



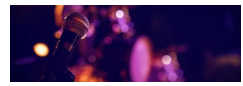
HARMONY IN MUSIC

Indian Ragas with Jazz Collaboration



Soorya Performing Arts

HARMONY IN MUSIC - Seema, Todd, Steve, Ben, Balaji, Prasanna



Music is the universal language of mankind

Where words fail, music speaks.

If I were not a physicist, I would probably be a musician.

I often think in music. I live my daydreams in music.

I see my life in terms of music.

— Albert Einstein— 1879

Music Expresses

That Which

Cannot be put

Into Words and

That Which

Cannot Remain

Silent

- Victor Hugo - French Romantic writer and politician - 1885

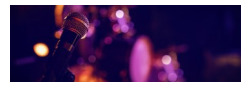
“sangIta jnAnamu bhakti vinA

sanmArgamu galadE manasA”

O Mind, mere knowledge of music

without devotion can never lead to the right path.

- Saint Thyagaraja - One of the Trinity of Indian Music – 1767



Foreword

Dear Patrons

We are delighted to bring the beautiful amalgamation of music from East and West to Saint Louis through the “Harmony in Music” concert. We aim to give you the joy of beautiful aspects of both music systems from the great musicians of the Saint Louis region.

Harmony in music brings out the nuances of the Indian classical styles Carnatic and Hindustani in an attempt to blend beautifully with Jazz and new-age standards. Carnatic music practitioners Seema kashthuri and Jazz Guitarist Todd Mosby aim to jam and improvise along with the talented band members Prasanna Kasthuri on Indian drums, Balaji Sivasubramanian on the violin, Steve Davis on drums, and Ben Coen on Bass.

The band will take the audience on a journey of original scores and tunes of fusion from many composers, who have contributed ancient Raagas, such as Amrutavarshini, Revati, and other deep, soul-filling melodies. Elaborate constructs of classical idiom with Western Jazz guitar will bring the essence of Indian musical notes to a global perspective. Songs of great Jazz singers will be brought in to entertain you.

We do have a few Bollywood charms! Some songs are inspired by Kannada writer – Kailasam, who in turn wanted to bring the beats of Britain into Kannada. This concert invokes the spirits of Sufi music through well-known Bollywood songs to give a graceful understanding of Middle-Eastern music traditions.

This is a journey into the music of East and West.

Thank you to our volunteers who worked to make it happen. We sincerely thank Seema Kasthuri, Todd Mosby, Balaji Subramanian, Steve Davis, Ben Coan, and our own Guruji Prasanna Kasthuri for making this evening a beautiful celebration of World Music.

We thank Missouri Arts Council and Regional Arts Commission for supporting this event. We sincerely thank many corporate matching grants for our organizations, who made it possible for this event. We thank our Soorya Family, Soorya-Friends, and donors for supporting this event. Thanks to the staff of the excellent Kirkwood Performing Arts Center.

After this show, we invite you to our upcoming 9th Saint Louis Indian Music Festival, and 14th American Natya Festival in 2023.

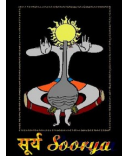
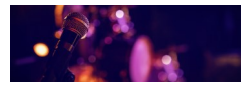
Have fun and cheer.

Board of Directors

Soorya Performing Arts

<https://www.sooryaperformingarts.org>





About us

Soorya performing arts is a 501 (c) (3) organization registered in Missouri state. Its mission is to contribute to the cultural diversity and artistic excellence in the state of Missouri and across the Greater United States of America by preserving, propagating Indian Performing arts through teaching, training & performances.

In order to carry out or mission, Soorya shall:

Provide high quality training and teaching of classical and folk performing art forms such as dance, music and theater from India.

Organize high quality professional and amateur dance, music, folk, and drama performances from India.

Arrange training and cross-artistic performances through residencies in schools and colleges in the city and rural areas.

Arrange festivals, seminars, workshops and demonstrations for better enjoyment and appreciation of South Asian Performing Art form

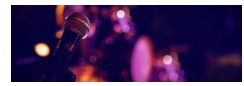
Create innovative dance, music and theater productions in co-operation with local, state and national companies.

