



Swaramala

Soundbytes from SIOC

Dec 2023

SIYOC raises the bar with 'Sangamam'

The SIYOC presented their second concert 'Sangamam - A Musical Confluence' on 16 September at the Republic Polytechnic Cultural Centre, to a rapt and appreciative audience. Presenting a curated set of vibrant musical pieces, embellished by multi-ethnic musical and dance elements, the SIYOC put up an outstanding show.



The event was graced by Guest of Honour, Mr Eric Chua, Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Community & Youth and Ministry of Social & Family Development, Advisor to Tanjong Pagar GRC (Queenstown), and our special guest, HE Dr Shilpak Ambule, High Commissioner of India to Singapore.

Among the highlights of the show was a special finale tribute to our founding father, Mr Lee Kuan Yew, on the occasion of his 100th birth anniversary. The SIYOC presented a birthday song in the popular tune of "Singapura, Oh Singapura", bringing overwhelming cheer and joy to our audience. Truly a moment to cherish for the SIYOC.

We thank the audience and all our supporters and patrons for your constant and generous support to these budding musicians. Check out a review on [page 4](#).

Music Appreciation Workshop

SIOC & SIYOC conducted "Scales & Rhythms", a special music appreciation workshop, on 11 September. The workshop, which was very well-received, showcased different instruments and how they join in harmony to bring out the unique flavours of Indian Classical music.





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Youthful Digital Gems



On the auspicious festive day of Ganesh Chaturthi on 18 September, we were delighted to launch the first digital production of our youth wing SIYOC. The SIYOC were privileged to record a rare and catchy Thillana in the captivating Dwijavanthi raagam, composed by maestro Dr L Subramaniam specially for SIOC. The *charanam* of the Thillana appeals to the ever-compassionate guardian of the world, the Elephant God Ganesha, to bless us all.

Enjoy this digital production on our YouTube channel <https://youtu.be/1acGcT95aMA>.

SIOC in the Heartlands

November 2023 was an eventful month for our youth wing, as the SIYOC presented two community concerts, as part of the Deepavali celebrations. The two free concerts brought a potpourri of classical and contemporary music to music-lovers in the heartlands, at Our Tampines Hub Festive Plaza (18 Nov) and Wisma Geylang Serai (26 Nov). There is more to come in the Heartland series, at a location near you!



Collaborations

SIOC was thrilled to be part of the Gardens By The Bay and Mediacorp National Day concert on 5 August 2023, at the Meadow, the Gardens' largest event venue, with our musicians Madhavan on the veena and Abhinav on the table featuring in the opening act.

SIOC was happy to collaborate with the Queenstown Indian Activity Executive Committee (IAEC) as part of the Queenstown Interfaith Dialogue - Faithful Melodies on 29 July 2023, showcasing the spirit of music beyond boundaries.



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Making music in the recording studio



Our musicians are working hard in the studio to bring you musical gems that you can enjoy any place any time.



Grand Concert Alert!

SIOC is excited to collaborate with acclaimed violinist, Kalaimamani Sri Embar Kannan, for our upcoming March 2024 concert. We are privileged to be performing two of his beautiful bespoke compositions in the concert, and it was enriching to rehearse with him during his surprise visit to us in early October.



SIOC has always been noted for our collaborations with international and local composers. For this concert, we also have bespoke compositions on novel themes being created for SIOC by stalwart composers Shri Rajhesh Vaidhya of India and Shri Lazar Thurakkal Sebastine of Singapore.

Plus, we will be bringing out some rare gems from our legacy repertoire.

Watch this space for more details on the March 2024 show!





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'Sangamam' – A Musical Confluence *A Rasika Reviews*



After the brilliant inaugural concert by SIYOC in March this year, we were indeed looking forward to more. So Saturday's (16 Sept 2023) concert, Sangamam, held at the Republic Cultural Centre featuring the SIYOC once again, was indeed a treat.

Aunty Lalitha (Mrs Lalitha Vaidyanathan) founder and creative director who has held the reins of the Singapore Indian Orchestra and Choir (SIOC) for over 30 years, never fails to amaze with her enthusiasm and energy. It is heartening to see how she and her team are so invested in nurturing young talents, providing them with platforms to hone their skills. Yesterday's repertoire was a treat; underpinned by Indian classicism yet eclectic, incorporating not just diverse music from around the world but also a special Bharatanatyam / Flamenco dance feature beautifully performed and choreographed by Shreya Murthy and Ms Daphne.

Mrs Lalitha (with her Singaporean roots), and her team truly have a pulse on what Singapore stands for, their music reflecting the unique harmony in diversity that is Singapore. It was heartwarming to say the least, to see youngsters immersed in the classical arts, so passionately giving their all and delivering such an excellent performance.

Congratulations to the entire team - Mrs Lalitha, Mrs Vicknesvari Vadivalagan, Deepak Iyer, Ranjani Rangan, Godha, and many more, and congratulations to our young performers! Look forward to more offerings by the SIOC and SIYOC.

- By **Lalitha Venketasubramanian** (Dancer, Dance Guru at SIFAS, Rasika)



For those who missed the show, you can catch a summary on *Thalam Indian Beat* Episode 29, at this link: <https://www.mewatch.sg/season/Indian-Beat-S14-367993>



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Member in the Spotlight

Shri Ramalingam Guhan, Tabla & Mridangam artiste, SIOC Stalwart



Ramalingam Guhan, known simply as **Guhan**, was born in Singapore in March 1978 as the youngest of 10 children in a renowned musical family. His late father Pandit M Ramalingam, an accomplished singer, musician, composer and theatre actor, was a pioneer of Indian classical music and a polyglot who championed Singapore as a classical music centre.

Guhan's music was influenced not only by his father, but also by his brother Ganamoorthy, a violinist and mridangist, and sister Yogeswari, a veena teacher. Guhan started learning tabla under Shri C.R.S. Mani, a temple musician, at the age of 10 and eventually performed his arangetram. Subsequently, Guhan trained under Shri Ketar Singh, and later (on a National Arts Council sponsorship) under an AIR artiste from India.

Subsequently, Guhan went on to perform both tabla and mridangam in over 300 concerts in temples and on the Esplanade stage. He also played on mixed stages with the Satyalingams, other leading Singapore dance and music exponents, with the SIOC which he joined in 1985, the Singapore Symphony Orchestra and the Singapore Chinese Orchestra. Guhan's forte in percussion was instrumental in several of SIOC's overseas concerts such as the choir performance in Portugal and the Chingay Parade in Hongkong. Among his other memorable performances with the SIOC are the background score for the silent movie, Taj Mahal, which received excellent feedback from the audience, and a performance in the presence of the legendary Dr Balamuralikrishna.

Guhan has a noble message for young musicians – “explore both vocal music and multiple instruments and learn well”.

Guhan belongs to an exclusive group of musicians who have held centrestage in Carnatic music in Singapore for over 4 decades. For his achievements in the field of Indian music and his invaluable contributions to SIOC, we have the honour of recognising him as PIONEER EXTRAORDINAIRE.

- compiled by Bhanu





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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/>



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