



Swaramala

Soundbytes from SIOC

Aug 2022

Marching ahead as a performing arts company

Beginning its musical journey in 1985 as an arm of the People's Association's PA Talents, the Singapore Indian Orchestra & Choir (SIOC) has blossomed into an independent performing arts company since 2021. I am thrilled to see how the group is evolving and how all our team members are contributing with enthusiasm to shape the future of SIOC. With back-to-back digital and stage productions on our plate, the journey ahead couldn't be more exciting for all of us at SIOC and we thank you for your continued support. Do enjoy the interesting bytes in this 2nd edition of Swaramala.

Lalitha Vaidyanathan, SIOC Founder & Director



Aashayein – Salim Sulaiman live in concert... featuring the SIOC

1st live mega Bollywood concert at the Esplanade in over 2 years.

1st of its kind mega collaboration - bringing together the internationally renowned Bollywood musician duo with SIOC's acclaimed repertoire of traditional and contemporary Indian music, to create a magical evening rich in soulful melodies with keys, choir and orchestra. More on this in [page 3](#).

Esplanade Theatre • Saturday, 13 August • 8pm • Book your tickets now on SISTIC



Apply [here](#) to join the SIOC Youth Wing.



SIOC Youth Wing

Introducing... the Singapore Indian Youth Orchestra & Choir!

The SIOC Youth Wing made a modest beginning in April 2022 with 12 members in the age group 15-23, under the able guidance of Smt Lalitha Vaidyanathan. The young vocalists and instrumentalists, selected through a process coordinated by KV Godha, are trained by dedicated instructors Madhavan Andhisveena, Ramya Harish and Sowmya Gopi. It's exciting to watch them grow as musicians, from learning curated bhajans to now expanding their horizons in the Carnatic repertoire.

The enthusiastic young musicians have been rehearsing on Sundays and bonding together... watch this space for exciting offerings from this bunch!





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Music Video with IHC



To celebrate the Indian New Year 2022, SIOC collaborated with the Indian Heritage Centre (IHC), Singapore, to produce a music video. Read about this unique project [here](#).

And, if you missed this beautiful video on the FB pages of SIOC and IHC, you can enjoy it [here](#)!

SIOC Digital Gems - Trilogy



'Trilogy', an ensemble of 3 exquisite choral and orchestral pieces, is our 2nd presentation under our digital initiative, SIOC Digital Gems, featured on our [YouTube channel](#).

Learn more about the 3 beautiful pieces [here](#), and subscribe to our YouTube channel to stay tuned for more gems in this series!

Member in the Spotlight



We would like to introduce you to individual pioneers and members of SIOC, who have brought Indian music in Singapore to outstanding levels, through their musical endeavours and contributions to SIOC over the years.

In this edition, we feature renowned Mridangist Shri Ramanan. Read about his journey with SIOC [here](#).





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‘Aashayein’ : Salim-Sulaiman live in concert... featuring the SIOC



Aashayein promises an incredible medley of music by internationally acclaimed brothers Salim and Sulaiman. They will be accompanied by versatile singers Bhoomi Trivedi, Raj Pandit, Vipul Mehta and a live band from India, and supported - in an exciting new collaboration - by over 20 Singapore musicians of SIOC's choir and strings orchestra, led by SIOC Founder and Conductor Smt Lalitha Vaidyanathan.

The 12 members from SIOC's choir, who will be adding their magic to 12 songs in the show, are being trained by Singapore-based musician Smt Bharati Murali, who is an acclaimed vocalist and violinist herself. For this novel initiative, Bharati had to interpret the mostly western notation scoresheets in Carnatic & Hindustani vocabulary, as well as arrange each of the 12 pieces into soprano, tenor and bass portions and train those groups separately - 2 full weekends of intensive sessions. As the SIOC team will only get a day of joint rehearsals with the main artistes before the show, they are rising to the occasion by preparing themselves thoroughly in their separate rehearsals. Bharati will also assist in conducting the choir on stage.

The Concert will start with a soulful first half featuring a spiritual journey and tribute to the Bollywood legends. The second half will enthrall the audience with Salim-Sulaiman's chart-busters, leading up to a grand finale. 

Produced by Action Replay, Arte Compass and Zee TV Asia Pacific, in association with the High Commission of India to Singapore and 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'.

At the Esplanade Theatre on Saturday, 13 August 8pm. Tickets selling fast on SISTIC, book yours now!