Award recognition to those served in performing arts.

Establish dance competitions and provide rewards/recognition for the excellence.

Work with learning disability and mentally handicapped children and provide them an enjoyment of dance and music.

Establish student scholarships and internships to foster learning of arts among young generation.



Singer

SEEMA KASTHURI

Seema Kasthuri has been a practitioner, performer, and teacher of Carnatic (Indian) classical music for 20-plus years. She was trained by well-known teachers from India, such as Dr. Nagamani Srinath, Dr. Balasubramaniam, and Ustad Imrath Khan.

Seema has performed in major cities like Toronto, Los Angeles, New Jersey, Chicago, Philadelphia, Kansas City, Columbia, Bengaluru and Saint Louis.

Seema has several music albums in classical, devotional, and contemporary genres and many music videos to her credit on youtube. She was a recipient of an artistic grant from the Regional arts commission for her project "Wind-Chyme," a unique collection of fusion, classical, and RAP experimentation. She loves taking the contemporary approach to blending the beautiful ragas of South Indian classical music with western music.

Seema was awarded the "AKKA Idol" title at the American Kannada conference in 2012. The St. Louis community has lauded her services. She was honored by the Indian Association of Saint Louis, St. Louis Hindu Temple, Nashville Kannada Sangha, and St. Louis Sangama Association.

Seema Kasthuri serves as the artistic director of Soorya Performing Arts, a nonprofit organization to promote and nurtures Indian classical Dance and Music.



Imrath & Jazz Guitarist

TODD MOSBY

Todd Mosby is a Midwestern Indian Jazz Guitarist and Composer. He has earned two ZMR Broadcasters Awards (2019, 2020) for best Contemporary Instrumental Albums, USA Songwriters Competition Awards (2021), and many Global Music Awards. He has appeared in Guitar World Magazine as well as many live national radio broadcasts.

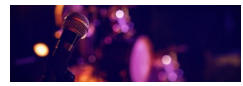
Mosby has toured nationally at some of the finest Performing Arts Centers across America, such as Montalvo Arts, Kravis Center, and Soka University, to name a few. He is ranked as one of the top artists currently touring and recording today, according to BT Fasmer of New Age Music Guide.

Mosby's music is broadcast on over 300 syndicated, national, regional, and independent stations in the U.S. and Europe, crossing genres into the Contemporary Instrumental, Smooth Jazz, New Age, and Adult Contemporary listening markets. He is the only guitarist admitted into the prestigious Imdhad Khani Gharana, India's most prestigious family of musicians.

Mosby is one of the few musicians in America who has mastered western composition, jazz improvisation, and Indian raga music forms and incorporates them freely as a part of his musical language.

With undergraduate work at Berkeley College of Music and Graduate work at Webster University, Mosby is well-schooled in academia and well-seasoned as a performer.





Drummer STEVE DAVIS



Drummer Steve Davis has performed with David Liebman, Bill Evans, Richie Beirach, John Pattitucci, Walt Weiskopf, Benny Golson, Ira Sullivan, Andy Laverne, and Lynne Arriale. He has over 200 recordings to his credit, including 12.

In addition to his extensive touring throughout Europe and North America, Steve served on the faculty of Jamey Aebersold Jazz Clinics from 1982-2008. He served on the Berlin Conservatory of Music faculty as a professor of jazz studies in 2000 and 2001, as well as Port Townsend in 2007.

He has written six drum books, including a (2008) released book from Schott-Music Publishing, and has conducted educational clinics worldwide.

Steve is also a respected recording engineer in the jazz community, having engineered over 300 recordings.

Steve was a Visiting Artist in Residence at Indiana University from 2000-2001 and served on the University of Southern Florida Tampa faculty from 2004-2008. Steve is currently on the faculty at Washington University and divides his time between freelancing and playing with his group. Steve has recently finished 17 new play-along for jazz drummers. These are great for practicing soloing, comping, and general tune learning. They are beautifully recorded and feel as close to the real thing as it gets.



