



17 - 18 NOVEMBER 2021
SATHYA SAI GRAMA - MUDDENAHALLI

CONFERENCE AGENDA



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**SRI SATHYA SAI
UNIVERSITY FOR
HUMAN EXCELLENCE**



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SRI SATHYA SAI UNIVERSITY FOR HUMAN EXCELLENCE

Inspired by the ancient Indian way of education that caters to all aspects of human development with spiritual evolution at its very core, the Sri Sathya Sai University for Human Excellence was established as a Private University under the Karnataka Legislative Act 2018 at Navanihal Village, Kamalapur Taluk, Kalaburagi District in Karnataka. The University encapsulates values-based integral education in a unique residential environment, with the core idea to create individual excellence in all fields of knowledge, and with the purpose to promote and propagate science, humanities, all forms of fine arts, and spirituality, **free of any tuition fees or other charges**, based on the ancient Indian *gurukula* system of education, to all students without any discrimination.

‘Redemption of one’s own self and the welfare of society’ is the principle on which the Sri Sathya Sai University for Human Excellence has been founded. The emphasis at the University is, first and foremost, on a perfect balance between spiritual education and material education, or rather, between the means of living and the ultimate goal of life.

The University is determined to reverse the current trends of commercialisation of knowledge, and herald a new goal of divinisation of humans by teaching sciences alongside spirituality, humanities alongside divinity, and excellence alongside enlightenment.

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BHARATH SANGEETA SAMMELAN

17 – 18 NOVEMBER 2021

SATHYA SAI GRAMA - MUDDENAHALLI

Music heals! Music is a gift to humanity, for it has emerged from the source of the Supreme God Head Himself – the *nāda brahman*. Thus, music carries in its womb the qualities of *satyam*, *śivam*, *sundaram* – truth, auspiciousness, and beauty. And no matter how much its content and depth is diluted by the eccentricities of time, yet its core remains unperturbed and thus, there is hope—the hope of reviving it back to its true glory!

The Bharath Sangeeta Sammelan 2021 presented by the Sri Sathya Sai University for Human Excellence, is aimed to play at the heart strings of one and all through Indian classical music, which has the power to heal and unite the world by transcending the boundaries of superficial existence, and journey into the realms of supreme oneness. Post pandemic, this will be the first Conference where musicians of different genres, styles and *guru parampara* will converge together as one family, to discuss the healing effects of Indian classical music, which is the back bone of our Indian culture. The *sammelan* will serve as a platform to discuss why classical music should be promoted, protected and taught to the next generation.

Objectives:

1. Healing effects of Indian classical music, especially in the context of the pandemic when mental and emotional health is paramount to keep the balance within, inspite of the imbalance without.
2. Generating interest and appreciation towards Indian classical music in the hearts of the younger generation to preserve it for posterity





Sadguru Sri Madhusudan Sai

Founder – Sri Sathya Sai University for Human Excellence

FOUNDER'S MESSAGE

nāda brahman, says our scriptures. Sound is divine or '*parameṣṭi*', as it is called. And while the seven notes of music have been inspired by various sounds in creation or '*śṛṣṭi*', it is the singular privilege of humans or '*vyāṣṭi*' to sing and play music. The music that comes from *parameṣṭi* to *śṛṣṭi* to *vyāṣṭi* must take all of us – *samaṣṭi* back to divinity. Indian classical music that originated in the *sāmaveda* and evolved into its current form over centuries has been designed to do just that.

To practise, promote and propagate this rich cultural and spiritual Indian music tradition is the purpose of establishing the Department of Music and Performing Arts at the Sri Sathya Sai University for Human Excellence, so that the *paramparā* of the divine knowledge of music is seamlessly passed on from the masters to the seekers.





CONFERENCE AGENDA

17 NOVEMBER 2021 (9:30 A.M. TO 1:00 P.M. IST)

INAUGURAL SESSION: 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Introduction and Introductory Video: 9:30 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.

Welcome Address: 9:45 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Keynote Address: 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Ganakalabhushana Vidwan Dr R K Padmanabha

Veteran Carnatic Vocalist and Nadopasaka

Chief Guest's Address: 10:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

Sangeet Natak Akademi Awardee, Pandit Ronu Majumdar

Renowned Flautist

Founder's Address: 10:45 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.

