



Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo
presents

SRI THYAGARAJA AARADHANA

Festival of Carnatic Music - Rendering of Thyagaraja Keerthanams



ALL ARE CORDIALLY INVITED

at 5.00pm On Friday 16th February 2018

at Saraswathie Hall, No.75, Lorensz Road, Bambalapitiya, Colombo 04.

Rehearsals will be held on 14th & 15th February 2018 at 4.00 pm at Saraswathie Hall

Registration: 011 2684698 / 2684697 Email: iccrcolombo2@gmail.com

Supported by



Hindu Educational
Society

Cultural Calendar - February 2018

7
Wednesday
7.30 pm

Music Beyond Borders

A concert transcending barriers bringing together musicians from India and Sri Lanka

Pianist featuring Marialena Fernandes

Conductor Viswa Subbaraman

Venue: Ladies' College Hall, Colombo 07

(Tickets and box plan at Lionel Wendt from 22nd January 2018)

Sri Thyagaraja Aaradhana - Festival of Carnatic Music

Venue: Saraswathie Hall, No.75, Lorensz Road,
Bambalapitiya, Colombo 04

All musicians are welcome to participate

Rehearsals will be held on 14th & 15th February 2018
at 4.00 p.m)

16
Friday
5.00 pm

Friday matinee

Hindi Film - Jolly LLB

(with English subtitles. Duration: 2hrs 10 mins)

Director & Writer: Mr. Subhash Kapoor

Cast: Arshad Warsi, Boman Irani, Amrita Rao & Saurabh Shukla

Venue: ICC Auditorium

23
Friday
3.00 pm

Talk on Vaastu Sastra - "Home décor for prosperity"

By S.B.S.Surendran from India

Venue: ICC Auditorium

27
Tuesday
6.00 pm

Programmes subject to change
Admission to all programmes are on first come first serve basis. Except 7th of Jan.
All are cordially invited



Sanskarika

Newsletter of the Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo

February 2018



The UNESCO list of Intangible Cultural Heritage elements of India

At the 2003 UNESCO Convention, an important observation was provided a platform- the elements of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH). These were identified as “the practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, skills as well as the instruments, objects, artifacts and cultural spaces associated therewith- that communities, groups and in some cases, individuals recognised as part of their cultural heritage”. To preserve these oral traditions, meant an active participation of various states and countries, communities, groups and relevant non-governmental organisations. Over the years, this has helped to create not only a platform of international recognition on a global platform, but also been a great incentive for safeguarding the ICH even at regional and local levels as well as help to create and encourage cultural entrepreneurship and jobs. Over the last decade, India has successfully featured on the ICH UNESCO list.

Kumbh Mela (2017)

The festival of the Sacred Pitcher- this is the largest peaceful congregation of pilgrims in the world- comprising of ascetics, saints, aspirants-kalpavasis and visitors- without any barriers of caste, creed or religion. Held every four years by rotation at Allahabad, Haridwar, Ujjain and Nasik- it witnesses the congregation taking a dip or bathing in the waters of the Holy Ganga

(Ganges) with a believe to cleanse off mortal sins and obtain relieve from the cycle of birth and death. The event encapsulates specific knowledge about oral traditions and history and the science of astronomy, astrology, spirituality, ritualistic traditions, and social and cultural customs and practices.

Yoga (2016)

A well-known practice today and the world over- the concept of Yoga cuts across all geographical, race, age, religious, political, gender barriers. It is considered that its formation took place through the 196 sutras (aphorisms) of the Yoga Sutra Sanskrit text of the ancient Indian scholar- Patanjali (prior to 400 BCE). Having being translated across many languages all over the world, this is considered to be one of the principal foundations of classical Yoga philosophy. Indian Yoga ideals have also been influenced by The Bhagavad Gita, Yoga Vasistha texts attributed to Yajnavalkya and Hiranyagarbha, as well as literature on Hatha Yoga, Tantric Yoga and Pashupata Yoga.

Traditional brass and copper craft of utensil making- among the Thatheras of Jandiala Guru, Punjab (2014)-

Thatheras make utensils from metals (brass, copper and certain alloys) by hand- which are exported to various temples and Gurdwaras all over the world. The manual labour-intensive manufacturing process involves

working under very high heat from the very first stage of moulding the metal plates to the final stages of polishing with tamarind juice and sand.

Sankirtana - ritual singing drumming and dancing (Manipur) (2013)-

These are ritualistic dance performances amidst the Vaishnava community of the Manipur plains of North-east India that narrates the mythological stories of Krishna and his deeds as a human on earth. The long performances involve rigorous training and are considered very sacrosanct and are deeply moving.

