

## Los Gatos, Saratoga: Trinity Center presents 'Passionate Pursuit'

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It's been 25 years since Anuradha Sridhar of Saratoga brought South Indian Classical music, or Carnatic Music, to the South Bay. What started from humble beginnings--sharing a 200-year-old tradition with a handful of students--has grown into a successful music school, instructing upwards of 40 students at any given time.

With every piece performed at its quarter-century celebration show later this month holding great significance and highlighting a milestone of the past 25 years, the Trinity Center for Music will commemorate its storied history with "Passionate Pursuit," a musical tribute honoring Guru Lalgudi Srimathi Brahmanandam on Aug. 22 in San Jose.

"Passionate Pursuit" will not only be showcasing student and professional performances, but the concert will be a family affair. The performance's honoree, Brahmanandam, is a veteran violinist and Sridhar's teacher and mother. Sridhar's brother, Shriram Brahmanandam, a rhythm instructor at the Trinity Center for Music, will also join Sridhar on stage.

In addition, "We are having three guests of honor," says Sridhar. "Ambassador Vankatesan Ashok is the Consular general of the San Francisco Indian Embassy. Also, we have Mr. Michael Santoro, the founder and executive director of San Francisco World Music, with whom we have been associated since 2007. The third guest of honor is the legendary Bharathanatyam exponent Rhadha. She has produced the famous ballet, 'Jaya Jaya Devi,' composed by my uncle, Lalgudi Jayaraman, and has also been associated with our music and tradition for many decades."

Approximately 20 musicians will share the stage to celebrate the school's achievement. The Trinity Center for Music is known for not only instructing vocal students on the meaning of the lyrics they're singing, but for only accepting serious students into its program. However, she points out that a student with desire and little natural talent is just as important as a student who possesses the ability to immediately perform.

"When we teach classical music, we need to know what value system they should adhere to and what should be altered for their benefit," she says. "When a child comes from a family without any musical background but is passionate and ready to work hard, we must develop a method of teaching him or her, too. By the time they finish school, music is so much a part of them that they can't quit it."

For Sridhar, continuing to teach at the Trinity Center for Music is about sharing her love of the art form and the traditions that have been passed throughout her family for generations. She also sees herself as a student, constantly learning from the interactions she has with people while embracing new ideas and adapting to current trends. She has also recently launched an online version of the school to reach students located in other states. Trinity Center's online learning program has been developed with a customized approach to learning based on her and her mother's evolving teaching methods.

"Trinity Center is known for its quality musical performances," says Sridhar. "This show will be a spectacular one of a kind performance of music and multimedia by the students and not to be missed by the lovers of Carnatic Music or those that would love to be introduced to this traditional music."

"Passionate Pursuit" is at the Center for Employment and Training Auditorium, 701 Vine St. in San Jose, on Aug. 22, 4 p.m. Tickets, \$15, are available by calling Usha at 408.896.9988, Geetha at 650.704.1720, Srikala at 408.582.8119 or Saroja at 408.219.4219.