



Swaramala

Soundbytes from SIOC

Nov 2022

Highlights in this edition



SIOC in Vasantham TV's Deepavali show

SIOC shines at Light-Up 2022



Aashayein – a magical musical evening with ace music directors Salim Sulaiman



SIOC Founder-Director Smt Lalitha V becomes first Singaporean to receive the prestigious Acharya Ratna award



SIOC Youth Wing gearing up for their big show



**SIOC Pioneers in the Spotlight:
Dr Bhagya Murthy**





Swaramala

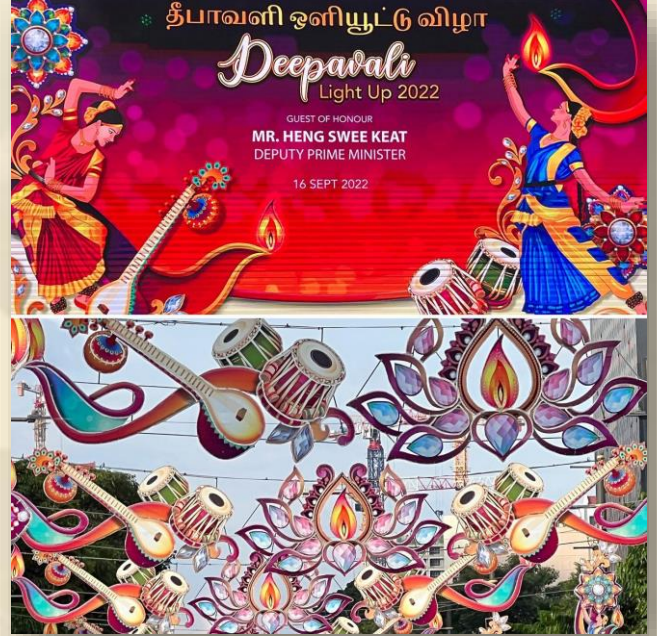
Soundbytes from SIOC

Nov 2022

SIOC shines at Light-Up 2022

SIOC took the opening stage at the Deepavali Light Up 2022 on 16 September, which was attended by DPM Mr Heng Swee Keat as the GoH. With this year's Little India decorations showcasing the magic of Indian musical instruments, what better choice than SIOC to bring the concept to life!

Special thanks to LISHA for this honour.



Deepavali greetings to all from the SIOC Team!

Deepavali programme on Vasantham



The SIOC choir presented a set of beautiful Carnatic songs on Lord Rama and Lord Krishna, in keeping with the theme of Deepavali, in Vasantham's 'Raagangal Palavitham' show on 24th Oct, and won many positive reviews.

Missed it on TV? Watch it here:

<https://www.mewatch.sg/episode/Raagangal-Palavitham-Holiday-Specials-E1-324572>



Swaramala

Soundbytes from SIOC

Nov 2022

Acharya Ratna for SIOC's Smt Lalitha Vaidyanathan

Page 10 October 7, 2022 tabla!

S'pore music conductor awarded Acharya Ratna

Mrs Lalitha Vaidyanathan, the founding director and music conductor at Singapore Indian Orchestra and Choir (SIOC), has become the first Singaporean to receive the prestigious Acharya Ratna award.

Handed out by the Academy of Indian Music and Arts (AIMA), which was founded in 1984 by legendary musician T.V. Gopalakrishnan, the award honours Indian classical musicians who serve the art selflessly and tirelessly to leave a significant mark. Mrs Vaidyanathan received the award from Dr Gopalakrishnan, 90, on Sept 17 in Chennai (right) for her significant contributions to the Indian art in Singapore through SIOC and propagating the beauty of Indian music globally via SIOC's international tours.

"The award is a recognition of almost four decades of tireless service to music and spreading the love and appreciation of Indian music in the community," she said. "I feel extremely humbled to receive the award and such recognition make my journey more fulfilling.

"I feel very proud that I was able to place Singapore on the global map of Acharya Ratna awardees and help the world see how we are continuing to nurture the art in Singapore while bringing unique Singapore flavours to attract global audiences."

SIOC is a 37-year-old performing arts group and one of the world's largest semi-professional groups showcasing the richness of Indian music with its wide range of traditional and contemporary repertoire.



PHOTO: SIOC

Under the baton of Mrs Vaidyanathan, it has redefined the boundaries of Indian music through exciting collaborations with leading local and international composers as well as bringing the multiracial cultural vibrancy that Singapore is known for to the local audience.

Despite Covid-19 constraints, SIOC has kept its audience engagement intact through many interesting shows.

In early-2021, it launched a five-part series Panchamam on its digital channel. In November that year, it performed a full-length concert Athma Ghanam at Esplanade.

Early this year, SIOC released a three-part digital series, Trilogy, in

commemoration of the Tamil Language Festival. SIOC also collaborated with the Indian Heritage Centre to release a dance-and-music production to celebrate Tamil New Year.

Just in August, SIOC collaborated with Bollywood music directors Salim-Sulaiman to perform at the sold-out Aashvayin show at Esplanade.

SIOC will also perform at the Esplanade's Kala Utsavam next month.

"SIOC is now operating as an independent performing arts company and looks forward to expanding the horizons of its music contributions through both local and international stage performances and digital channels," said Mrs Vaidyanathan.

