Melbourne International Festival of Hindustani Classical Music

09-10 March 2024
James Tatoulis Auditorium
207 Barkers Road, Kew

mhcms.org

Supported by:

BOROONDARA
City of Harmony

Organised by:

MELBOURNE HINDUSTANI CLASSICAL MUSIC SOCIETY

Foreword

We're delighted to unveil this year's edition of the Melbourne International Festival of Hindustani Classical Music, an eagerly anticipated event featuring a lineup of four mesmerising concerts. Across the centuries, Indian classical music has woven itself into the fabric of our cultural tapestry, captivating global audiences with its enchanting ragas, intricate rhythms, and soul-stirring expressions. This festival aims to illuminate the unparalleled beauty of both vocal and instrumental music, showcasing its capacity to evoke profound emotions and forge connections among individuals.

These four concerts offer a rare opportunity to explore the rich tapestry of this timeless art form, with performances by esteemed musicians from India and Australia. Spanning two days, the festival promises to immerse attendees in a diverse array of musical styles and forms, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of this intricate tradition.

Whether you're a seasoned devotee or a curious newcomer, prepare to be enraptured by the passion and skill of these talented artists. This event serves as a gateway to the essence of India, inviting participants to revel in the splendour of its musical heritage and embark on a journey of rhythm, melody, and heartfelt emotion. Join us for an unforgettable celebration of Indian classical music - an experience that promises to leave an indelible mark on your soul.

- Manisha Jain Sethi, Festival Director

At a glance...

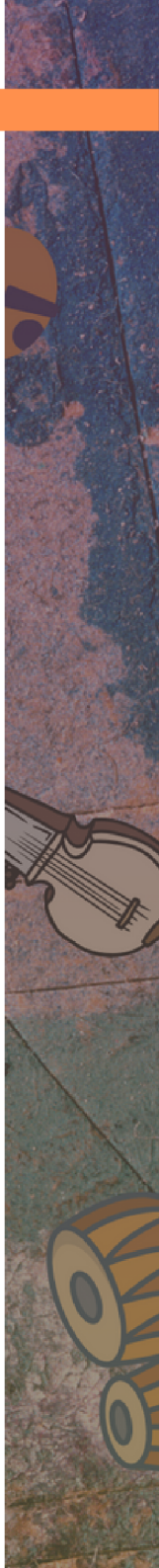
Saturday 9th March
2-5pm
Mala Dave Memorial Recital
Sponsored by Dr. Haripriya Rangan

- Vocal: Smt. Ranjitha Suresh
- Tabla: Shri Sushant Ullal
- Harmonium: Shri Prasad Karve

- Sarangi: Sardar Shaminder Pal Singh
- Tabla: Shri Anubrata Chatterjee

Saturday 9th March
7:30-10:30pm
Pt. Govindrao Tembe Memorial Recital
Sponsored by Anu & Mahendra Raj Tembe

- Vocal: Pt. Sanjeev Abhyankar
- Tabla: Shri Anubrata Chatterjee
- Harmonium: Shri Abhishek Shinkar



Sunday 10th March
10am-12pm
Dr. Vaman Betigeri Memorial Recital
Sponsored by Suniti Betigeri

- Dhrupad Vocal: Shri Branan Dubh
- Tabla: Shri Pandurang Toravi

- Tabla Solo: Shri Anubrata Chatterjee
- Sarangi Sangat by Sardar Shaminder Pal Singh

Sunday 10th March
7:30-10:30pm
Deepika Shome Memorial Recital
Sponsored by Carillo Gantner AC,
Saikat Bhattacharya, Sabyasachi Bhattacharya
& Mrs. Shome's students