Sadguru Sri Madhusudan Sai

Founder of Sri Sathya Sai University for Human Excellence, Kalaburagi, Karnataka

Coffee Break: 11:15 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

SESSION 1: 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Topic: The Therapy of Music (11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.)

Goals:

1. To unravel the essence of music from the source of creation, and study its impact on the physical and mental well-being of humans.
2. To delve into the therapeutic effect of musical notes one at a time, to get a practical experience ourselves.

Session Chair: Dr V Krishna, Mrudangam Vidwan and Dean, Student Affairs; Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, People's Education Society University (PES University), Bengaluru.

Speaker Topics:

1. Dr T V Manikandan – Impact of music on mental and physical well-being.
2. Vidwan Mysore A Chandan Kumar – Ragas for emotional well-being.
3. Dr Vinaya – Swaras and its therapeutic effects on physical and physiological well-being.
4. Dr Poornima K Murthy – Vedic wisdom regarding wellness through music.

End of Session Roundtable: 12:45 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

SESSION 2: 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Topic: The Magic of Music (3:30 p.m. to 5:15 p.m.)

Goals:

1. To understand the healing impact of music on special needs children.
2. To decipher the role of music on the psychology of children.

Session Chairs: Dr Suma Sudhindra, Veena Artiste

Speaker Topics:

1. Vidushi Meenakshi Ravi – Impact of Indian music as a therapeutic intervention for children with special needs – A scientific study.
2. Pandit Ronu Majumdar – Healing effects of music.
3. Dr Geetha R Bhat – Music and children's psychology.
4. Vidwan N G Ravi – Rhythm therapy for children with special needs.

End of Day Roundtable: 5:15 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Cultural Programme: 6:30 p.m. to 7:15 p.m.

Carnatic Music – Padma Bhushan Awardee Sri Vikku Vinayakaram (ghatam), Sri Selvaganesh (kanjira), Sri Swaminathan (rhythmic vocals), Sri V Umashankar (ghatam), and Sri A Ganesan (morsing)



CONFERENCE AGENDA

18 NOVEMBER 2021 (9:30 A.M. TO 12:30 A.M.)

SESSION 3: 9:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Music – An Art Beyond Entertainment (9:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.)

Goals:

1. To know why everyone must learn to appreciate Indian classical music.
2. To approach music as an art form beyond normal entertainment.
3. To discover ways to create interest in classical music in the hearts of the younger generation.

Session Chair: Vidwan Anoor R Anantha Krishna Sharma, Mrudangam Artiste

Speaker Topics:

1. Vidushi Vani Sateesh – Purpose of Music – an art form beyond entertainment.
2. Vidwan H K Venkatram – Appreciation of Music.
3. Vidwan H S Sudhindra – Taking classical music to the younger generation.
4. Bangalore Brothers (Mr Hariharan M B and Mr Ashok S) – Music and Spirituality.

End of Session Roundtable: 12:15 p.m. to 12:30 p.m.

SESSION 4: 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Topic: Revive Indian Classical Music to Restore Indian Culture (3:30 p.m. to 5:15 p.m.)

Goals:

1. To affirm our individual and collective roles to bring back true music into the lives of the current generation.
2. To appreciate the importance of Indian classical music as a means to mould the current generation.

Session Chairs: Dr Mala Swamy, Carnatic Vocalist and Professor of Music, University of Silicon Andhra, San Jose, USA.

Speaker Topics:

1. Dr Vellore A R Srinivasan – Music as a tool to mould next generation as better citizens.
2. Dr Shubha Madhusudhan – Youth suicidal tendencies – solutions to this problem from our culture.
3. Vidwan Guru Prasanna G – Role of a family, institution and society in exposing our children to Indian culture, traditions and art forms.
4. Professor V Aravinda Hebbar – Importance and superiority of Indian classical music.

