



SPiRiT of INDIA

35th SPiRiT of INDIA

A Celebration of Indian Music & Dance since 1980



Shivkumar Sharma 2012

NATARAJ CULTURAL CENTRE MELBOURNE

The Musicians

SHIVKUMAR SHARMA Shivkumar is the most highly revered composer and santoor player of modern India. His fame rests on bringing the santoor, a humble folk instrument from Kashmir, used to accompany sufi music, to the world concert stage. Shivkumar can make the 100-string santoor produce a complex web of sound, which is beautiful and hypnotic.

In an 1994 Age interview Shivkumar describes the effect of santoor music as “*something like a whisper and a cascade of a waterfall. It creates romantic and pensive moods in the listener.*”

He has won many awards, including the high-ranking Padma Vibhushan, by the Indian President. He has been invited to the Womadelaide, Perth, Adelaide and NZ festivals since 1994.

“He coaxed from the 100-string santoor the most beguiling melodies, building to virtuosic ecstasy.” – The Advertiser

YOGESH SAMSI Yogesh was trained by Taranath Rao and then by Ustad Allah Rakha (Zakir Hussain’s father). He is an A grade artist at the All India Radio and Indian TV. He is much in demand and has accompanied almost all major artists. He has travelled widely and performed at international and domestic festivals. He is equally good at solo performances, with an effortless style.

TAKAHIRO ARAI who accompanies Shivkumar on the Tanpura, comes from Japan. He has been learning the santoor from Shivkumar since 2007. He has studied jazz and is trained in western drums. His interest in percussion extends to the Tabla, which he is also learning in India. He speaks Hindi and English, besides Japanese.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Generously assisted by the Playking Foundation, the Queensland Conservatorium, the Indian Council for Cultural Relations and Margaret Dhillon Estate.



Griffith UNIVERSITY
Queensland Conservatorium



**PLAYKING
FOUNDATION**



ICCR



SHIVKUMAR SHARMA



YOGESH SAMSI



TAKAHIRO ARAI



Lady Singing, Rajasthan, 17th c

Thirty Two Years of **SPiRiT of INDIA**

The Nataraj Cultural Centre was set up in 1980, and incorporated in 1983 as a not-for-profit cultural society, to present professionally eminent Indian musicians and dancers in Australia, to reach the Australian community at large, instead of serving only the expatriate Indian community.

At the suggestion of Carrillo Gantner - Chief Patron of the Centre, founder of The Playbox, philanthropist, former Chairman of the Victorian Arts Centre, President Melbourne Festival - SPiRiT of INDIA program was offered to the 1986 Adelaide Festival. Anthony Steel, its longest-serving Director, warmly accepted it and was able to persuade the Festival of Perth and the New Zealand Festival also to take it.

The program now covers New Zealand as well, with 6 to 8 concerts costing about \$150,000. Our artists are shared with major international arts festivals

and arts organisations. The Sydney Opera House, the Victorian Arts Centre, Melbourne, and the Melbourne Recital Centre have been co-presenters off and on since 1991.

The program has received assistance from the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, New Delhi, for most concert tours since 1982. It has received funding support from the Australia-India Council, Canberra, from 1994 to 2010. Support from these two bodies and the regular assistance from Carrillo Gantner and the Margaret Dhillon Estate has been crucial.

An understanding of India's rich cultural heritage is vital to the development of economic and cultural ties with South Asia.

SPiRiT of INDIA is designed to provide the ordinary Australian and New Zealand concert-goer with access to that heritage.

SPiRiT of INDIA will be extended to New Delhi from 2012 in partnership with the magnificent India International Centre.

Concert Schedule

MARCH 2012

- 9, 11 ADELAIDE: Womadelaide Festival
14 WELLINGTON: NZ International Arts Festival
17 NEW PLYMOUTH: NZ WOMAD Festival
19 BRISBANE: Qld Conservatorium Theatre
21 MELBOURNE: Elisabeth Murdoch Hall, Melbourne Recital Centre
22 SYDNEY: York Theatre, Seymour Centre

APRIL 2012

- 3 NEW DELHI: Multi-purpose Hall, India International Centre.
This concert is for specially invited guests.

CO-PRESENTERS

The 35th SPIRIT of INDIA 2012 is presented by the Nataraj Cultural Centre in association with the Queensland Conservatorium, NZ WOMAD, NZ International Arts Festival, Womadelaide Festival, the Melbourne Recital Centre and the India International Centre.

