

Jugalbandi in Bangalore on Sunday, 26 July 2015

Ragavan Manian (Karnatic vocal) is a disciple of Padma Vibhushan Dr. Balamurali Krishna. His other gurus are "Pallavi" T. Narasimhachari and his aunt Tenkasi P. Rajammal. Ragavan has performed in various organisations in several countries. He plays over ten different musical instruments, writes, composes and is a hi-tech professional.

Nachiketa Yakkundi (Hindustani vocal) is from Dharwad. He was initiated into music by his parents. His formal study began in Madras under Shri B. N. Simha and later under Shri B. Hanumantachar. His rigorous and extended training came under the virtuoso late Padma Bhushan Pandit Basavraj Rajguru. A resident of the San Francisco Bay Area, he runs the Rajguru Sangeet Vidyaniketan school of music and is a senior guru at the Sangeetaanjali Institute of Music.

Ragavan and Nachiketa have performed in many Karnatic-Hindustani jugalbandi concerts under several auspices in the US, most of them being charitable organisations such as the Sankara Eye Foundation and the Livermore Temple. This is their first jugalbandi concert in India.

H. L. Shivashankaraswamy is a leading mridangam artist. He has performed in India and several other countries as well as on AIR, Doordarshan, and in music conferences such as the Hampi Utsav and the Karnataka Nritya Academy. H. L. Shivashankaraswamy has accompanied several renowned musicians such as Dr. M. Balamurali Krishna, R. K. Srikantan, Dr. N. Ramani, Lalgudi G. Jayaraman, M. S. Gopalakrishnan, T. V. Shankaranarayanan, Kadri Gopalnath, U. Srinivas, Vidyabhushana, Bombay Sisters, Mysore M. Nagaraj Ravikiran, O. S. Thyagaragan, K. S. Gopalkrishna and T. N. Sheshagopalan. H. L. Shivashankaraswamy is currently as A-grade staff artist at the All India Radio station in Mysore. He is the founder director of "Pratishtana," an organisation that conducts programmes every month to afford opportunities to young and upcoming talent.

Gurumurthy Vaidya is a leading tabla artist and is an exponent in the tradition of Ustad Ahmed Jan Thirakwa. Born into a musically inclined family in Yallapura in the Western Ghat region, Gurumurthy was exposed early to the rich tapestry of music and dance of the Yakshagaana art. He started formal tabla lessons from Pandit G. G. Hegde and went on to obtain additional training from the legendary tabla artist Pandit Basavaraj Bendigeri of Dharwad. Later Gurumurthy became a disciple of master tabla artist Pandit Ravindra Yavagal, from whom he continues to take guidance. Gurumurthy is a graded tabla artist of AIR and Doordarshan. He has performed at such prestigious organisations as the Sawai Gandharva festival and the Vishnu Digambar Paluskar Sangeet Sabha, as well as on stages worldwide. He has performed with renowned artists like Ramarao Naik, N. Rajam, Ulhas Kashalkar, Brijbhushan Kabra and Ashwini Bhide Deshpande. Gurumurthy is an avid music enthusiast and runs his own school of tabla in Bangalore.

Dr. R. Raghuram is a versatile and experienced violinist based in Bangalore. His academic doctorate degree was on the scientific analysis of violin techniques in Karnatic music. Raghuram was initiated into music at the age of 10 under the tutelage of Vidwan Ulsoor S. Chandrashekar and continued his training under vocal guidance of Vidushi Vasantha Madhavi. He furthered his violin training under the great violin virtuoso Ganakala-Bhushana Vidwan Anoor S. Ramakrishna. Raghuram has performed in various organisations in India and the UK, as well as on AIR, Doordarshan and other television channels.

Ashwin Walawalkar started learning harmonium from his father Pandit Shreeram Walawalkar at an early age. Soon thereafter his interest shifted to playing the santoor and he became a student of master santoor artist Padma Shri Pandit Satish Vyas of Mumbai. Ashwin has performed in many solo santoor concerts all over India on several prestigious stages. On the harmonium he has accompanied such luminaries as Madhav Gudi, M. Venkatesh Kumar, Arati Ankalikar Tikekar, Jayateerth Mevundi, Kaivalyakumar Gurav, Ajay Pohankar, Vijay Koparkar and Raghunandan Panshikar. Ashwin is a B-high grade artist in santoor as well as harmonium at All India Radio.