End of Day Roundtable: 5:15 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

VALEDICTORY SESSION: 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Felicitation of Music Legends

Founder's Address

Sadguru Sri Madhusudan Sai

Founder of Sri Sathya Sai University for Human Excellence, Kalaburagi, Karnataka

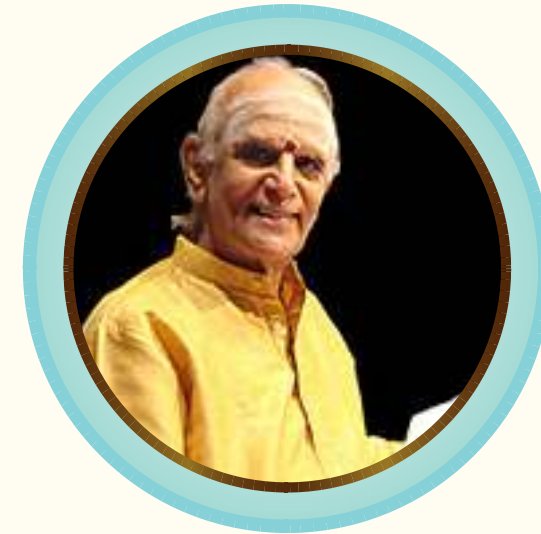
Cultural Programme: 7:15 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Special Jugalbandi Concert

Pandit Ronu Majumdar (flute), Dr Mysore Manjunath (violin),
Padma Vibhushan Awardee Dr Umayalpuram Sivaraman (mrudangam) and
Pandit Ramkumar Mishra (tabla)



GUESTS OF HONOUR



Padma Vibhushan Awardee Dr Umayalpuram K Sivaraman
Mrudangam Vidwan

Padma Vibhushan Awardee, Sangita Kalanidhi, Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship (New Delhi), Mrudangam Legend, Kalaimamani Dr Umayalpuram K Sivaraman—a living legend, is the greatest exponent of the mrudangam. He learnt the art of the Carnatic mrudangam from four *gurus* over fifteen years – Arupathi Natesa Iyer, Tanjore Vaidyanatha Iyer, Palghat Mani Iyer and Kumbakonam Rangu Iyengar. He has accompanied leading South Indian musicians of yesteryears and continues to do so for today’s upcoming young artistes too, in order to encourage them. He has shared the stage with great North Indian musicians like Pandit Ravi Shankar, Ustad Alla Rakha, and Pandit Kishen Maharaj. The origin of mrudangam can be traced back to its presence in the hands of Hindu mythological Gods and is believed to be played by *nandi* – one of the devotees of Lord Shiva who also served Him as His *vāhana*. This divine instrument found its place in the worthy hands of Sri Umayalpuram K Sivaraman, only for bringing out the best of this instrument as the ‘King of Percussion’, as he is rightly praised. He performed as the lead artiste on mrudangam at the percussion ensemble for the Rhythm Sticks Festival held in London Royal Albert Hall in the year 1999.



Padma Vibhushan Awardee Pandit Chhannulal Mishra

Hindustani Vocalist

Padma Vibhushan Awardee Pandit Chhannulal Mishra is a celebrated Hindustani classical singer from Banaras, a noted exponent of the Kirana Gharana and especially the Khayal and the 'Purab Ang' – Thumri. His first *guru* was his father, Sri Badri Prasad Mishra, by whom he was initiated into the realm of music. Later on, he received his advance music education through Ustad Abdul Ghani Khan of the Kirana Gharana and Thakur Jaidev Singh. Pandit Chhannulal Mishra has released umpteen number of audios, both Classical and Indian Bollywood music, which has touched the hearts of thousands of music lovers and inspired younger generations to start their journey into the world of music. He is the recipient of several prestigious awards and titles such as – 'Shiromani Award' of Sur Singar Sansad, Sangeet Natak Akademi Award (Uttar Pradesh), Padma Bhushan (2010) and Padma Vibhushan (2020), to name a few.



Padma Bhushan Awardee Sri Vikku Vinayakram

Ghatam Vidwan

A child prodigy born as Thetakudi Harihara Vinayakram in Tiruchi, Tamil Nadu, Sri Vikku Vinayakram as he is popularly known, started out learning the mrudangam, as a young boy. On the advice of his father, a mrudangam artiste himself, Sri Vinayakram underwent rigorous training on the ghatam. Sri Vinayakram had his stage debut at the tender age of 13 and working across generations and genres, Sri Vinayakram's singular aim and ambition has been to change the profile of the ghatam from an accompanying instrument to a lead instrument. He worked on numerous fusion music projects, and in 1991, became the first South Indian musician to win the Grammy Award for Best World Music Album for his participation in the album 'Planet Drum' in which he played ghatam and morsing. It is the single-handed efforts of Sri Vinayakram that has led to the ghatam being recognised on the world's music stage. The Padma Bhushan Awardee has been playing professionally for more than half a century, reticulating rhythm and resonance into billows of beats, revolutionising the place of the humble instrument on the international music scene.



