

**“Sublime Integration of Hindustani and Carnatic traditions”
with World renowned maestros of Indian Classical Music**

**Pandit Kartik Seshadri, sitar
with Shashank Subramanyam, bamboo flute**

**Accompanied by:
Hindole Majumdar, tabla
Parupalli Phalgun, mridangam**

Saturday, April 20, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.
Conrad Prebys Music Center | Conrad Prebys Concert Hall

Tonight's program will be announced from the stage.



Pandit Kartik Seshadri is a world-renowned force in the field of Indian Classical Music. As a sitarist, he attracted widespread attention when he began performing full-length solos at the age of 6 in India. The sitar maestro is now hailed as an “amazingly accomplished” musical powerhouse noted for his music’s “expressive beauty, rich tonal sensibility, and rhythmic intricacy,” praised the Washington Post while the Times of India (2011) noted that Seshadri’s concert was “a show stopper that transported the audience to soak soul deep in his mesmerizing performance.” The prestigious Songlines Magazine (UK) has in its March 2012 issue declared his latest album Sublime Ragas as one of the “Top Ten of the World’s” CD’s (as with his 2004 Raga:Rasa album) further citing him as one of the “world’s greatest sitarist players.”

A multifarious confluence of musical influences steeped in the Maihar gharana’s dhrupad & beenkar styles, Seshadri began his initial training with Shri Shankar Rao of the Vishnupur Gharana and further trained and toured worldwide with his acclaimed guru Pandit Ravi Shankar. In 2005 and 2010, Seshadri collaborated with composer Philip Glass and the Brazilian instrumental group UAKTI on the critically acclaimed Orion project. Seshadri performs extensively in his homeland and around the world, including the United States, Canada, Europe, Japan, Australia, Mexico and the Middle East. He has played at prestigious venues and events ranging from Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center, the Melbourne International Arts Festival in Australia, the Brighton Festival in UK, the Ravinia Festival, the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City to the Dover Lane, ITC, Sawai Gandharva Samaroh and Saptak Sammelans in India to name but a few. Seshadri has received numerous awards and accolades for his contributions to the musical world including his June 2011 nomination as the Artist of the Month” by the prestigious Sangeeth Research Academy (SRA) in Kolkata and his 2014 honorary award from the Federation of Indian Associations (FIA) for his “incredible contributions, vision, leadership and expertise in the creative field...and as a true pioneer” of music and art.

Seshadri is also a distinguished composer and educator of Indian Classical Music. While his Quartet for a Raga was premiered under the auspices of the Contemporary Music Forum in Washington D.C., his latest “Concerto #1 for Sitar and Chamber Orchestra” received its 2010 world premier in San Diego.

As an educator Seshadri heads one of the largest programs of Indian Classical Music in the USA at the University of California San Diego. He has been invited as a distinguished guest faculty member at various conservatories, universities and academies around the world: The Banff Centre in Alberta, Canada, Stanford University, the Yehudi Menuhin School of Music in Bath, U.K., and the Sangeeth Research Academy (SRA) in Kolkata, India. In 2009 Seshadri launched Raga : Rasa, Kartik Seshadri’s Center for Indian Classical music and improvisation.

Maestro Shashank Subramanyam is an accomplished flutist from India, specializing in Indian classical music. Having displayed exceptional musical talent from a young age, Shashank began performing at the age of 6 in 1984 and has continued to showcase his artistry for over three decades. In recognition of his contributions to the arts, the Government of France honored him with the prestigious title of Chevalier de l’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres for the year 2022.

Shashank is also noteworthy for being the youngest recipient of the Government of India’s Sangeet Natak Akademi’s senior award for the year 2017, and bestowed by the President of India at an investiture ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi.

Early life: Shashank Subramanyam, an Indian musician, was born in Rudrapatna, India to parents Hemalatha and Subramanyam. His family’s ancestral origins can be traced to Tirunelveli district in Tamil Nadu. Shashank received training in Carnatic music from his father, Palghat K.V. Narayanaswami, and in Hindustani music under the guidance of Pandit Jasraj. Notably, he is married to Shirisha, who is a Bharatanatyam dancer. Shashank pursued his flute playing without formal Gurus and is self-taught. Together with Shirisha, they have a daughter named Swara and a son named Samvit and currently reside in Chennai, India.

Performing career: Shashank, a renowned musician, made his debut in public performance in 1984 at the tender age of six. His journey into the professional circuit began in 1990, where he delivered notable performances in various cities, including Adelaide, Australia, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and Singapore. One of the pivotal moments in his career occurred when he was invited by The Music Academy in Chennai to perform at the prestigious “SADAS concert” in January 1991, when he was just 12 years old.

Throughout his career, Shashank has engaged in collaborative performances with an array of talented musicians from both India and around the world. Among them are esteemed names like John McLaughlin, Paco de Lucia, Wuppertal and Shanxi Symphony Orchestras, Helsinki Helsinki Baroque Orchestra, The New Jungle Orchestra, Mikkel Nordso, Terry Riley, Ustad Shahid Parvez, Zakir Hussain, Jens Christian, Palle Mikkelborg, Ustad Sultan Khan, Pandit Vishwa Mohan Bhatt, Ronu Mazumdar, Ustad Shujaat Khan, Tejendra Majumdar, Rakesh Chaurasia, etc.

The significance of his contributions was recognized on a global scale, with BBC World TV producing a documentary about him titled “Destination Music” in 2006. Additionally, his performances and interviews were featured on CNN international TV as part of the “Travel Logue India” show.

Shashank’s talents have also been honored with performances for several Honorary Presidents of India, including R. Venkatraman, Dr. Abdul Kalam, Ms. Pratibha Patil, and Ramnath Kovind, at the esteemed Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi.

Parupalli Phalgun, a senior Mridangam artist, is exceptionally skilled and dynamic performer, commenced his training at the tender age of five under the tutelage of the esteemed Late Mr. Radhakrishna Raju and Mr. M.L.N. Raju of AIR Vijayawada.

Renowned for his innate talent and versatility, Phalgun is distinguished by his adeptness and precision in finger technique. A virtuoso in his field, he has collaborated with eminent artists from India and abroad in solo performances, duets, and collaborative endeavors. Phalgun’s captivating performances have captivated audiences across India and in more than 30 countries.

Phalgun has been honored with prestigious awards such as the Sangeet Natak Akademi’s Yuva Puraskar and the Best Mridangam Artist Award from the Music Academy for the season 2023. He has been featured on various radio and television networks globally and his name graces numerous CDs and DVDs produced both domestically and internationally. Currently holding the prestigious A-grade artist designation from All India Radio, he also serves as a faculty member at the Government Music College in Vijayawada.

HINDOLE MAJUMDAR occupies a commendable position amongst the tabla players of his generation. Hindole started learning tabla at the tender age of 5. He gave his first performance at the age of 10.

He received his first formal training from Shri Shibshankar Karmakar from Farukhabad Gharana. He continues to receive training from the great tabla maestro Pandit SankhaChatterjee (of the Punjab and Farukhabad Gharana). He has also had the opportunity to learn South Indian Rhythm style from the Mridangam exponent Pandit S.Shekhar. Hindole has performed the world over accompanying renowned artists.

Hindole has founded the Hindole Majumdar School of Music and Dance in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in USA where he teaches Tabla and Indian Rhythm on a regular basis. He has also numerous CD’s and video albums released by various record companies.