Recitation of Buddhist texts (Ladakh region, Jammu and Kashmir) (2012)

This represents the sacred texts, spirit, philosophy and teachings of Lord Buddha. The forms of Buddhism practiced in Ladakh are- Mahayana and Vajrayana. This has four major sects- Nyingma, Kagyud, Shakya and Geluk. Several ritual chantings are performed on important days in the Buddhist and agrarian calendars and the process followed include special bells, drums, cymbals, trumpets, special robes, maintaining rhythm.

- Chhau dance (West Bengal) (2010),
- Kalbelia folk songs, dances (Rajasthan) (2010),
- Mudi yettu- ritual theatre, dance drama (Kerala) (2010)

Chhau dance (West Bengal)

A masked dance, it is traditionally performed by men- enacting episodes from Ramayana and Mahabharata and is traditionally performed during Spring festival- the Bengali traditional New Year in April (14/15). It incorporates folk dances,

mock combat techniques, stylised gaits of animals and birds, movements of village housewives.

Kalbelia folk songs, dances (Rajasthan)

This is also known as the snake charmers dance- performed traditionally by the women in flowing skirts, accompanied by musical instruments- ‘phoonji’ (wind instrument) and ‘khanjari’ (hand-held cymbals). The music has evolved to express their everyday life, environments around them, happiness.

Mudi yettu- ritual theatre, dance drama (Kerala)

The performance celebrates the victory of Goddess Kali over demon Darika and seeks blessings of the Goddess after summer harvest is completed. It begins with the drawing of a massive image of Goddess Kali on the floor (rangoli/kalam or design on the floor using coloured powder) before performance and incorporates the sense of a collective participation.

- Novruz- India- along with other countries like- Azerbaijan, Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Turkey and Uzbekistan (2009),
- Ramman- festival & ritual theatre (Garhwal-Himalayas) (2009)

Novruz- India- along with other countries like- Azerbaijan, Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Turkey and Uzbekistan

Celebrated as a spring festival to welcome a new year, the word Nav mean New and Roz means Day. It marks the 1st day of the Spring Equinox and the beginning of the traditional New Year (around March

21 every year). It is believed to have its roots in ancient Persia (550-330 BCE) since Achaemedians and pays respect to nature in return

Ramman- festival & ritual theatre (Garhwal-Himalayas)

Also a spring festival- this is performed annually in April in Saloor Village in Uttarakhand (North India)- honouring Bhumiya Devta. It honours the productive powers of the earth through the performance of The Ramayana through masked dances. Local legends are performed called as ‘Jagar’ which includes the participation of the entire society.

- Kutiyattam- Sanskrit theatre (across India) (2008),
- Ramlila- the traditional performance of The Ramayana, (across India) (2008),
- Tradition of Vedic chanting (across India) (2008)

Kutiyattam - Sanskrit theatre (across India)

Considered the oldest surviving theatre performance (having its origin more than 2000 yrs ago), this synthesises Sanskrit and local traditions. The eye gestures (netra abhinaya) and hand gestures (hast abhinaya) are very prominent- coupled with sophisticated breathing techniques for swift muscle movements of face and body. Qualified actors undergo 10-15 yrs of rigorous training and the elaborate play lasts upto even 40 days. It begins by lighting a lamp to signify the divine presence.

Ramlila- the traditional performance of The Ramayana, (across India)

A ritualistic performance of the

story of the great Indian epic- The Ramayana- it follows the final draft of the play- “Ramcharitmanas”- from 16th century by poet Tulsidas. The play is performed without any props, set design and mostly in open air. Over the years, Ramlila performances have been incorporated in various countries all over the world- including various parts of South Asia- e.g. Thailand, Cambodia, etc.

-Tradition of Vedic chanting (across India)

This incorporates the expression of the powers of mind and memory through the preservation of the four Vedas- RgVeda (anthology of sacred hymns), SamaVeda (speaks of various musical arrangements of hymns from the RgVeda and other sources), YajurVeda (prayers and sacrificial formulae used for various rites and rituals) and AtharvaVeda (Incantations, spells, well-being chants- beginning of the use of plants for medicinal purposes). The method of learning has followed the sacrosanct power of ‘Smriti’ (memory) and ‘Sruti’ (hearing) for more than 3,500 yrs. From over 1000 Vedic recitation branches- only 13 survives in present India- noted are the ones in Maharashtra (West India), Kerala and Karnataka (South India) and Orissa (East India).



By **Dr. Lopamudra Maitra Bajpai**
Visual Anthropologist (specialisation in Intangible Cultural Heritage, history and popular culture)