

VENU VINA DUET - Spring 2016

FLUTE: VENU

Shantala Subramanyam born in Bangalore, was raised in Chennai, heartland of Carnatic music. Like many Carnatic musicians, Shantala started playing in early childhood under the tutelage of her father M N Subramanyam, himself an amateur musician and her brother Shashank, an eminent flute artist. It was also her good fortune to be trained by eminent performers -vocalist Late Sri. Vairamangalam Lakshminarayanan and is currently pursuing vocal music training under Sri O.S.Thyagarajan. She gratefully acknowledges the contributions of famed South Indian drummers Trichur Sri.Narendran, Patri. Satish Kumar and Parupalli Phalgun towards enriching her rhythm training, spread over a decade.

Owing to her diligent training, Shantala has been highly appreciated for her melodic presentations combined with complex rhythmic patterns. Today, she's recognized as an important and authentic voice in this demanding tradition and this view has been echoed by music critiques.

Shantala has graced the stages of many reputed organizations in India and abroad and, in recent years is a frequent visitor to Europe, USA, Canada, England, Ireland and Malaysia for concerts, workshops and lec-dems.

Shantala is also a well sought after teacher. She has been imparting training in South Indian vocal music, flute playing and reciting "konakkol" [vocal rhythm] to scores of students from India and across the globe.

She has released 3 CD albums titled "Singing Bamboo", "Bamboo in Harmony" and "Dakshin" in collaboration with popular and competitive artists from the South Indian music tradition. The albums have been highly appreciated by critiques and audiences alike.

LUTE: CHITRAVINA

Vishaal R Sapuram, a proficient Carnatic (South Indian classical) Chitravina artiste and vocalist, is a disciple of the renowned Chitravina maestro Shri N Ravikiran. A child prodigy, Vishaal gave his first vocal concert at the age of nine, and soon afterwards, began performing on the rare fretless lute known as the chitravina. He has given concerts at many prestigious venues in Chennai (such as Sri Krishna Gana Sabha, Music Academy, and many more), Hyderabad, Bangalore, Mysore, Udupi, and so on; as well as abroad in Malaysia, France, and the U.S.A. (at the Cleveland Tyagaraja Aradhana, and in Houston, Dallas, Austin, the Bay Area, and so on).

Vishaal has been honoured with awards and titles including the Best

Instrumentalist Award (Music Academy Madras, 2015), the Gottuvadyam Narayana Iyengar Award (Sri Krishna Gana Sabha), 'Isai Chemmal' (Trinity Fine Arts), and 'Pannisai Ilam Paridi' (Dr Kannappan-Vasuki Trust). He has been teaching music from the age of ten, and has also developed a system of computer notation now being used for publications. A graduate of the University of Texas (Austin, U.S.A.), he holds BA degrees in economics and Sanskrit and certificates in Tamil and business. He has also studied at the London School of Economics.

Shantala and Vishaal have toured extensively in USA, Europe and India since 2012.

Mridangam:

ANIRUDHA BHAT started training at an of 12 under Sri. M V Mohan and later under Sri. K U Jayachandra Rao. He has been performing along side many famous musicians across prestigious venues in India for about 2 decades now. He has accompanied many reputed musicians such as Smt. Aruna Sairam, Mysore Nagaraj and Manjunath, Sri. Vidhya Bhooshaa to mention a few. Anirudh is a recipient of many awards and accolades and has travelled widely in Europe, UAE and Africa.

Morsing:

Payyannur T. Govindaprasad started training in Mridangam and other south Indian percussion instruments in his early teens under the tutelage of Sri. Vishwanathan Namboodiri. Finally realized his special bondage with the Morsing and today he is one of the leading morsing artistes in India. An A-grade artiste of All India Radio, Govindaprasad has carved a niche for himself on the classical [music](#) concert circuit with his musical acumen and skill. This wind percussion instrument, mainly played in Carnatic music concerts in South India, is found in different parts of India. He has accompanied many senior and coveted musicians like K.J. Yesudas, M. Balamuralikrishna, T.N. Seshagopalan, T.V. Sankaranarayan, O.S. Thygarajan, Sreevalsan J. Menon, T.M. Krishna, Prince Rama Varma, P. Unnikrishnan, Sanjay Subramayam to name a few.