.

To register for the festival, please call 044 - 24462437,
email programsmcf1@gmail.com or
visit www.dakshinachitra.net

We look forward to your participation in Utsavam 2017.

Day 1: Sangeetam

We explore 300 years of Carnatic Music and its chief composers who have shaped the present day concert format

9.00 - 9.30 am:

Festival opens with the music of the Oduvars

9.30 – 9.45 am:

A brief overview of Utsavam 2016 and an outline of Utsavam 2017
by Savita Narasimhan

Session 1: 9.45 am – 12.00 noon

Speakers: V. Sriram, R.K. Shriramkumar



V. SRIRAM

The entire body of Carnatic music rests on the shoulders of outstanding composers who have enriched this idiom with their multi-lingual, multi-dimensional compositions. V. Sriram will speak on the most towering figure among these composers, Tyagaraja, the 18th century composer who gave Carnatic music the form and structure that we know and practise today. On his 250th birth anniversary, Sriram looks at Tyagaraja's impact on subsequent generations of composers and musicians; the content and styles in Carnatic music and varied composing styles. He also presents a quick look at the pre-trinity composers, leading onto the trinity and their contributions with special emphasis on Tyagaraja.



R. K. SHRIRAMKUMAR

R. K. Shriramkumar dwells briefly on Muthuswami Dikshitar and Shyama Shastri and the chief differences in their styles, with demos and video clips.

12.00 noon – 1.00 pm: Lunch

Session 2: 1.00 - 3.15 pm

**Speakers: V. Sriram, R. K. Shriramkumar, Arun Prakash,
Padma Shri awardee Aruna Sairam**

This session is divided into 2 parts:

Part 1 - 1.00 – 2.15 pm:



V. Sriram begins this session about some of the greatest musicians of the 20th century and why they based their entire concert repertoires on the compositions of the Trinity like Ariyakkudi / G. N. Balasubramaniam / Brinda / Maharajapuram Vishwanatha Iyer / D. K. Pattammal etc.



**R. K. SHRIRAMKUMAR
V. SRIRAM
ARUN PRAKASH**

V. Sriram, in conversation with R. K. Shriramkumar and Arun Prakash, talk about the idiosyncrasies of these musicians on a lighter note, with clips, photos and anecdotes. These great musicians followed or leaned towards one or more of the Trinity, creating their individual banis or schools of music. This session ends with a mention of how these compositions were passed on from one generation to the next and the vocal-centricity of our music.

Part 2 - 2.15 – 3.30 pm:



**PADMA SHRI AWARDEE
ARUNA SAIRAM**

Aruna Sairam talks of the Brinda school that specialized in traditional compositions of the Trinity - the various members of the Dhanammal family who learnt from the Trinity or their direct descendants. She also shares her own experience of learning under the indomitable T. Brinda and her traditional teaching style.

3.30 - 4.00 pm: Tea/Coffee Break

4.00 – 5.15 pm

Speaker: P. C. Ramakrishna



P. C. RAMAKRISHNA

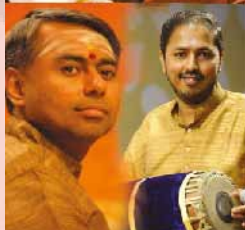
P. C. Ramakrishna speaks about vocal music being central to Carnatic music and the bridge between precept and performance; the concept of harmony, which seems alien to Carnatic music, with a mention of his work with the Madras Youth Choir. He also talks about which voice type can be more tuneful and the significance of Pranayama (yogic breathing technique) to classical singers.

5.15 – 5.45 pm: Tea/ Coffee Break

Session 4: 6.00 – 7.30 pm: Performance



The day concludes with young musicians - Tiruvarur S. Girish and Vignesh Ishwar, representing their schools or musical legacies, singing their respective styles in an interactive give and take format.



R. K. Shriramkumar and Arun Prakash talk about the individual styles and how they would accompany each style.

This would be a lively jam session and completely demonstrative of how the legacy lives on and flourishes in a system not bound by the standard teaching methods or documentation of the West.

S. GIRISH

VIGNESH ISHWAR

R. K. SHRIRAMKUMAR

ARUN PRAKASH

Day 2: Bharatam

A palimpsest of Sadir / Bharatanatyam's history, intrigue and ingenuity

Direction: **Anita Ratnam**

Bharatanatyam along with the newly formed nation of India, is illuminated with tremendous charisma, creativity and inspiring stories of personal genius. Day 2 of the festival will open windows into the origin, growth, development and innovations to this much loved, widely practiced and highly sophisticated dance style.

Session 1: **9.30 am – 12.00 noon**

Speakers: **Anita Ratnam, Saskia Kersenboom**

This session is further divided into 2 segments:

Part 1: **9.30 – 10.30 am:**

Speaker: **Anita Ratnam**



ANITA RATNAM

Audiences will be made aware of the various styles / schools of Bharathanatyam where the guru was both a teacher and a choreographer; the dynamic innovations of Rukmini Devi in the mid-20th century and the open-minded, pragmatic Isai Vellalar community of artistes that tried to survive against Victorian prudishness.

Part 2 : **10.30 am – 12.00 noon**

Speaker: **Saskia Kersenboom**



SASKIA KERSENBOOM

This presentation focusses mainly on P. Ranganayaki from the Murugan temple in Tiruttani. Saskia will speak about her research, her time shared with Ranganayaki, living in her house and visiting the temple. Her emphasis will be on how the temple ritual dance was very different from the concert format of Bharatanatyam in vogue today.

12.00 noon - 1.00 pm: Lunch

Session 2: 1.15 - 2.45 pm

Speaker: **Dr. Swarnamalya Ganesh**



**Dr. SWARNAMALYA
GANESH**

Swarnamalya will talk about the historic customs and practices of the Devadasis - humorous lyrics, multi lingual texts, bold themes, costumes, their lifestyle, the royal courts that supported them and their art. She delves into their immersed way of life - a world now lost, but not before leaving a timeless impact on the art.

2.45 - 3.15: Tea/Coffee Break

Session 3: 3.15 – 4.45 pm

Speaker: **Gowri Ramnarayan**



GOWRI RAMNARAYAN

The day closes with a discussion on the now globally recognized Kalakshetra style of Bharatanatyam and the impact of this androgynous approach that has made Bharatanatyam the most taught, practised and performed Indian classical dance style across the globe. Gowri talks about the last phase of the British rule, the phenomenon that was Rukmini Devi and her contributions towards reviving Bharatanatyam.

Conversation between Gowri & Saskia



GOWRI & SASKIA

This leads to an in-depth conversation between Gowri and Saskia on the changes that took place, during the early 20th century, Rukmini Devi's role, and a comparison between this and the strategies of adaptation that were devised and implemented by hereditary families like the Dhanammal family. Overall, it would be challenging to ask ourselves "what was gained, what was lost"? An interesting comparison would be to have a look at how variegated, multi lingual, multi format and even multi gender the hereditary storehouse was.

4.45 – 5.15 pm: Tea / Coffee Break

Session 4: 5.30 – 7.00 pm



A jam session with young dancers representing various schools to demonstrate how the art form has undergone a change in its transition from the court to the stage, in terms of grammar, music and costumes. Led by guru A. Lakshmanaswamy, the team includes Shruthipriya Ravi, Sudharma Vaithyanathan and Bhavajan Navaratnam.

Festival Curated by
Uma Ganesan and Savita Narasimhan



To register for Utsavam or for more details, please contact us
programsmcf1@gmail.com | 044 2446 2437 | www.dakshinachitra.net

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