Program

Shivkumar Sharma *Santoor*
Yogesh Samsi *Tabla*
Takahiro Arai *Tanpura*

The program will run for 2 hours 30 minutes, with a 20-minute interval, for 60 minutes at the Womadelaide and NZ WOMAD festivals, and 90 minutes at the New Zealand International Arts Festival.

Pandit Shivkumar and his ensemble will present a selection of traditional classical ragas. As is customary, they will announce the ragas they will play on the evening.



Lady playing the Veena



Dr NATESAN RAMANI

The best loved and admired Carnatic Flute Virtuoso
"Ramani's music is pure and unadorned, like the voice of a
boy soprano" Jill Sykes, Sydney Morning Herald

The Music of India

Indian music, Hindustani and Carnatic, has been an integral part of the religious and cultural life of India for over two thousand years, with an elaborate musical theory and literature. It is purely melodic – it neither needs nor implies harmony. Unlike Western music, Indian music retains its roots in pure melody and rhythm.

Indian classical music is based on the concepts of *Raga* – the melodic basis of composition and improvisation, and *Tala* – the rhythmic framework. The rhythmic texture of this music is highly intricate and ornamented with grace notes. It is lyrical and sensual and aims at creating a definite mood. Since Indian music is not written down, every performance is virtually a new composition, but the musician has to improvise within a well-defined traditional *Raga*.

"Perhaps the most moving and exciting quality of Indian music is the innocence of its rapture. However sophisticated the means... complex the structure... nothing is lost of the child's freshness of wonder."

Yehudi Menuhin



The musical mode Raga Megh Malhar

Margaret Dhillon Memorial Concert



The Melbourne concert, assisted by the Margaret Dhillon Estate, is dedicated to the memory of Margaret Dhillon, who died in 2001 after a long struggle with Alzheimer's, and who played a significant role in the work of the Nataraj Cultural Centre. She was a wonderful hostess for the visiting artists.

Margaret studied piano at the Royal Academy of Music, London. In 1974, she married Mohindar Dhillon, then a Lecturer in English at the Delhi University. She was drawn to Indian classical music after hearing Ravi Shankar at a private concert in Delhi. She was loved and admired by her many friends.

Though very English in her upper middle class upbringing, she was always fascinated by other cultures and new ideas. Her many interests ranged from Conservation to Russian Literature, which she taught at Queensland and Monash universities. With her love and shrewd understanding of literature and an extremely beautiful voice, she was an inspiring teacher and broadcaster.

She sought wild and beautiful places and meaning and substance in life:

"Without love, nothing makes sense."

"You have to hold and to know a beautiful permanency in life, for only this substance can survive death. But if you never know it, never find it, what happens to it?"

FRONT PAGE: Agra marble plaque from Margaret's grave using the same semi-precious stones as used at the Taj Mahal.



SPIRIT of INDIA Cultural Tours

About her (India) there is the elusive quality of a legend of long ago. Repellent she is sometimes, but everyone is drawn to her – this woman with a past". - J Lal Nehru

The Nataraj Cultural Centre offers two 16-day tours to India annually - in September & December (school holidays) - as part of its cultural activities. These are designed for the traveller interested in studying an ancient but thriving Asian civilisation. They look at the cultural life of India and explore the elusive spirit that informs her music, art and architecture. You won't get a unique tour like this for love or money elsewhere!

This unique tour is designed and led by the Centre's president, Mohindar Dhillon, a former Civil Service Administrator in the Punjab, a Reader in English at the University of Delhi, and a teacher at the Northern Melbourne Institute of TAFE. He is assisted by Vasiliki Spanos, a Humanities teacher at St Catherine's, Toorak.

We visit quite a few major centres of historical interest – forts, palaces, temples, villages, academic institutions and other sites. We use elegant and comfortable superior 4-5 star hotels, with India International Centre in New Delhi – the cultural hub of Delhi - as the base. Modest all-inclusive Land price (\$4,930) includes 9 domestic flights, twin-shared accommodation, breakfast and dinner, all transfers and sightseeing with entry fees, and services of an experienced and knowledgeable tour leader. You buy your own flights to India.