Ganakalabhushana Vidwan Dr R K Padmanabha

Carnatic Vocalist

A stalwart and a *nāḍopāsaka*, Ganakalabhushana Vidwan Dr R K Padmanabha, who traces his roots back to the town of Rudrapatna, undoubtedly has emerged as one of the most sought after musicians today. Having been blessed by the great Vadiraja Swami (pontiff of Sonda mutt), he stands as a musician with a unique identity with his vibrant and mesmerising voice, unrivalled rendition of ragas, krithis, pallavis and swara sancharas which add to the beauty of his music. Dr Padmanabha has gained popularity as an innovative composer with compositions, mainly on Sri Vadiraja Swami and on various other deities, and for his works on musical technicalities and philosophy, musical stalwarts of yesteryears, social reformation, vaggeyakaras and haridasas.



Padma Shri Awardee Dr Yella Venkateshwara Rao

Mrudangam Vidwan

Dr Yella Venkateshwara Rao started giving public performances on the mridangam at the tender age of seven years as a child prodigy, playing together with top notch stalwarts, musicians and maestros at Carnatic and Hindustani music concerts in India and abroad. He has 68 years of experience in the classical playing of the mridangam. He is a world record holder who found a place in the Guinness Book of Records for his non-stop performance of playing the mridangam for 36 hours in the Mrudanga Maha Yagnam that was held at Shankar Mutt, Hyderabad. Over 28,000 performances at regional, national and international levels are at his credit. He is an Aasthana Vidwan of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams and several other institutions. He is a Life Member Thyagaraja Festival Committee, Tiruvarur.



Pandit Ronu Majumdar
Flautist

Pandit Ronu Majumdar is one among the most popular musicians on flute, and he is especially popular with the younger generation for his creative improvisations on the flute. His music is rooted in the Maihar Gharana which has also given birth to musicians of great eminence such as, Pandit Ravi Shankar and Ustad Ali Akbar Khan. He started learning the instrument from his father, who used to play flute as his hobby. His father was his first *guru* to initiate him to play the flute. Later, under the tutelage of Late Pandit Vijay Raghav Rao, the legendary flautist of all times, he got his skills polished and he further mastered his skills to become a professional musician. He has associated himself with Pandit Ravi Shankar on albums like 'Passages' and 'Chants of India.' Pandit Majumdar has won many prestigious awards – Aditya Vikram Birla Award (1999), Sangeet Natak Akademi Award (2014), and was felicitated by Sahara India Pariwar with a Lifetime Achievement Award.



SESSION CHAIRS



Dr V Krishna

Mrudangam Vidwan

Dean, Student Affairs; Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering,
People's Education Society University (PES University), Bengaluru

Dr V Krishna is a well-known mrudangam Vidwan based at Bengaluru, India. He serves as the Executive Director of Percussive Arts Centre, Bengaluru, established by his father, in order to promote and disseminate the knowledge of percussion instruments in Indian classical music among general public. He belongs to a family of performing musicians, all of whom are graded artistes of the All India Radio and Doordarshan. His father, Ghatam Maestro Late Sangeetha Kalaratna, Bengaluru K Venkataram, was his first *guru*; while his mother, eminent vocalist Gamaka Kala Kogile G R Jaya, played a big role in shaping his career as a musician and mechanical engineer. At the age of ten, he gave his first public concert by accompanying his father. Since then, he kept sharpening his skills, and has served in uplifting the musical rhythm of several concerts by being an accompaniment on the mrutangam for many virtuosos of Carnatic music. Dr V Krishna also serves as Professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering and Dean of Student Affairs in the People's Education Society University (PES University) in Bengaluru.



Dr Suma Sudhindra

Veena Artiste

Dr Suma Sudhindra is one of the foremost exponents of the 'veena' in her generation. She is the disciple of Sri L Rajarao and Chitti Babu and has mastered the emani 'bani' in Chittibabu's style. In a career spanning over 40 years, Suma has donned several roles – a respected musician, composer, arts administrator, cultural entrepreneur and ambassador, academican, innovator, and a culture activist promoting and propagating the cause of Indian music and art to the world at large. She is globally famous as the innovator and patent holder of the 'tarangini veena', which is one of her prime lasting contributions to the field of Carnatic music.