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Music Video with IHC



To celebrate the Indian New Year 2022, SIOC collaborated with the Indian Heritage Centre (IHC), Singapore, to produce a music video. The video features a celebratory musical medley by Smt Lalitha Vaidyanathan, Founder and Creative Director of SIOC, who was inspired to create this piece to signify how various Indian communities come together in unity to celebrate the new year. The piece comprises a selection of compositions from SIOC and showcases an ensemble of instruments - violin, veena, tabla, mridangam, dhol, morsing, flute and sitar on the keyboard. The video embellishes the beautiful music with the classical Indian dance forms - Bharatanatyam, Kathak, Kuchipudi, Mohiniattam and Odissi - performed by students and alumni of premier dance academies in Singapore. A shining example of the growing artistic collaboration in Singapore!



SIOC Digital Gems series : Trilogy

The choir kicked off with an acapella rendition of Bharathidasan's Kani Idai, a tribute to the beauty of the Tamil language. The orchestra then performed Rajhesh Vaidhya's Kosalam, a challenging and exuberant Carnatic symphony revelling in swift cross rhythms and intricate melodic patterns. The finale was the very exciting Garudhadhwani Thillana, a vibrant piece composed by the Late Balamurali Krishna. The charanam depicts the cosmic dance of Lord Shiva, and the syllables I, Un, AI and Ruk that emerged from His damaru (drum), creating the very foundation for language.



Trilogy can be enjoyed on our [YouTube channel](#).



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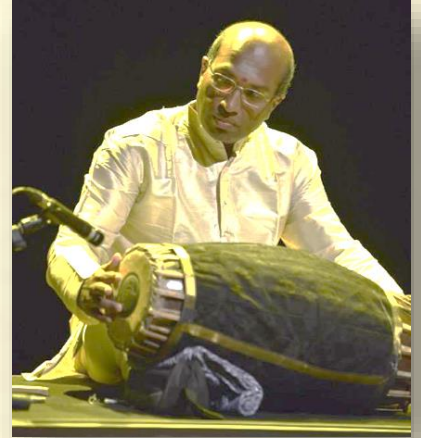
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Member in the Spotlight :

Shri Ramanan Thiruchittampalam

Shri Ramanan began learning mridangam at age 12 from Late Shri R Thangavelu of Kuala Lumpur. In 1981, he joined the Singapore Indian Fine Arts Society (SIFAS) under the caring tutelage of Shri Karaikudi Krishnamurthy. Shri Ramanan aced his final mridangam examination at SIFAS with distinction in 1984, earning a certificate of merit, and then completed his mridangam Arangetram by performing alongside Sangeetha Kalanidhi Shri T.V. Shankaranarayanan during his vocal concert.



Over the past 40 years, Shri Ramanan has performed in numerous music and dance programmes, accompanied several accomplished musicians and dancers both locally and abroad, and has notably provided mridangam accompaniment for more than 350 Bharatanatyam Arangetrams. He has performed extensively for TV/Radio programmes for the then Singapore Broadcasting Corporation and participated in various national music and arts festivals, collaborating with reputed arts institutions.

Shri Ramanan has been actively contributing, as a member and leader, to SIOC for about 20 years since its early days under PA. In addition to being the anchor Mridangist, he has played a key role in managing the technical and logistical aspects of productions, liaising with local and overseas production teams/organisers to ensure a smooth run for SIOC performances. He was also responsible for the procurement of sound systems and maintenance of instruments for the Orchestra.

In recognition for his contributions to the arts, Shri Ramanan has been awarded the titles “Sangita Kala Nipuna” (1998) by Nrityalaya Aesthetics Society, “Sangeetha Kala Mani” (2009) by Apsaras Arts and “Sangita Kala Bhushana” (2022) by Bhaskar’s Arts Academy.





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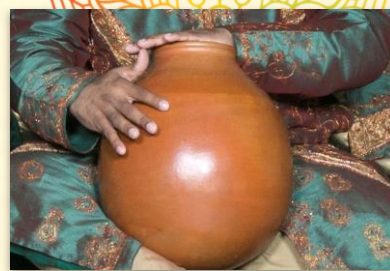
**Looking to join us as an artist,
volunteer or patron?
Contact SIOC and we would love
to connect with you!**



contact@sioc.com.sg



<https://www.sioc.com.sg/>



**Stay connected with us and enjoy our digital productions.
Like, follow and subscribe to our social media channels.**



SIOC Swaramala Credits

Bhanu, Godha (Newsletter team)



Priya, Akshaya (Publicity team)

Lalitha Vaidyanathan, Deepak, Ranjani (Advisors)