Percussionist

PRASANNA KASTHURI

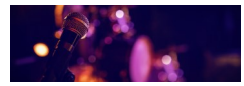


Prasanna Kasthuri is a multi-faceted artist. He is a dancer, singer, drummer, and poet. He is a record-holder Bharathanatyam dancer who danced 24 hours nonstop to create a record in India. He is an excellent Kathak dancer who learnt under Dr. Mayarao and legendary Birju Maharaj & Saswati Sen. He is a good vocalist who received training from scholars like Chintalapalli Krishnamurthy and Ambi Bhagavathar.

Prasanna has given thousands of concerts and performances in the last 45 years of his career. He has trained thousands of students since 1986 in India, USA, France and Canada. He has performed in Paris, Amsterdam, London, New York, Toronto, Los Angeles and many more place. He has composed music for 16 dance dramas and 150 music compositions and penned a book of music compositions for dance – “Natya Samhita-1”.

Prasanna learned mridangam (Indian Drums) with veteran Mridangist B R Seshadri in 1980's. Later he continued to learn with many gurus such as Vidwan Cheluvvaraju and visiting Mridangists such as Ramesh Ramalingappa and S V Balakrishna from Bengaluru. Since 2016, he has been following Ummayalapuram Sivaraman sir's style of playing. Prasanna plays electronic Handsonic, Kanjira, Tabla, Dholak and Damaru to give more effects for a concert.

Prasanna has been conferred with the title “Kala Yogi” (Seer of Arts) by Karnataka Writers and Artist Guild. He was recognized all over Europe, USA, and India for his artistic abilities.



Violinist

BALAJI SIVASUBRAMANIAN



Balaji started their musical journey started at the age of three when he was introduced to Carnatic music. His first Guru was Sri Tirupati G Chakrapani, who developed his interests in Carnatic and many other forms of music.

His next Guru, Govindapuram V Balaji, developed his interest in complex fingering patterns. His last and latest Guru, Padmashri Kalaimamani A. Kanyakumari, accepted him as a disciple and taught him the nuances and ma-

turity of Carnatic music. She was instrumental in Balaji evolving into a wholesome musician.

After a long break of almost eight years of break from Carnatic music, wherein he went into western, soft jazz, funk, and world music, Balaji got back into his old passion, Carnatic music. Balaji is an avid musician; apart from violin, he is versatile in playing more than ten musical instruments.

Balaji is an Aerospace major, an aviation systems engineer, a pilot, and an airplane builder who is building his own aerobatic airplane in his garage. His Balaji likes to paint, write poetry, fly planes, and jump out of perfectly normal airplanes from 15,000 ft with a parachute, when he is not working or playing violin.



Bassist

BEN COAN

Ben Coan is a popular St. Louis bassist. He graduated from SIUE with a degree in jazz performance. He has lived as a working musician and teacher in Chicago, IL and southern China, and has given clinics/performed at Wuhan Conservatory, Shanghai Conservatory, Golden Jazz CMI, and JZ Club Shanghai. Upon returning to St. Louis in 2017, he began performing and recording with a variety of local

groups such as the Steve Davis Trio, Kendrick Smith Trio, Greg Dallas, Farshid Etniko Soltani, Hot Club of St. Louis, Washington University Big Band, and St. Louis Big Band, specializing in both upright and electric bass.



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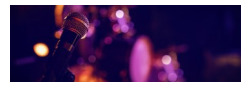
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Credits

Technical Assistance: Ales Godefroid, Hope Harbor

Patron Assistance: Lily Buehler

Sound Engineer: Beef Gratz

Technical Director: Noah Parsons

General Manager: Dan Schultz

Volunteers: Jayashree, Srilakshmi Vishnubhotla

Videographers: Manhar Bhakta

Board of Directors

Nagendra Sanjeeva, Sriram Srinivasan, Jayashree Anand, Srilakshmi Vishnubhotla, Prabhakar Betnag, Vijay Sakshi, Jamuna Kumar, Jay Kanzler, Sumithra Sankararaman, Seema Kasthuri and Prasanna Kasthuri

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for **supporting** this event



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**9th Saint Louis
Indian Music
Festival &
Conference**
Feb 24, 25, 26, 2023

**14th American
Natya
Festival
and Conference**
American Natya Idol
Competition
April 7,8,9, 2023