Vidwan Anoor R Anantha Krishna Sharma

Mrudangam Artiste

Anoor R Anantha Krishna Sharma was born to a family of great musicians and began his musical career at the young age of fifteen. He was initiated to learn mrudangam by Vidwan Late Sri R A Rajagopal, who was a highly accomplished mrudangam player. Besides being a prolific mrudangam artiste, Sri Anantha Krishna Sharma also can play other percussion instruments such as dhol (thavil), tabla, pakhawaj with the same felicity and ease. He is also a good vocalist and a composer who created his own style.

He is one of the executive board members of Adyar Kalakshetra, Chennai, as appointed by the Government of India. He also serves as an executive board member of Centre for Performing Arts Grants Scheme, Ministry of Culture, Government of India, and as the President of Samskara Bharathi, Bengaluru. He has won several accolades including the 'Best Mrudangam Artiste' by the Madras Music Academy and is the Asthana Vidwan of several renowned institutions.



Dr Mala Swamy

Carnatic Vocalist

Professor of Music, University of Silicon Andhra, San Jose, USA

Dr Mala Swamy has completed her Senior Fellowship from Ministry of Culture, Government of India, where she did her research on 'Taccuru Manuscripts' – 'Tyagaraja Compositions in Taccuru Manuscripts – An Analysis and Audio Compilations', and also completed her MA, MPhil and Ph.D. in Indian Classical music. She held several positions such as, the Principal of Kalakshetra Foundation, Chennai; Dean and Curriculum Coordinator of Shankar Mahadevan Online Academy of Music, where she developed the entire music curriculum for 17 courses in Carnatic music and created lessons in video and audio format, and conducted classes. She has won the Best Vocalist Award from The Indian Fine Arts, Chennai. She has published an article titled 'Niraval – the most challenging aspect of creative music' published in 'Naada Brahman.' She has conducted several conferences and workshops on music on the topics of ragas (scale oriented/ rakti/ bhashanga/ vakra ragas in Carnatic music), lyrical excellence of musical trinity, etc.; and has performed on various national and international forums. Dr Mala Swamy is currently serving as the Professor of Music, University of Silicon Andhra, San Jose, USA.



SPEAKERS



Dr T V Manikandan

Musicologist and Music Therapist
Faculty, Music and Fine Arts, Department of Music, University of Delhi

Dr T V Manikandan is a Faculty of Music and Fine Arts, Department of Music in the University of Delhi. After finishing his Masters and Ph.D. in music, he took to teaching as his profession. His areas of specialisation and expertise extend to History and Musicology, Ethnomusicology and Music Therapy. Dr Manikandan has authored and co-authored many books and has presented on the subject of music in many conferences. He is also the Founder of 'Rasikapriya' – a not-for-profit cultural organisation for the upliftment of classical music among youth, which organises various concerts and workshops by eminent artists in the field.



Vidwan Mysore A Chandan Kumar
Flautist

Mysore A Chandan Kumar hails from a family of great musicians. He is the great grandson of Sangeetha Kalanidhi Late Mysore Sri T Chowdaiah. He has learnt the art of playing flute from Guru Vidwan Sri M Gopalakrishna and Padmabhushan Awardee Sri P S Narayanaswamy. The main characteristics of Chandan's style of playing flute are his powerful blows, soul-moving melody and refreshing creativity, all given in an equal mix to justify the essence of every *rāgā* that is being played. Thus, he has rightly earned the name – 'the singing flautist.' He has toured Malaysia with His Holiness Sri Sri Ganapathi Sachidananda Swami Ji of Avadootha Datta Peetham, Mysore, for a special concert – 'Music for Meditation and Healing' that was held at Kuala Lumpur. Some of the prestigious awards that were bestowed on Vidwan Chandan are – Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar from Sangeet Natak Academy, New Delhi and Professor Mahalingam Padmanabhan Award in Narada Gana Sabha.