- Sitar: Ustad Shahid Parvez Khan
- Tabla: Shri Anubrata Chatterjee

Schedule

SATURDAY 9TH MARCH

1.30pm for a 2pm start

Mala Dave Memorial Recital

Sponsored by Dr. Haripriya Rangan

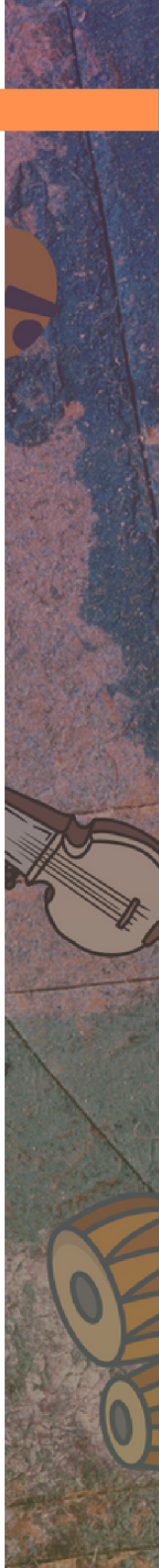
Recital 1

The curtain raiser for the 2024 edition of the Melbourne International Festival of Hindustani Classical Music will feature an all Melbourne ensemble with a vocal recital by Smt. Ranjitha Suresh with Shri Sushant Ullal accompanying her on Tabla and Shri Prasad Karve on Harmonium respectively.

Recital 2

The second half of the afternoon will feature a Sarangi recital by one of the world's finest, Sardar Shaminder Pal Singh of Miyan Tansen's Senia Gharana. He will be accompanied by Shri Anubrata Chatterjee on Tabla.

This recital is presented in the memory of Smt. Mala Dave, a Melbourne-based patron and supporter of Melbourne Hindustani Classical Music Society.



Schedule

SATURDAY 9TH MARCH

7pm for a 7.30pm start

Pt. Govindrao Tembe Memorial Recital

Sponsored by Anu & Mahendra Raj Tembe

A musical treat with one of India's esteemed vocalists, Pt. Sanjeev Abhyankar of the Mewati Gharana who trained under the legendary Pt. Jasraj under the Guru Shishya Parampara and accompanied him on many of his tours.

Supporting the vocal artistry of Pt. Sanjeev Abhyankar will be Shri Abhishek Shinkar on Harmonium, who has gained considerable recognition for his skill and is one of the youngest artists to be featured in the Festival.

On Tabla will be the outstanding Shri Anubrata Chatterjee from the Farukhabad Gharana, a disciple of the revered Guru Prakash Ghosh and the son of Tabla Maestro Pt. Anindo Chatterjee.

This recital is dedicated to the memory of Pt. Govindrao Tembe, a classical Harmonium player trained in the Jaipur gharana, stage actor, and music composer.

Schedule

SUNDAY 10TH MARCH

9.30am for 10am start

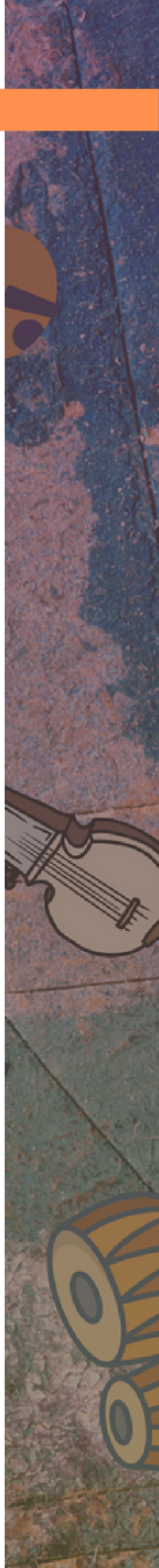
Dr. Vaman Betigeri Memorial Recital

Sponsored by Suniti Betigeri

A morning of soulful Dhrupad is presented by Shri Branan Dubh who has studied under the tutelage of Padma Shri awardee Umakant and Ramakant Gundecha since 2002. Branan ji is an avid researcher of sacred music traditions and devotional songs of Kabir and Gurbani music and committed to passing on the Dhrupad tradition to students worldwide. Branan ji will be accompanied by a Melbourne local, Shri Pandurang Toravi on Tabla. Pandurang ji has been learning the Tabla since the age of 8 and has received training under the legendary Pt. Basavaraj Bendigeri of Dharwad for 10 years before learning under Shri Rajaguru Kallurkar.

A Tabla solo by Shri Anubrata Chatterjee of the Farukhabad Gharana will follow, showcasing Chatterjee's unmatched tonal mastery of the instrument.

This recital is presented in the memory of Shri Vaman Betigeri, a Melbourne-based medical practitioner who loved Hindustani Classical Music.



