

Shobana Raghavan Raj

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<http://music.silenttunes.net>

Background and Interests

- Shobana's keen interest in music and dance was nurtured from the age of 4, with rigorous training in Indian Carnatic Classical vocal music for 20 years and the Indian classical dance forms of Kuchipudi and Bharatnatyam dancing for 8 years. Won many inter-school and inter-collegiate music competitions along with lead roles in classical dance ballets
- Has been composer of musical presentations like "Music for World Peace" organized by the Gandhi peace Foundation in Chennai, India, new musical ballets including "Mahila Mahima" and Penn-Woman Power in collaboration with eminent dancers in India Mrs. Srekala Bharat and Mrs. Meenakshi Chitharanjan respectively.
- Has been the song-writer and music composer for a music game show called "TVS-Anthakshari, produced by Kris-Srikanth Sports and Entertainment Company and Raj television in Chennai, India.
- Co-anchored "Ragam-Sangeetham," an informative carnatic music show on Raj TV, India
- Compered Carnatic music based programme "Thein Kinnam" for Jaya TV and several popular programmes including "Dial Please," "Hello Ungaludan""Theriyuma Ungalukku" and "Thirai Vimarsanam" for the Indian national television channel Doordarshan-Podhigai
- Sang the title song for "Scooby Doo" cartoon in tamil for cartoon network
- Danced for a tv series "Anbulla Snehithiye", for the popular television channel Sun TV
- Anchored musical programme called "Anrum Inrum Enrum" with popular film music directors M.S.Viswanathan-Ramamurthy and Bharadhwaj

Music and Dance Tutelage

- Training in Carnatic vocal music under revered music gurus, including Nanganallur Shri Ramanathan, Smt. Visalakshi Ramachandran and advanced music study from Smt.Suguna Varadachari, senior professor of Madras University Music Department, renowned music gurus Smt. Padma Chandilyan and Shri Srimishnam Raja Rao in Chennai.

- Study of the classical dance form of "Kuchipudi" for 8 years from the doyen of Kuchipudi dancing, Guru Shri Vempatti Chinna Satyam. Initial training in the classical dance form "Bharatanatyam" in the Melattur style of dancing with current tutelage under the Pandanallur style under danseuse Smt. Suba Ramesh Parmar-founder director of Shubanjali school of Performing Arts in New Jersey.
- Training in the Carnatic violin in India from Smt. Srilakshmi Venkatramani, senior disciple of the violin expert Ms. A. Kanyakumari and current tutelage under Shri. A. R. Balaskandan in New York.
- Training in mridangam (Indian classical drum)basics from Shri Vijayan, senior disciple of the mridangam maestro Karaikudi Shri R. Mani

Education

- Intermediate member of the Institute of the Cost and Works Accountants of India (ICWAI), 2000.
- Topped the college in Bachelor's degree in Commerce from Madras University, 1999.

Ongoing and Upcoming Events

- Feb 7th – March 28th - Carnatic music workshops (introductory and intermediate levels) on ragas (melodies) and talas (rhythms) at Lotus music and dance studios in Manhattan
http://lotusmusicanddance.org/csNews/news_upload/Presents_2edb.Lotus_spring07.pdf
- March 22-26 – Carnatic vocals for "Bharatanatyam Unwrapped" a classical dance presentation by New York based dance company 'Rajika Puri and dancers' at the Joyce SOHO, Manhattan http://www.rajikapuri.com/conversationswithshiva_flier.html
- April 7 – Carnatic vocals for Arangetram- Dance graduation recital by student of Amruthakala Dance academy in New York.
- April 18th – Carnatic vocals for "Temple to Theatre"-thematic dance presentation by Ragamala music and dance theater at Sarasota, Florida.
<http://www.vanwezel.org/boxOffice/event.cfm?eventID=600>
- May 4th to May 13th – 15 shows at the New Victory theater, Manhattan, NY – Carnatic vocals for Ragamala music and dance theater.
<http://www.newvictory.org/show.m?showID=1007533>

Notable Music Concerts and Teaching Assignments

2007

- Jan 16th - Lecture-demonstration on Carnatic vocal techniques at Terrill Middle school, New Jersey
- Raga and Jazz-in Unity and Diversity- 2 hour intensive workshop on raga explorations for Jazz musicians at Lotus studios, Manhattan
http://lotusmusicanddance.org/csNews/news_upload/Presents_2edb.Lotus_spring07.pdf

2006

- Lecture demonstration on the “Fundamentals of Indian rhythms (talas)” at the City College of New York, New York.
- Invited to be judge for classical music competition organized by the esteemed TLCA in New York
- Solo vocalist for “Urban Kutcheri” a thematic music and dance presentation at the Joyse SOHO space in Lower Manhattan in June
- Offered a course on Carnatic music at the New York university for two semesters.
- Performance with renowned dancer Ms. Suba Ramesh parmar at th Sivananda Yoga ranch, NY <http://www.sivananda.org/ranch/calendar/july.html>
- Part of the Shubanjali dance team at the Bridgewater, NJ temple dance competition
- Classical vocalist for Dance graduation ceremony (Arangetram) in Long Island.
- Vocal Concert at Bridgewater Hindu temple for Navarathri celebrations in New Jersey
- Vocal concert for Saraswathy pooja celebrations at Staten Island Hindu temple
- Vocal concert for Sai baba temple in Flushing, NY
- Oct 11th - Dec 8th - Carnatic music workshop on ragas (melodies) and talas (rhythms) at Lotus music and dance studios in Manhattan <http://lotusmusicanddance.org>
- Oct 28th – An evening of Canatic music and Kuchipudi classical dance. Performance at the Lotus music and dance studio.
<http://lotusmusicanddance.org/csNews/csNews.cgi?database=Presents%2edb&command=viewone&id=1&rnd=699.6390957849283>