Dr Vinaya
Vocalist, Naturopathic Doctor and Music Therapist

A hardworking Naturopathy and Yoga Physician, and practitioner of Music Therapy, Dr Vinaya has over 20 years of experience in applying therapeutic strategies, both in teaching and treating her patients. She is the Director at Niraamaya Wellness Centre, Hyderabad. Dr Vinaya has conducted vast research on music therapy to advance collective knowledge and improve outcomes. She is also a 'B' Grade vocalist at All India Radio, Mangalore. Being trained in Carnatic classical music, she has performed on various platforms across the length and breadth of India, since childhood. She has contributed several articles on topics related to health in many magazines and news journals, conducted workshops and seminars on Sound Therapy.



Dr Poornima K Murthy

Ayurvedic and Yoga Scholar

Director and Chief Consultant, Prajna Kuteera Ayurveda Centre, Mysore

Dr Poornima K Murthy is the Director and Chief Consultant of Prajna Kuteera Ayurveda Centre – a unique Ayurveda Panchakarma and Rejuvenation Centre and Abhijna International Academy of Ayurveda and Yoga, at Mysore Karnataka. A gold medalist from the University of Mysore, she is a member of the Rashtreeya Ayurveda Vidyapeetha, New Delhi. A Ph.D. scholar of yoga, she is the Secretary of the Global Alliance of Traditional Health Systems (GATHS), India and The Mind Body Spirit Society of India (MBSSI). Dr Murthy is also the treasurer of the NGO – Swami Vivekananda Research Institute of Medical Sciences and Rural Development Centre (R) at Mysore and Tumkur districts of Karnataka that provides free medical services to rural areas. She has directed innumerable health camps and yoga therapy camps by way of her role in this organisation.

She is a member of South Asian Society for Atherosclerosis and Thrombosis (SASAT) India and the Visiting Faculty of National Institute of Integrative Medicine (NIIM), Melbourne, the Australian Institute of Holistic Medicine, Perth, and also Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Mysore. It was her dream to bring the three vedic sciences viz., Music, Ayurveda and Yoga under one roof for an effective and simultaneous promotion of all these three sciences. This heralded the founding of 'Raaga Music Academy' at Mysore of which she is the Managing Trustee. Raaga Music Academy has been promoting wellness through music since 2013.

She was awarded the Rotary Vijay Vocational Award for her yeoman service to the society in the field of health care and the Saarthaka Seva Award by Kautilya Vidyalaya. The DHARMA Award at Los Angeles, USA was in recognition of her outstanding contribution to the promotion of Ayurveda globally and the Vachaspathi Award 2012 for best paper presentation at the Fourth International conference on Skin, Spa and Beauty by AAPNA (Association of Ayurveda Professionals of North America), USA in September 2012.



Vidushi Meenakshi Ravi

Music Therapist

Executive Director, Meera Centre for Music Therapy, Education and Research,
Manollasini Trust, Bengaluru

Vidushi Meenakshi Ravi is a music therapist and Executive Director of Meera Centre for Music Therapy, Education and Research under the Manollasini Trust. She is also the Secretary of Indian Music Therapist Association. After completing her Masters in Carnatic Classical Vocal Music and Doctoral work in the area of 'Psychosocial profile of women with marital discard', she is been counselling and helping individuals and organisations for the past 25 years. Ms Meenakshi is regarded as the first 'Family Counsellor' at Karnataka State level. She uses different forms of music as the medium to counsel her clientele during her therapy sessions. Her papers on various topics such as – music and mental health, music as a promoter of human values, music from therapeutic perspective, etc. were published by various reputed organisations and in public platforms.



Dr Geetha R Bhat

Child and Adolescent Psychologist, Veena and Carnatic Vocalist, Music Therapist

Dr Geetha R Bhat is a child and adolescent psychologist, a veena and vocal artiste, and also a music therapist. She was initiated into the field of Carnatic music at the tender age of five and since then, she took to pursuing her music career through one of the divine instruments, 'the veena'. Having had her initial tutelage in Carnatic classical music under Sangeetha Bhooshanam B Gnanambal at a very young age, she completed her senior and proficiency (vidwat) levels in Carnatic music under the guidance of Ganakalabhooshana Vidwan Sri R K Srinivasamurthy, Karanataka Kalashri Smt E P Alamelu, and Sri R R Keshavamurthy.