Schedule

SUNDAY 12TH MARCH

7pm for a 7:30pm start

Deepika Shome Memorial Recital

Sponsored by Carrillo Gantner AC, Saikat Bhattacharya, Sabyasachi Bhattacharya & Mrs. Shome's students

Ustad Shahid Parvez Khan, one of the greatest Sitar players in the world today will present the Finale to our Festival, with his soul stirring Sitar recital. Belonging to the Etawah Gharana and the seventh generation player of Sitar's first family, the command of Ustad Shahid Pervez Khan's music emanates from the highly charged tonality he conjures on stage. Drawing upon his numerous musical influences and pushing the boundaries of creativity while preserving traditional elements, his music is recognised for its artistry and evolution.

Accompanying him on Tabla will be Shri Anubrata Chatterjee of the Farukhabad Gharana, a disciple of the revered Guru Prakash Ghosh and the son of Tabla Maestro Pt. Anindo Chatterjee. The youngest and final "Ganda-Bandh" disciple of the revered Guru Jnan Prakash Ghosh, a Padma Bhushan and Deshkottam awardee, Chatterjee is celebrated for the unmatched tonal quality of his Tabla playing.

This recital is dedicated to Deepika Shome, a much loved Melbourne-based teacher of Hindustani Classical Music who introduced it to an entire generation of Melburnians.

Artist Profiles

Ustad Shahid Parvez Khan (Sitar) is widely recognised as one of the greatest Sitar players of the world. He represents the seventh generation of the sitar's first family, the Etawah Gharana. A very young Shahid Parvez was initiated into the rich traditions of the Gharana by his father and guru Ustad Aziz Khan – the son of legendary sitar and surbahar virtuoso Ustad Waheed Khan. His family has produced the most revered and influential figures in Hindustani Classical Music including Ustad Vilayat Khan and Ustad Enayet Khan.

A recipient of numerous prestigious awards, including the government of India's Padma Shri and Sangeet Natak Academy Award, Shahid ji has performed across India, Europe, North America, Asia and Australia, enthralling audiences everywhere.

His music is both novel and evolving. Shahid ji's unique tone and astute artistic sense have become his hallmark as a respected performer and composer. The power of his music emanates from the highly charged sound he conjures on stage. He emphasises the unique capabilities of the sitar itself, while drawing upon numerous musical influences easily recognisable to the knowing ear. He has achieved success in not only preserving tradition, but also pushing its boundaries to even greater heights of aesthetic beauty.

Artist Profiles

Pt. Sanjeev Abhyankar (Vocal) hails from the Mewati Gharana. He received initial training from his mother Dr. Shobha Abhyankar as well as Pt. Pimpalkhare, before learning from the legendary Pt. Jasraj. This proved to be the turning point in his life, and Abhyankar went on to train in the Guru Shishya Parampara tradition with Jasraj ji while accompanying him on his tours.

Equally versed in classical as well as light music, Pt. Abhyankar's easy grace and versatility is evident in the depth of his raags, as well as his soulful bhajans and film songs. He won the National Film Award for Best Male Playback Singer in 1999 for his song Suno Re Bhaila in the Hindi film Godmother, and also received the Kumar Gandharva National Award 2008 from the government of Madhya Pradesh for sustained excellence in the field of Classical Arts.

Pt. Abhyankar has performed in prestigious art circles and festivals across the globe, and has spread Hindustani Classical Music in almost every corner of the world, from the US and Canada, to the Middle East, Australia, Europe and Africa.

Artist Profiles

Shri Anubrata Chatterjee (Tabla) is an outstanding Tabla player from the Farukhabad Gharana and son of Tabla maestro Pt. Anindo Chatterjee. He became the youngest and final "Ganda-Bandh" disciple of the revered guru Jnan Prakash Ghosh (a Padma Bhushan & Deshkottam awardee), before continuing to train under his father Anindo ji. Farukhabad Gharana informs his Tabla style, while he also incorporates elements of the Lucknow and Ajrada Gharanas into his playing. With his dexterity, grace, and unmatched tonal quality, Anubrata ji has not only taken his father's legacy forward but also developed his own identity.

Anubrata ji debuted as an accompanist alongside the legendary Pt. Hari Prasad Chaurasia, after which he has accompanied all the legendary classical musicians including Ustad Amjad Ali Khan, Pt. Birju Maharaj, Pt. Shiv Kumar Sharma, and Ustad Shahid Parvez amongst others.

