



Chiranjeevi Navneet Aiyer

Guru Sri. T.S. Nandakumar

Padma Shri, Vidhushi A. Kanyakumari
on the Violin



Saturday, July 19, 2025
Bart Luedeke Center, Rider University, NJ





Vidushi A. Kanyakumari

Padma Shri, Vidushi A. Kanyakumari is India's leading violinist in the carnatic style of music. She has been in the field for over four decades, successfully playing the various roles of soloist, accompanist, teacher, innovator and organizer, dedicating her life to music. She considers herself fortunate to be a disciple of three legendary gurus: Sri. Ivaturi Vijeswara Rao garu, Guru Sri. M. Chandrasekaran and Guru Smt. M.L.Vasanthakumari.

Her extensive experience along with sharp acumen and fine sense of creativity has earned herself a distinct place in the world of music. Music artiste Sri. P.V. Subramaiaam known as 'Subbudu' compared her music to the ever glittering diamond stud in the nose ring of goddess Kanyakumari. She has released numerous albums and leads many violin ensembles including her innovative 'Vadyalahari' concert and pioneering 'Thristhai sangamam' concept, bringing a new sonic texture to carnatic music. She has composed numerous thillanas, keerthanas and instrumental pieces. As a homage to Lord Venkateswara, she has created seven ragas, 'Saptagiri' bearing the names of the seven hills of Thirumala and tuned seven Annamacharya Kirtanas to these seven ragas, presenting Saptagiri as 'Raga Nada Neerajanam'.

Many prestigious awards and titles have been bestowed upon her. Some of her notable accolades include Thirumala Thirupathi Aasthaana Vidushi, Kalaimamani from Government of Tamilnadu, Sangeetha Kalanidhi from Madras Music Academy, Padma Shri from Government of India and Sangeetha Natak Academy Award. She is conferred with the title "Sasvatanadavidushi" (One who is adept in music that is divine) from TSNPAC, NJ



Sri Rama Jayam

Sri Mahaganapathi Thunai



Sri Sri Sri Mahaperiyava Thunai

Smt. Vidhya & Sri. Lakshmi Narayan Aiyer

cordially invite you and your family to the Mridangam Arangetram
of their son

Chiranjeevi **Navneet Aiyer**

*(Grandson of Smt. Nagalakshmi and Late N.Balasubramanian
&*

Late Saroja and Late K.N.Venkataraman)

Disciple of

Swarasadhana Ratna Gurushikhamani Shrutilaya Sudhakara

Guru Sri. T.S. Nandakumar

accompanying

Thirumala Tirupati Asthana Vidushi Sangeetha Kalanidhi, Kalaimamani

Padma Shri, Vidhushi A. Kanyakumari on the Violin
along with

Sri. Rajeev Mukundan on the Violin

Dr. Sri. Sriram Suryanarayanan on the Kanjira

Sri. Santosh Chandru on the Ghatam

on **Saturday, July 19, 2025**

Venue :

Bart Luedeke Center, Rider University

2083 Lawrenceville Rd, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648



Program Details

Snacks: 3.00 pm

Seating: 3.30 pm

Concert: 4.00 pm

Dinner: 7.30 pm



Guru Sri. T.S. Nandakumar

Guru Sri T.S. Nandakumar is a distinguished master percussionist and artist who is trained in mridangam under the esteemed Guru Sri Kaithavana Madhavadas. Over the years, he has accompanied legendary musicians such as Semmangudi Srinivasa Iyer, M.D. Ramanathan, S. Ramanathan, R.K. Srikantan, V. Dakshinamoorthy, Bhimsen Joshi, M. Balamuralikrishna, N. Rajam, T.N. Krishnan, N. Ramani, K.J. Yesudas, T.K. Govindarao, Nedunuri Krishnamurthy, Parassala B. Ponnammal, M. Chandrasekaran, D.K. Jayaraman, B.V. Raman, B.V. Lakshmanan, A. Kanyakumari, T.V. Gopalakrishnan, L. Subramaniam, and the list goes on.

Renowned for his dedication and passion for teaching, Guru Nandakumar has mentored hundreds of students across the globe. He has also made significant contributions to the world of music through his compositions and recordings, including his acclaimed percussion albums *Jewels of Rhythm* (Volumes 1, 2, and 3), which exemplify his innovative approach to Laya Vinyasam, as well as *Vibrative Rhythms* and other creative works. He has penned insightful books on mridangam, such as *Roots of Mridangam* and *Intricacies of Mridangam*. In 1998, he established the TSN's Percussive Arts Centre (TSNPAC), a testament to his exceptional teaching abilities and commitment to preserving and propagating the art of percussion.

Guru Sri T.S. Nandakumar has been the recipient of numerous prestigious awards, including the Bharat Ratna M.S. Subbulakshmi Sangeetha Pracharaya Award from Shanmukhananda Fine Arts, the Best Teacher Award from the Cleveland Thyagaraja group, the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Shanti Foundation, and the Visionary Award from the Academy of Indian Music. Additionally, he was honored with the Excellence Award by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey for his invaluable contributions to Indian classical music. He was also conferred an honorary degree by Brookdale College, NJ. Recognized for his achievements, Guru Nandakumar received commendations from the Honorable Governor of New Jersey, Mr. Phil Murphy. Furthermore, he was awarded proclamations by the Mayors of Plainfield and Bridgewater for his contributions to the arts in their respective communities.