Her panorama of research and achievements in the field of 'Neuro Musicology' further emphasises her intense devotion and dedication to the rich heritage of classical music art forms to benefit the neurodiverse communities. She is a licensed rehabilitation professional from NIEPMED (National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities) and RCI (Rehabilitation Council of India) – a statutory body of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Divyang Jan, Government of India with a specialisation in Autism Spectrum Disorder and multiple disabilities. She is a member of World Federation of Music Therapy (WFMT), USA; The British Association for Music Therapy (BAMT), Indian Music Therapy Association (IMTA) and the Advisory Board of World Yoga Organisation (WYO).



Vidwan N G Ravi

Mrudangam Artiste

Also known by his full name, Nada Gambhira Ravi, he comes from a family with musical background, and started learning mrudangam at the tender age of seven. His grandparents, who were vocal vidwans of great repute, introduced him to Ganakala Bhooshana Sri TAS Mani. Under the able guidance of Sri Mani, Sri Ravi grew to become a reputed accompanist at a very young age. Thereafter, under the tutelage of many renowned musicians, he improved his musical skills. Over the years, he is famously known by several names – Laya Vadya Shekhara, Kala Arathi Ratna, Vibhushana, Nrithya Kala Nipuna, Vaadya Shikhamani, etc., to name a few. Currently, Sri Ravi has dedicated his life in helping individuals through 'Rhythm Therapy'.



Vidushi Vani Sateesh

Carnatic Vocalist

Vidushi Vani Sateesh is a well-known Carnatic vocalist, who belongs to a family of brilliant musicians. Her great grandfather belonged to the Bhagavatha Parampara of Vijaya Dasaru – a prominent Haridasa of Karnataka. She graduated with MA Music from the University of Mysore by securing first rank and gold medal. An ‘A’ graded artiste, she has been performing from the age of 10 years. She is an enthusiastic teacher of music who has taught more than 150 students—even while she was living in the US for about 15 years, she taught Indian classical music to many aspiring children. Her organisation, ‘Vishesha Fine Arts’ promotes music and musicians from various genres.



Vidwan H K Venkatram

Violinist

Vidwan H K Venkatram started learning violin from his father, Prof H V Krishnamurthy at the age of seven. He gave his first concert at the age of 11 with his brother. He is an ‘A’ Grade artiste, who has travelled extensively, both across India and abroad, and rendered solo concerts, and also as an accompaniment to renowned artistes. He is known for understanding the nuances of Carnatic music and stressing on strictly following the classical approach to playing the violin. In 1999, Venkatram released a CD on Tyagaraja’s ‘Ghana Raga Pancharatnam’ during the Tyagaraja Festival that was held in Cleveland, USA. Venkatram has also published a book called ‘Tyagaraja Vachanamrita’ which is based on the compositions of Thyagaraja. Mr Venkatram is the recipient of ‘Best Violinist Award’ from the prestigious Madras Music Academy.

He is currently leading and serving as the Principal of Vijaya Music College, a premiere institution established by his father to promote and popularise Carnatic music. Prathyarpana Foundation was founded as a charitable initiative by Vijaya College of Music. This foundation nurtures and showcases new talent in the field of music, promotes ‘Performing Arts’ and channelises it towards social causes.



Vidwan H S Sudhindra

Mrudangam Artiste

Founder Trustee and Principal, Suswaralaya College of Music, Bengaluru

Vidwan H S Sudhindra is the Founder Trustee and Principal of Suswaralaya College of Music. He has been under the tutelage of *gurus* – Vidwan M Vasudeva Rao and Vidwan Srimushnam V Raja Rao—great exponents of mrudangam. At a tender age of thirteen, he started his career in music and has never looked back. He is an ‘A’ Grade artiste and performs for All India Radio, Doordarshan, and other Indian broadcasting channels. His strict adherence to tradition, aesthetic sense, innovative approach, and adaptability to different styles of music has received acclaim from musicians, connoisseurs, laymen and the media alike. He has also performed all over the globe, including in the Cleveland Tyagaraja Festival. Vidwan Sudhindra is the recipient of numerous awards and titles, and has published papers and given a number of lecture demonstrations on topics related to percussion in Carnatic music.