He made his solo debut on B.B.C. World Radio in 1991, after which he has played all across the globe, from the Kennedy Center of Performing Arts to Carnegie Hall and the World Percussion Festival.

Through his deep understanding of Tabla and faultless performances, Chatterjee has successfully established himself as both a solo performer and an accompanying artist.

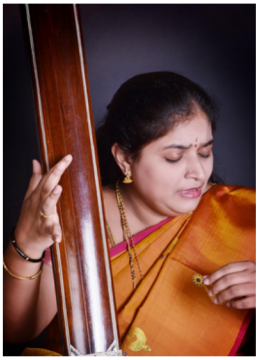
Artist Profiles

Shri Abhishek Shinkar (Harmonium) is one of the youngest artists to be featured, gaining considerable recognition after receiving training under the renowned harmonium artist Shri Pramod Marathe.

Abhishek ji completed his Masters of Arts in music from Pune and was also a scholarship recipient from the Indian Government's Ministry of Culture. He is known for his ability to seamlessly compliment vocals, Tabla solos and various classical instruments.

Sardar Shaminder Pal Singh (Sarangi) is from Miyan Tansen's Senia Gharana. His sangeet taleem began with his father Shri Harchand Singh and continued with Ustad Latif Ahmed Khan of Muradabad Gharana. He later honed his craft under the guidance of Padma Bhushan awardee, Ustad Sabri Khan. Singh has performed across many prestigious platforms including the All India Radio and has accompanied many renowned artists such as Pt. Birju Maharaj and Smt. Urmila Nagar. He is also credited for teaching a number of acclaimed artists such as Sukhwinder Singh and Bhupinder Singh. Sardar Shaminder Pal Singh is credited for mastering many of the world's rarest instruments such as the Sarangi, Dilruba, Rabab and Israj and is considered one of the finest Sarangi artists today.

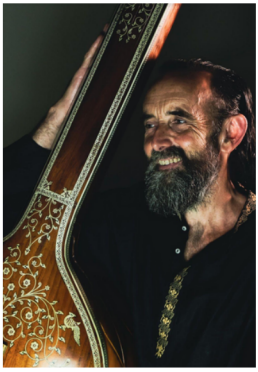
Artist Profiles



Smt. Ranjitha Suresh (Vocal) is a highly regarded Melbourne-based Hindustani classical vocalist. Her first international concert was organised by Melbourne Hindustani Classical music Society (MHCMS) in May 2019. Her elaborated Raag presentation with subtle nuances, vibrant aesthetics, and intricate taans was appreciated and acknowledged by the audience.

This was followed by a string of performances including at the prestigious Melbourne International Festival of Hindustani Classical Music in March 2020 where Smt. Ranjitha had the opportunity to perform alongside great maestros Vd. Ashwini Bhide Deshpande, Pt. Sugato Nag, Pt. Abhijeet Banerjee and Pt. Rajendra Prasanna. Smt. Ranjitha has also given a number of virtual performances including for the New Zealand-based Mohan Nadkarni Foundation and Nataraj Sangeet Vidyalaya - Bagalkot (India).

Artist Profiles



Shri Branan Dubh (Vocal) fell in love with classical raag music over 30 years ago as a music student in Canberra, and later studied Sarod under the tutelage of Pt. Ashok Roy in Sydney. A meandering musical search led Dubh to the dhrupad genre, and he began his apprenticeship with Padma Shri Umakant and Ramakant Gundecha.

Shri Branan is an avid researcher of the sacred music traditions of India and has a repertoire of devotional song. His work aims to reconnect classical raag music with its roots in sacred music and holotropic experience.

He has performed all around the world and received an Ian Potter Cultural Trust grant in 2012 to study at the Dhrupad Sansthan. Dubh is currently based in Fremantle, where he is committed to passing on the dhrupad tradition to students globally.

Shri Sushant Ullal (Tabla) was born into a music-loving family, and commenced his tabla training in Bangalore at the age of 8 under Shri Gurumurthy Vaidya. Later, he trained under Pt. Betrabet Prabhakar Rao of Bangalore, for 5 years. Since 2005, he has been under the intensive tutelage of Mumbai-based Pt. Sadanand Naimpalli.
Shri Sushant is a Telecom Engineer by trade and moved to Melbourne in 2014.

