



VID. HERAMB & VID. HEMNATH

Heramb Hemnath, the twin brothers, affectionately called as the Flute Brothers, are two of the most sought after flautists and the only twin flute duo in the carnatic music scenario today. Hailing from a family full of musicians and scholars, they were naturally exposed to music since they were born. They started learning carnatic flute at the age of six under Sri Mysore A.V. Prakash. They are currently under the tutelage of Sangeeta Kalanidhi Sri Neyveli Santhanagopalan. They hold Bachelor's degrees in Information Science & Engineering from Jyothy Institute of Technology, Bangalore.

Heramb Hemnath have developed a unique, refined fingering and blowing technique, which enables them to switch between wide range of flutes, including the difficult bass and double-bass flutes. The duo is well appreciated for their innovative approach, perfect synchronization, shruthi shuddham (perfect pitching) and tonal quality. Their music naturally demonstrates depth and proximity to the lyrical aspect of composition, representing the '*gayaki* style' of music. The brothers have been creating a new dimension to the art of playing Carnatic classical flute duets and have been an inspiration to many upcoming and aspiring musicians.

Being one of the youngest recipients of 'A' grade by All India Radio (age of 18), they are recipients of various awards including 'The Best Instrumentalist Award' from The Music Academy, Madras and 'The Shanmukhananda Bharat Ratna MS Subbalakshmi Award' from Sri Shanmukhananda Sangeetha Sabha, Mumbai. They are also one of the youngest recipients of 'Asthana Vidwans' title from Sringeri Sharada Peetham. They are the first musicians to introduce harmony, a western conceptualization into the 'Thanam' of Carnatic music. They have performed in various prestigious organizations and festivals in the country and abroad, accompanied by legendary musicians including Padmavibhushan Sri Umayalpuram Sivaraman, Padmashri Yella Venkateshwara Rao and many more. Their music has been appreciated by musicians, scholars, critics, connoisseurs, rasikas and laymen alike. They also are much sought-after Gurus, training more than 100 students all over the globe.



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VIDWAN THANJAVUR MURUGABOOPATHY

Vidwan Thanjavur K. Murugaboopathi (Boopathi) is one of the world's most celebrated mridangam players of today. His techniques and creative ability in accompaniment, solo renditions, and jugalbandhi programs with his North Indian brethren have earned him much acclaim around the world. Murugaboopathi hails from a family of musicians and artists of several generations. He is one of the few performers in the world today who trained in the rare 'Gurukula' method (living with one's guru while learning) with Mridangam maestro Guru Tanjore Upendran for over ten years. Boopathi initially trained under Shri T.R. Srinivasan from the Tamil Nadu Music College, Chennai before his gurukula training.



Murugaboopathi's percussion career has been a colorful spectrum of accompaniment to a legion of maestros and virtuosos of the world of Carnatic vocal and instrumental music. Prominent vocalists include Sri M. Balamuralikrishna, Sri T.V. Sankaranarayanan, Sri T.N. Seshagopalan, Sri P.S. Narayanaswami, Sri Sanjay Subramanyam, Sri P. Unnikrishnan, Sri T.M. Krishna, Carnatica Brothers, Smt. Sudha Raghunathan, Smt. Aruna Sairam, and Smt. Nithyashree Mahadevan. Renowned instrumentalists include flautist Dr. N. Ramani, mandolin player Sri U. Srinivas, saxophonist Sri Kadri Gopalnath, violinist brothers Sri Ganesh & Sri Kumaresh and vainika Smt. Nirmala Rajasekar. In addition, he has collaborated with several Hindustani (North Indian) musicians in Jugalbandi concerts, including Ustad Sultan Khan and Ustad Shahid Parvez Khan. Boopathi has also played with several Western and other world musicians to create multifaceted music and foster cultural understanding.

Murugaboopathi believes strongly in conducting and participating in outreach. He has shared his knowledge through lectures, music conferences, and seminars throughout the United States, Europe, Australia, and East Asia. In addition to being a revered percussion guru, Boopathi has been instrumental in providing support, direction, and guidance towards incubating several arts organizations in the United States, Europe, Asia, and Australia.

VIDWAN GHATAM GURUPRASAD



Guruprasad is the son of ghatam vidwan Shri K. Nagaraja Rao and Smt. Kallammal. He had his initial training under his father and later underwent gurukulam under ghatam maestro Shri T.H. Vikku Vinayakram. Subsequently he received training from ghatam vidwan Shri V. Suresh and mridangam vidwan "Laya Chudaroli" Madurai Shri T. Srinivasan. He regularly accompanies the senior most artists in the field of Carnatic Music, and is highly sought after in the film industry as well as for collaborations with world renowned artists of various genres. Guruprasad has also had the privilege of playing alongside stalwarts of percussion such as Shri Palghat Raghu, Shri T.K. Moorthy, Shri Vellore Ramabhadhran, and Shri Karaikudi Mani.

He is honored to have performed in esteemed global venues such as The Kennedy Center in Washington D.C., The Lincoln Center in New York City, the "Incredible India" festival at The Oval Cricket Ground in London, and along with the Johannesburg Philharmonic Orchestra in South Africa. Guruprasad has been bestowed with numerous awards and titles, some of which include the Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar from Sangeet Natak Akademi in New Delhi, the title of "Aasthaana Vidwan" of Kanchi Kamakoti Mutt in Kanchipuram, and the Kalki Krishnamurthy award in Chennai. Guruprasad continues to perform around the world, and is now training many ghatam artists of the next generation.



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