Sri. Rajeev Mukundan(Violin)

Rajeev Mukundan is a dynamic and acclaimed Carnatic violinist, whose mellifluous playing and keen sense of aesthetics and musical understanding makes him a much sought-after accompanist in the Carnatic concert circuit.

Rajeev began his violin lessons with Shri N.Govindarajan at a very young age. He is a senior disciple of the violin virtuoso, Sangeetha Kalanidhi A.Kanyakumari and has been under able guidance for over two decades. He is an 'A'-grade artiste of the All India Radio and has many accolades to his credit. Rajeev has travelled extensively, both in India and abroad. He has given many violin duet concerts with his Guru, and has accompanied several leading musicians of today. He has also been a part of many jugalbandis and unique musical collaborations.

Apart from being a violinist, Rajeev is also a talented illustrator, who seeks to bring out the beauty of Carnatic music through his visual storytelling as well. He strives to take Carnatic music to the next generation through innovative projects involving illustration and animation. Rajeev also works full time in the entertainment industry as a game designer.



Dr. Sri. Sriram Suryanarayanan(Kanjira)

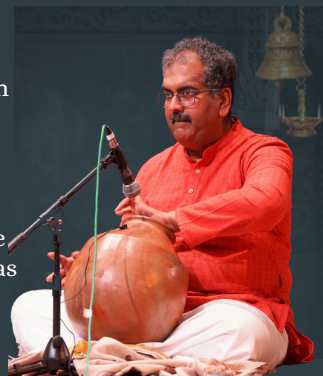
Dr. Sriram is one of the foremost disciples of Guru Sri. T.S. Nandakumar. Sriram has carved out a niche for himself as an accompanist on Mridangam, Kanjira and Ghatam. He has accompanied prominent artistes including Vidushi A. Kanyakumari, Dr. N.Ramani, Prof. T.N. Krishnan, Dr. Sri. K.J. Yesudas, Sri. T. N. Seshagopalan to name a few. He has been playing Mridangam for professional dance performances and arangetrams conducted by leading dance teachers.



Sriram is an 'A'-Grade artiste at the All India Radio, and has won several music competitions and was also awarded the prestigious Junior Fellowship of music by the Government of India. He has been regularly performing at the All India Radio, Doordarsan and in several leading music organizations as well as television channels all over India and North America. He holds PhD in Chemistry. As a passionate teacher, he has been teaching Mridangam to students in and around the greater Toronto, Canada area for several years.

Sri. Santosh Chandru(Ghatam)

One of the foremost disciples of Guru Sri. T.S. Nandakumar, Santosh has been playing mridangam since he was 11. He is an 'A'-Grade artiste of All India Radio and is equally proficient with Ghatam and Thavil. He has accompanied his guru in numerous Tala Vaadya concerts including the prestigious Cleveland Thyagaraja Aradhana festival and in lecture demonstrations at various Universities in the United States. He is a regular accompaniment for Dr. Sri. K.J. Yesudas during his classical concerts in the United States. Santosh has also accompanied various prominent musicians and artistes such as Sangeetha Kalanidhi. A. Kanyakumari, Dr. Shobana Vignesh, Sri. Sankaran Namboothiri, Smt. Charulatha Mani, Flute Sri. G.S. Rajan among others. He resides in Atlanta. He has been invited as a performing artiste for many of the Emory Universities' world music ensembles.





Chiranjeevi Navneet Aiyer

Chiranjeevi Navneet Aiyer was first introduced to Mridangam under the tutelage of Guru Sikhamani Sri. T. S. Nandakumar. He developed a strong passion towards the art and in the process, learning Ghatam and Kanjira as well. He has accompanied his Guru Sri T.S. Nandakumar in the ThaalaVadhyam performance at the prestigious, Cleveland, Thyagaraja Aradhana festival and percussion ensemble at Maharishi International University, Iowa. Navneet accompanied Vidwan Sri. Rajeev Mukundan on Mridangam in the Grand Violin concert organized by TSNPAC. With Guru's blessings, Navneet has played Mridangam, Kanjira and Ghatam accompanying for number of Vocal, Veena, Keyboard, Harikatha and Namasankeerthanam Concerts in US and India

Navneet is learning the classical nuances from the western keyboard under Kalaimamani Sri. M.S. Martin. It is an honorable achievement that he has accompanied Sri M.S. Martin in the Carnatic Keyboard concert at Cleveland, Thyagaraja Aradhana festival and the Chennai music festivals. Navneet has accompanied Thavil Vidwan Sri. Sunil Kumar on the keyboard and has given several carnatic keyboard concerts in US.

Navneet learns the classical music from Guru Smt. Subha Srinivasan and has accompanied her in singing and playing keyboard in concerts around NJ. Navneet is also an active Chinmaya Balavihar volunteer where he is a part of the Swaranjali Bhajan team - both singing and instruments. Navneet learned the soprano recorder and the clarinet from the school orchestra. He is also trained in Western piano and has completed Level-4 at The Royal Conservatory of Music. Navneet Contributes substantially to the Chinmaya Summer program and the Carnatic Music Association of North America through dedicated volunteer work.

Navneet Aiyer is a rising junior at Montgomery Township School district. Apart from being an honor student, he is part of high school's Robotics and Engineering clubs. He is also an active member in the high school cross country team.

His passion for the south Indian classical is abundant. Navneet seeks everyone's blessings as he keeps progressing in the musical and academic field.