For tour brochure, visit www.nataraj.org.au



1992 SPIRIT of INDIA group with Val Morgan (Val Morgan Advertising) in Kangra Valley.



Anthony Steel, former director Adelaide Festival, with a Tibetan family in Dharmasala.

Vignettes of Cultural Tours

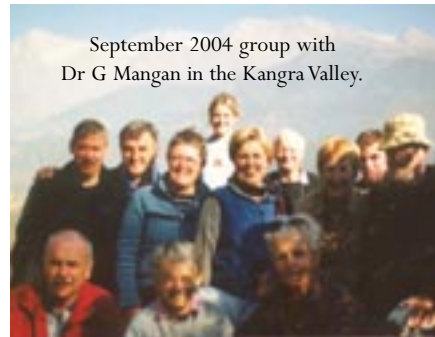
Qutab Minar (Victory Tower),
New Delhi



September 2011 group in Varanasi



Top Left:
Cardiologist
Michael Jelinek
and wife Danielle
at Amber Palace
Jaipur, Rajasthan



September 2004 group with
Dr G Mangan in the Kangra Valley.

Top Right:
India International
Centre,
New Delhi



NATESAN RAMANI
(Flute 87, 91, 2001, 02, 08, 09)



VISHNU JOG
(Violin '87)



SONAL MANSINGH
(Orissi Dance 82, 05)



U SHRINIVAS
(Mandolin 2002, 09)



RAJENDRA PRASANNA
(Flute & Shehnai 2011)



AMJAD ALI KHAN
(Sarod 86, 2003, 06)



SHIVKUMAR SHARMA
(Santoor 88, 94, 99, 2007, 12)



PARVEEN SULTANA
(Vocal '96)



L SUBRAMANIAM
(Violin 92, 2000, 06, 11)



MANJIRI KELKAR
(Vocal Classical 2008, 09)



ANURADHA KUBER
(Vocal Classical 2009)



KALAPINI KOMKALI
(Vocal Classical 2011)

A Gallery of Selected SPIRIT of INDIA Artists 1980-2012



HARI CHAURASIA
(Flute '88)



VANDANA KAUL
(Kathak Dance 2003)



SULTAN KHAN
(Sarangi 2004)



ARUNIMA KUMAR
(Kuchipudi Dance 2004)



RASHID KHAN
(Vocal Classical 2005)



MANJARI CHATURVEDI
(Kathak Dance 2005)



KERALA KALAMANDALAM
DANCE COMPANY
(Kathakali Dance- Drama 2010)

*Inset: Drummers with Andrew Ford,
ABC Music Show at
WOMADelaide*



Entrance to 54 Rodger Road, Panton Hill, 6-acre home of Nataraj Cultural Centre
Inset: Rahul and Glen performing

Manjiri and Dr Ramani
at home with
Barry Cleavin and Phillip
Trustuum (printmakers)
& Dee Cleavin *right*,
Terence and Eileen
(Canterbury University)
in Christchurch.
*Barry and Phillip sold their
work to support the
Christchurch concert.*



At home with
Susan and Michael Abbott,
former Chairman
Australia-India Council
from L to R:
Sandra Mason, Anthony
Steel (former artistic
director Adelaide Festival)
and Shivkumar Sharma.



Isobel and Youden
(Mohindar's adopted daughter)
at a monastery in Darjeeling,
Spirit of India Cultural Tour
2008.



Left: Panton Hill house with Vasiliki Spanos, EC member; John Love, Secretary Nataraj Centre and Arjun Raina, Kathakali dancer and Shakespeare actor.

Bottom Left: Ian Scobie, Executive Director of WOMADelaide, with son William and wife Frances



Michael Abbott at home with mandolin player U Shrinivas and friends. When in Adelaide, artists always enjoy Michael's princely hospitality.



Half of Kathakali group with Reis and Glen at the Panton Hill house.



Above: Dr Natesan Ramani, Mohindar Dhillon, Manjiri Kelkar: 2008 NZWOMAD

Right: Kathak dancer Sharvari Jamenis, who will be touring Australia in May 2013



Classical Carnatic singer,
Sudha Ragunathan
invited with
Manjiri Kelkar
for March 2013
program.