Artist Profiles

Shri Pandurang Toravi (Tabla) was born in a family of musicians in Dharwad, India. He started playing Tabla at the age of 8. Initially he learnt from Shri Rajaguru Kallurkar and then pursued rigorous training under the legendary Tabla player Pt. Basavaraj Bendigeri of Dharwad for ten years.

Shri Pandurang is a graded artist of All India Radio and has accompanied Hindustani musicians including Pt. Vinayak Torvi, Pt. Venkatesh Kumar, Ustad Rais Khan, Pt. Krishna Haldankar. He also teaches the Tabla in Melbourne.

Shri Prasad Karve (Harmonium) is one of Victoria's most sought after Harmonium artists. Part of a music-loving family, Karve ji studied hindustani classical vocal from Smt. Deepika Shome for 10 years. He performs regularly in the classical circuit in Australia, including accompaniment for visiting international artists. Shri Prasad Karve returns to the festival this year to accompany Smt. Ranjitha Suresh.

Memorials

Mala Dave Memorial Recital

We are honouring Shri Mala Dave ji. She had left us for higher pastures in Early 2022. Survived by her son Avishkar and his family and beloved granddaughter Rhea. She was a Melbourne native for the last 25 years of her life, arriving like many of us as a new immigrant in the 1990s. She had worked and retired as a banker with CBA. Late in life, she embraced this melodic journey, becoming a supporter of MCHMS events. Her warmth radiated through every gathering, whether she shared her delectable treats or simply lent an attentive ear to the soulful strains of string instruments like the Sitar and Santoor. In her memory, we honour her contributions to our society - a legacy woven with love and harmonious resonance.

Pt. Govindrao Tembe Memorial Recital

Pandit Govindrao Tembe (1881-1955) was a multifaceted artist - from acting, music composition and direction to creating a new vista of literature on Hindustani Classical Music and being a harmonium player par excellence. His greatest contribution was taking Hindustani Classical Music to the populous. His eloquent and appealing music composition and literature was not only appreciated by the public but also acclaimed by the critics. Some of his work remains definitive even today and will be for future generations.

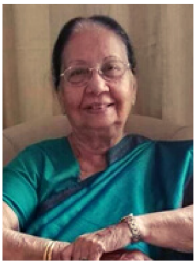
Memorials

Dr. Vaman Betigeri Memorial Recital

Dr. Vaman Betigeri (1942-2012) was a passionate supporter of Hindustani Classical Music and its development in Australia. He moved to Australia from Belgaum, Karnataka in 1968 with an MBBS from Karnataka Institute of Medical Sciences and established his own medical practice in Tullamarine, Melbourne. Dr. Betigeri served on the committee of the Australia India Society of Victoria (AISV) for several years, providing a unified forum for all Indians and supported many musicians who visited and performed Hindustani Classical Music in Australia by helping organise initiates and events.

Dr. Betigeri passed away in 2012 but is remembered with love by his family and friends and his memory is kept alive through artistic endeavours like this one.

Deepika Shome Memorial Recital



Smt. Deepika Shome (1931-2021) was a versatile artist and teacher of the Rampur-Sahaswan and Bhendi-Bazaar gharanas. She received initial training from her uncle, the renowned flautist Pandit Pannalal Ghosh, and spent many years honing her craft in khayaal, thumri and geet under the tutelage of various acclaimed gurus. Deepika Ji is credited for setting up Hindustani Classical Music and teaching in Melbourne where she taught for the last 25 years. She was passionate about giving the proper guidance to each of her students so they could excel in their journey. In her passing, we have lost not only a dedicated exponent of Hindustani Classical Music, but also a much loved guru.

Thank you for your support...

- ***City of Boroondara***
- ***Dr. Haripriya Rangan***
- ***Anu and Raj Tembe***
- ***Suniti Betigeri***
- ***Carrillo Gantner AC***
- ***Students of Mrs. Deepika Shome***
- ***Saikat Bhattacharya***
- ***Sabyasachi Bhattacharya***

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We have created the Melbourne Hindustani Classical Music Society to bring the experience of this sublime art form to the wider Melbourne community. We aim to consolidate the efforts of the past, and create a vibrant platform for local and visiting artists to perform at premium Melbourne venues as well as in traditional "Baithak" style gatherings at people's homes. It is our earnest desire to see our passion shared by the mainstream Melbourne community.

mhcms.org