V.K. Santosh Kumar



We are so incredibly proud to share that Smt Lalitha Vaidyanathan, SIOC's founding director and music conductor, has become the first Singaporean to receive the prestigious Acharya Ratna award, for her significant contributions to Indian art in Singapore through SIOC and propagating the beauty of Indian music globally via SIOC's international tours. Handed out by the Academy of Indian Music and Arts (founded by legendary musician TV Gopalakrishnan), the award honours Indian classical musicians who serve the art selflessly and tirelessly to leave a significant mark.

"The award is a recognition of almost four decades of tireless service to music and spreading the love and appreciation of Indian music in the community," she said. "I feel very proud that I was able to place Singapore on the global map of Acharya Ratna awardees and help the world see how we are continuing to nurture the art in Singapore while bringing unique Singapore flavours to attract global audiences."

She was featured for this accolade in both the Tabla and Tamil Murasu newspapers.

Read the full article here:

<https://www.tamilmurasu.com.sg/tabla/singapore/spore-music-conductor-awarded-acharya-ratna>





Swaramala

Soundbytes from SIOC

Nov 2022

'Aashayein' : Salim-Sulaiman Live with the SIOC



'Aashayein' (produced by Arte Compass, Action Replay and Zee TV Asia Pacific) saw SIOC team up for a novel collaboration with the internationally acclaimed brothers Salim and Sulaiman, who are leading music composers in Bollywood. They were accompanied by versatile singers Bhoomi Trivedi, Raj Pandit and Vipul Mehta, and a fantastic band that flew in all the way from India. Over 20 Singapore-based musicians from SIOC performed in the show, led by SIOC Founder and Conductor Smt Lalitha Vaidyanathan who was ably assisted by Smt Bharati Murali.



The show played to a full house at the Esplanade Theatre on 13th August, mesmerising the audience with soulful songs, and bringing them to their feet with foot-tapping numbers. Among the highlights were the SIOC choir winning hearts with "Singapura, Sunny Island" in English, Tamil, Mandarin and Malay, and Salim-Sulaiman bringing the show to a rousing finale with the immensely popular "Chak De India". The magical evening of soulful and rocking music, added yet another glorious feather in the SIOC cap.



The show was attended by several high-profile guests, including the High Commissioner of India, High Commissioner of India, His Excellency P. Kumaran who hosted SIOC at India House, on the occasion of India's 75th Independence Day celebrations.



Swaramala

Soundbytes from SIOC

Nov 2022

SIOC Pioneers in the Spotlight :

Dr Bhagya Murthy

My musical journey as a vocalist and trainer in PA started way back in 80s. I feel proud and happy to share my cherished memories during my association with SIOC.

To begin with, it was a bit of challenge to sing in different keys (*shruthi*) with the orchestra, although enjoyable. I was blessed to be guided by legendary stalwarts (*Vidwans*) - Shri L Vydyanathan, Shri L Subramanyam, Shri TV Gopalakrishnan, Shri Rajakumar Bharathi and Shri Mohan Vaidya - with their compositions. Learning different genre of music in different languages - Chinese, Malay, Japanese and English - was an added experience.

It was thrilling to represent Singapore through SIOC in many significant cultural programmes and music festivals overseas, besides local stage performances at community centres, Radio & TV programmes and lecture-demos at universities, not forgetting the ever-memorable mega productions “Reflections” in Singapore and “Samarpanam” in India. It was all made possible by the intense practice sessions, rehearsals under the able guidance of our well-known leader *Vidushi* Smt Lalitha Vaidyanathan, and our renowned great keyboardist and guitarist *Vidwan* Shri Radhavijayan, who introduced the choir concept and western music system. An audio album created by the members of SIOC was another great achievement.

It gives me great pleasure to have served SIOC for 15 years. My humble *pranams* to all the PA staff & members, co-artists and heartfelt gratitude to SIOC which has created many versatile vocalists like me, recognised and rewarded them.



- Dr Bhagya Murthy

Dr. Bhagya, well known for her versatility and talent in Indian classical, semi-classical and light music, has performed extensively in Singapore and overseas. Her melodious voice has headlined numerous music concerts, temple festivals and contemporary shows, and supported over 400 dance *arangetrams*. She has also composed music for stage shows, and is a much sought-after Guru for vocal music training. Dr Bhagya is the recipient of several prestigious awards and titles, including an honorary doctorate, for her accomplishments.





Swaramala

Soundbytes from SIOC

Nov 2022

Upcoming programmes

The SIOC choir is excited to collaborate with IndianRaga Singapore to present a choral treat at the **National Museum of Singapore** for a special Deepavali programme on **12th Nov**, presenting a demo of Carnatic music basics, followed by an Acappella rendition.

The SIOC choir will also be performing on **21st Nov** on the **Esplanade Concourse** stage, as part of Kalaa Utsavam 2022. Drop in for a rousing Acappella rendition.



Meanwhile, the SIOC Youth Wing is taking wing... and excitedly preparing for its debut on 5th Feb 2023 at the OTH Theatre.

Watch this space for more details!

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





Swaramala

Soundbytes from SIOC

Nov 2022

**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)