From left;
ANNA KING-MURDOCH Journalist;
SUZANNE DAVIES
Member Australia-India Council,
Director RMIT Gallery
ROGER KING Director NZ WOMAD;
VIRENDRA GUPTA
Former Director General, ICCR;
IAN SCOBIE
Executive Director WOMADelaide;
TIM WOOLFORD-SMITH
Foundation Member;
BARRY CLEAVIN Printmaker



JACK BODY
Composer & Assoc. Professor,
NZ School of Music



ROB BROOKMAN
General Manager,
Sydney Theatre Company



THERESE RIDLEY
Linguist & Scholar



PAUL COX
Film Director



MILOS MILANDINOVIC
Executive, Presenter Services,
Melbourne Arts Centre



SURESH GOEL
Director General, ICCR

From left;
BALWANT SAINI
Professor of Architecture;
2nd left; CARLA VAN ZON
Director NZ Festival;
Middle; MOHINDAR GROVER
Former DDG, ICCR;
Extreme right; H E Mr P.P SHUKLA,
Dr L. SUBRAMANIAM,
USTAD AMJAD ALI KHAN,
MOHINDAR DHILLON,
SUMATHI KRISHNAN
Sydney Publicist



SANGEETA BAHADUR MANN
Deputy Director General, ICCR

PAVAN KUMAR VARMA
Former Director General, ICCR

ANNETTE TRIPODI
Manager Operations,
WOMADelaide

RONALD RIDLEY
Emeritus Prof Ancient History

SUJATHA SINGH
High Commissioner for India

JOHN McCARTHY
Chairman, Australia-India Council

Press Reviews

“SPIRIT of INDIA program... allows wonderful opportunities to see and hear artists who are the equals of the very best in the world.” *Sydney Morning Herald*

“SPIRIT of INDIA musicians and dancers... comparable to putting Sutherland, Woodward, Tuckwell, etc... together.”

The Advertiser ('88 Adelaide Festival)

INNOCENT RAPTURE IN RAGAS

“For 25 years, Mohindar Dhillon, based in Melbourne, has been quietly enriching Australian culture by presenting some of the best of India's classical musicians.

He set up the Nataraj Cultural Centre in 1980 and with the support of philanthropist Carrillo Gantner and a former director of the Adelaide and Sydney festivals, Anthony Steel, has been able to tour his artists throughout Australia and New Zealand. These musicians have challenged western perceptions of what is beautiful and dramatic with the mysterious intensity of their ancient ragas.”

Anna King Murdoch, Sydney Morning Herald

SPIRIT of INDIA with flautist Dr Ramani: 2001 Womadelaide



Nataraj Cultural Centre

The Centre's major activities are the SPIRIT of INDIA concerts, the SPIRIT of INDIA cultural tours, and seminars on Australian - Indian themes. Membership is open to any one 18 or older.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT: Mr Mohindar Dhillon

V PRESIDENT: Dr Reis Flora

SECRETARY: Dr John Love

ASSISTANT SECRETARY: Mr Glen Kneibeiss

TREASURER: Mr Dunstan Towning

CONCERT CO-ORDINATOR: Mr Geoff Garrard

MEMBERS: Dr Rashmi Desai; Vicky Spanos; Mrs Suniti Betigeri; Mr Rahul Bhattacharya.

ADDRESS

54 Rodger Road, Panton Hill VIC 3759

Telephone/Fax: 61 3 9719 7354

E-mail: mohindar@ozemail.com.au

Inc in Victoria; ABN 51 946 242 508

Website: www.nataraj.org.au



NATARAJ CENTRE LOGO: The elephant-headed Hindu god Ganesha, the Remover of Obstacles, sketched by Melbourne painter Neil Douglas.

PROGRAM: Artwork & Design by Mark Westaway, Gumbboot Graphics.

NATARAJ CULTURAL CENTRE: *Patrons*



CARRILLO GANTNER AO



SONAL MANSINGH



ANTHONY STEEL AM



MICHAEL ABBOTT AO QC

NATARAJ CULTURAL CENTRE: *Executive Officers*



MOHINDAR DHILLON
President



REIS FLORA
Vice President



JOHN LOVE
Secretary



DUNSTAN TOWNING
Treasurer



GLEN KNEIBEISS
Ass. Secretary



GEOFF GARRARD
Concert Co-ordinator



The other residents at Rodger Road, Panton Hill; the adorable Boogie, stepdaughter Isobel holding Maxi, granddaughter Miranda holding Fedka, and Mohindar with Murphy.



SPIRIT of INDIA