



Swaramala

Soundbytes from SIOC

July 2023

SIYOC poised to flow with “Isai Sangamam”

After the wonderful response to their inaugural concert, “Gaanaprakasham... A Vibrant New Dawn”, the SIYOC is raring to explore more musical adventures.

With the vision of grooming the SIYOC to take forward the SIOC senior choir’s rich legacy of nearly 200 repertoire pieces, Founder-Conductor and Artistic Director, Smt Lalitha Vaidyanathan and her team have begun training the youngsters in a few exquisite items that are sure to challenge and expand their performance capabilities. These will be presented by the SIYOC in a concert titled “Isai Sangamam... Musical Confluence”.



In this concert, a follow-up to their debut, the youth will present some timeless gems from SIOC’s bespoke repertoire, while showcasing their own musical growth through some classical and complex pieces. To challenge them, Smt Lalitha has infused some of the legacy pieces with a fresh contemporary touch, through multi-ethnic elements that are a signature of SIOC’s exciting music.

“Isai Sangamam” (Musical Confluence) concert by SIYOC on Saturday, 16th September 2023 @ Republic Poly. Please follow our FB page for further announcements & tickets.

Join us!

The Singapore Indian Orchestra and Choir and the Singapore Indian Youth Orchestra and Choir, SIOC’s youth wing, were formed specifically with a motive to nurture both the current and next generation of artists to perform in an orchestra and choir ensemble.

Join us as we look to expand the teams and build on our rich musical legacy.

Details on the next [page](#).

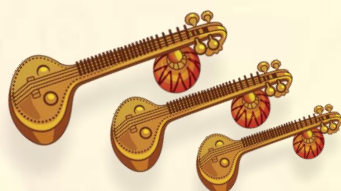




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The team is looking for good talents to recruit, for an upcoming show in September showcasing the youth wing (SIYOC) as well as for a major show in 2024, where you can experience a whole new way of enthralling our audiences through unique orchestra and choir compositions. Members will be trained and have opportunities to regularly perform with the group, in both local and international performances!!!

Criteria for Application:

1. Artists need to have completed at least 4 to 5 years of formal musical training and the team is currently looking for Drummers (Mridangam, Ganjira, Tabla, Ghatam and Ganjira), Vocals (both male and female), Veena, Violin, Sitar, Keyboard and Flute. Should you be proficient in any other discipline, please do reach out and we will see how to take it forward.
2. Artists should also commit to at least 2 hours of practice every week to learn and perfect our musical compositions.

If you are keen to be part of this team, please do register via this form and we will get back to you as soon as possible on next steps-

<https://docs.google.com/.../1FAIpQLScL.../viewform>

Find out more about the team at <https://www.sioc.com.sg>





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A Musical Offering to the Gods



SIOC and SIYOC's spectacular temple concert hit all the divine notes, as they each presented beautiful devotional and classical songs as part of Sri Mariamman Temple's Mandalabhishekam celebrations, on Sunday 12th March 2023.

The programme drew a full house. The senior choir paid obeisance to the entire pantheon of Gods, with the invocatory *Vinaayakane* and *Devi Neeye Thunai*, and the evergreen kritis *Mamavathu Sri Saraswati*, *Sri Chakra Raja*, *Ranjanimala* ragamalika, *Kanchadayaladakshi*, and the rousing *Bho Shambo*.



In their first public performance after their debut concert, the youth choir regrouped in nearly full strength to give an energetic performance, with a Pancharatna medley, a Ramar Bhajan and a scintillating Dwijawanti Thillana. A peaceful devotional vibe pervaded the hall as they concluded with *Oli Padaitha Kanninai* and the Shanthi Mantra.





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SIOC's Tribute to Singapore



The talented choral team of SIOC and SIYOC (conducted by Smt Vicknesvari Vadivalagan) enthralled the audience at the inauguration of the Indian Performing Arts Convention (IPAC) 2023, on 17th June, at the Goodman Arts Centre. The IPAC is presented annually by Apsaras Arts Dance Company since 2012, to inspire practicing artistes of Indian classical music and dance in Asia Pacific.

SIOC presented “A Journey of Dreams”, a choral treat that brought to life the journey of Indian immigrants to Singapore, in the context of Singapore’s transition from a fishing village to a vibrant island-nation. The SIOC team strung together a garland of mellifluous presentations in the Acapella style that blends the best of Indian classical and folk music with western choral techniques. This is a feature that has been pioneered by SIOC in Singapore and has become a much-appreciated hallmark of our concerts. Befitting the theme, not only were the songs – *Kadalin Meethu Vazhvu Thedi*, *Manathil Uruthi Vendum*, *Kuyil* - in Tamizh, one of Singapore’s 4 official languages, they were composed by Shri Radha Vijayan with choral arrangements by Smt Vicknesvari, both Singaporean Indians. The concert took the theme to a perfect finale by celebrating the multicultural heritage of our beloved country with the well-loved local song, *Singapura*.

This presentation was part of SIOC’s free community concert series supported by Temasek Foundation.





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Member in the Spotlight

**Shri Shankar Rajan,
Musician & Musicologist,
SIOC Stalwart**



Shri Shankar Rajan is a traditionally trained Carnatic vocalist and mridangist. Born into a family of musicians, Shankar also married into a family of musicians. His late wife Saradha was a trained Carnatic vocalist and a prolific radio and television artiste in Singapore. Their 2 sons Sreekanth and Jaikanth, both graduates of Singapore Indian Fine Arts Society, continue the family legacy. Sree is a singer and mridangist while Jai is a violinist. All 4 performed in the Singapore Indian Orchestra and Choir (SIOC) for several years.

Over the last 45 years Shri Shankar has contributed to Singapore's arts scene in multi-faceted roles. He is a pioneer member of the SIOC, he has served the National Arts Council and National Youth Council in various capacities, and he was Deputy General Manager of the Centre for The Arts, National University of Singapore. During his 2 distinguished terms totalling over 8 years as Principal of the prestigious Singapore Indian Fine Arts Society (SIFAS), Shankar gained a reputation for training several hundred students and for achieving recognition for the SIFAS diploma from Kalakshetra Foundation Chennai and the Universities of Madras and Delhi. He also co-authored a book "Kala Manjari" showcasing 50 years of Indian Classical Music and Dance in Singapore, in conjunction with Singapore's 50 Anniversary of Independence in 2015.

Together with his late wife Smt Saradha Shankar, he was awarded the "Singai - Gamma" Award (1992) and the Veteran Musicians Award (2004). For his contributions to the Indian arts in Singapore, Shankar was honoured by Global Arts and Talents as a Pioneer Musician (2010), and by the Kannada Sangha Singapore with the title "Singara Purandara Puraskara". In 2012, "Sudesi", a noted Tamil magazine in India, honoured him with the "Visishta" Award.

At SIOC, Shankar has been a leading light, organising and performing in concerts in Singapore, Malaysia, India, Philippines, Australia, Hong Kong, China and Portugal.

Shankar is a graduate of the University of Singapore and a qualified financial adviser. But family is ultimately the most important aspect of his life - not only his own family but also the music families of SIOC and SIFAS. In short, Shankar lives and breathes music!



- compiled by Bhanu
with inputs from Shri Shankar Rajan



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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 watch 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, Ranjani, Deepak (Advisors)