Bangalore Brothers

Carnatic Vocalists and Mrudangam Artistes

The Bangalore brothers as they are popularly called, Mr Hariharan M B and Mr Ashok S are ‘A’ Grade artistes in All India Radio (AIR), Bengaluru, for Carnatic vocal duet. Ashok is also an ‘A’ Grade mrudangam artiste of AIR, Bengaluru and has provided mrudangam accompaniment to many eminent artistes in numerous *sabhās*. Bangalore Brothers duo was formed under the direction of Ganakalashree Vidwan Sri H S Sudhindra, who is one of the most sought after mrudangam artistes in the Carnatic music field. The duo has rendered several concerts on the concept of *eka rāga* and Haridasa Lakshana Suladi. They have published various spell bounding works such as – Ugabhoga Darpana – a compilation of 830 Ugabhogas of Haridasas of Karnataka published by Suswaralaya College of Music. They are receivers of various awards such as Yuva Purandara Award (2017) from Indiranagar Sangeetha Sabha and Ananya Yuva Puraskar (2014) from Ananya Cultural Academy.



Dr Vellore A R Srinivasan

Carnatic Vocalist and Percussionist
Registrar, Sri Balaji Vidyapeeth, Pondicherry

Dr Vellore A R Srinivasan is a Carnatic vocalist, percussionist and a composer. He learnt the nuances of vocal music from the vidwans – Sarvashri Sembiakudi S Janakiraman and M R Srinivasan at Vellore. Later, he was also trained under the tutelage of Vidwan Bellary Sri M Raghavendra, and was initiated into the art of playing tavil by Vidwan Sri Vellore C M Kuttiappa. He has learnt kanjira and morsing on his own. Dr Srinivasan is interested in music therapy, especially with reference to the use of Indian classical ragas as therapeutic agents. He is a Fellow of the International Medical Sciences Academy, and a Professor of Biochemistry and Research Guide at Mahatma Gandhi Medical College and Research Institute, Pondicherry. He also serves as the Registrar of Sri Balaji Vidyapeeth, Pondicherry.



Dr Shubha Madhusudhan

Clinical Psychologist

Dr Shubha Madhusudhan is a seasoned clinical psychologist from Bengaluru, and is the founder of Manasvi Counselling Centre. She has a rich clinical experience as a consultant for 15 years at Fortis Hospitals. She has been providing clinical services in health and social care settings for more than two decades. In recognition of her services, Udayavaani – the kannada daily newspaper has provided a column for her to write about mental health. With a unique blend of empathy and therapy, she unravels the patient's complex psychological disorders, to bring them back from depression and disillusion—her work in this field is recognised to be truly life transforming. Her approach is to integrate 'mind and body' while treating patients with unresolved emotional conflicts, unfulfilled desires, and anxiety among all age groups. She is very closely associated with various surgeons and physicians in inspiring resilience and optimism as a coping strategy in healthcare service.



Vidwan Guru Prasanna G

Kanjira Artiste

Sri Guru Prasanna is a highly talented musician who has made a mark as one of the finest in the art of playing kanjira – a single-handed frame drum. He is considered an exceptionally skilled and sought after kanjira artistes of India. He is blessed to learn from the ‘Harishankar School of Kanjira’ which is an unparalleled institution in bestowing this art form to multitudes of aspiring kanjira artistes. He started performing at the age of 10, and since then he has been giving performances at prestigious organisations all over India and abroad for more than three decades. He has received several prestigious awards such as – ‘Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar’ presented by Sangeet Natak Academy and is respected as the ‘Asthana Vidwan’ of Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam, Kanchipuram.



Professor V Aravinda Hebbar

Founder-Secretary, Raga Dhana, Udupi

Professor V Aravinda Hebbar is a retired Professor of Botany, whose passion however has been to learn and teach Carnatic music to young aspiring students. He is the Founder-Secretary of ‘Raga Dhana’ and has been heading ‘The Lathangi School of Music’ at Udupi for over two decades. He has established the ‘Ranjani Memorial Trust’ in memory of his musician daughter to promote the cause of music. His most important works are – Parisara Vijnana and Namma Sasya which deals with various aspects of Botany; and Shyama Sastry, Sangeeta Shastraroopa Ranjani and Vimarsheya Harita which elucidates several intricate aspects of music. He is the editor-in-chief of Ragadhanashree, a monthly magazine on music. He has been conferred several titles for his contribution to Carnatic music such as – Vasanthaaravindra, Lalitha Kalaashraya, Vishesha Kala Poshaka...etc.



A bird's eye view of Sri Sathya Sai University for Human Excellence, Kalaburagi Campus, Karnataka