2005

- Thematic chamber music concert at Manalapan, NJ
- Lec-dems on the “Theory and Practice of Carnatic music” at Bard Univ, NY
- Invited to be judge for classical vocal competition conducted by the prestigious organization CMANA of NJ
- Master class on Carnatic swaras at Bloomingdale school of Music, Manhattan
- Studio recording of ‘music for classical dance’ in Queens, NY
- Solo vocal concert for Diwali celebrations at Bridgewater temple, NJ
- Carnatic music ensemble lectures for the fall semester at the New York univ. http://www.nyu.edu/gsas/dept/music/dept_ensem.html
- Compered for three Bharatanatyam arangetrams (graduations) at NJ
- Performed with classical dancer Sonali Skandan at the Flushing temple, NY
- Performances for classical dance at the Chennai Annual Music festival in India.

2004

- Lecture-Demonstration on Carnatic music at NYU

2003

- Sang for many classical dance shows performed by students of Sarasalaya, directed by the eminent dance teacher Kalaimamani Smt. K.J.Sarasa in India

2002

- Toured the US to work with renowned dance guru Smt. Kamala Lakshman

2001

- Toured Switzerland for dancers Dasappa Keshava and Esther www.kalasri.com
- Sang for many dance concerts including “Dance of Shiva” by Ms. Srekala Bharath, “Janani-Putri” by Roja Kannan, “Pancharatna kritis” by Sailaja, dance ballet on Lord Krishna “Ayarkula thilakam” by Revathi Ramachandran, dance ballet “Triyumbike” by Roja Kannan and Sailaja (<http://www.sruti.com/julsep01/sepn&n1.html>), thematic dance ballet on Goddess Aandal “Naachiyar” by Ms.Anita Ratnam (<http://www.arangham.com/repertor/nachiyar/nachiyar.html>)

2000

- Toured the UK, Germany and Switzerland with classical dancer Ms.Meenakshi Chitharanjan.
- Toured Japan with Bharatanatyam dancer Ms. Kavita Ramu for shows.
- Vocal concert for Chidambaram sabha at Chidambaram temple, Tamilnadu
- Concert at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan,Chennai during the Annual Music festival
- Performances with reputed dancer Ms. Alarmel Valli at Bharat Kalachar,Chennai, Mahabalipuram dance festival,Tamilnadu and the Bombay Arts festival.
- Sang for the dance ballet “Ambalathil aadum jyothi” for Revathi ramachandran .Studio recording of songs for dance at Shruthilaya recording studio, Chennai.

1999

- Solo vocal concert at Indian Fine arts society and Karthik Fine Arts, Chennai
- .Concert for ‘World Peace’ organized by Suswaraa and Dharma Paripalana sabha
- Concert at the Chembai Vaidyanatha Bhagavathar festival, Guruvayoor, Kerala
- Performed on the ‘SS Universe explorer cruise’ as part of the “Semester at sea” in collaboration with Kuchipudi dancer Ms. Uma Muralikrishna

Awards

- ‘Best Solo Vocalist’ - Indian Fine Arts Society at German Hall, Chennai, 1999
- ‘Best Vocalist for Classical Dance’ - Krishna Gana Sabha, Chennai, 2000
- ‘Best Anchor for Television programs’ - MGR-Sivaji film awards, for compering of television programmes
- Ranked fifth in the State by the University for Tamil. Received the “best outgoing student of the year” award and the “founder’s award” from the college, for top scores and overall excellence in cultural activities, 1999.
- Won the “Gold medal” in the Annual TAG gold music competitions for Carnatic music in Chennai, 1995.
- First rank in Tamil in the State of Tamilnadu in the 10th Grade examinations. Received commendation and citation from the State Education Minister. 1994.
- Won prizes in numerous music competitions held by distinguished organizations in Chennai including the Music Academy, Mylapore Fine Arts, Thyaga Brahma Gana Sabha and the Indian Fine Arts Society, 1993-99.

Dance Accolades

- Performed in the dance ballets "Sita Kalyanam" and "Valli thirumanam", choreographed by dancer guru Smt.Anita Guha in 1997
- Performed in group presentations choreographed by dancer Smt.Revathy Ramachandran in 2001
- Won the "First Prize" in the Group Folk category and the "Second Prize" in the Outstanding Dance category of the "Annual Bridgewater Temple dance competitions" in July 2005 at New Jersey, as part of the 'Shubanjali school of performing arts, New Jersey'
- Danced as part of Shubanjali, for the cultural extravaganza "Splash the Wonder" in June at New Jersey.
- Performed as a dancer in the historical play "Chaula Devi" under the banner of "Shubanjali school of performing arts" in New Jersey.
- Dance performance as part of Shubanjali school of performing arts, at the India International Center, Sufforn, NY
- Dance performance as part of the Shubanjali team at Union county, New Jersey, December 2006.

Other Interests

- 'Final Stage Brown Belt' in Okinawan Goju-Ryu style of Karate with certificates and prizes received at All-India Karate tournaments and free sparring events in India.
- Yoga training under Prof. Vasudevan- Founder Director of Purana Anandha Shanthi Yogalaya institution in Chennai, India.