

L. Subramaniam, Kavitha to perform in NY on Dec 9

PRAKASH M SWAMY

NEW YORK

Internationally renowned violin maestro Padma Bhushan Dr. L. Subramaniam and his wife Kavita Krishnamurti Subramaniam, an accomplished Bollywood playback and Hindustani classical music singer, will present a grand concert for South Asian Music and Arts Association on Dec 9 in New York City.

India's violin icon is a child prodigy and was given the title Violin Chakravarty (emperor of the violin), Grammy nominated, winner Dr Subramaniam has scored for films like Salaam Bombay and Mississippi Masala, featured soloist for Little Buddha and Cotton Mary of Merchant-Ivory Productions.

He has worked with western musicians like Yehudi Menuhin, Steven Seagal, Herbie Hancock, Joe Sample, Stanley Clarke, Stephane Grappelli, George Duke, Al Jarreau, Jean Luc Ponty and Earl Klugh, lary Corryell, Corky Siegel, Tony Williams, Billy



(Left) Violin maestro L Subramaniam with wife-singer Kavita Krishnamurti

Cobham, John Surnam, Maynard Ferguson and Ravi Coltrane. The albums, Conversations and Fantasy on Vedic Chants have become milestones and serve as a guide for any composer exploring the concept of fusion.

He is the only musician who has performed/recorded/composed Carnatic classical as well as western classical both Orchestral and non-orchestral. He has created and written for world's greatest orchestras The

New York Philharmonic Orchestra and Zubin Mehta's Fantasy of Vedic Chants, the Swiss Romande Orchestra Turbulence, the Kirov Ballet Shanti Priya, the Oslo Philharmonic Orchestra the Concerto for Two Violins, the Berlin Opera Global Symphony. His compositions have been used in various stage presentations including San Jose Ballet Company and Alvin Ailey Company.

Kavita Krishnamurti Subramaniam is a famous playback singer, trained in Hindustani classical music and a winner of Padmashri award. A versatile singer who has sung with Indian classical maestros like Pandit Jasraj and BalaMurali Krishna, while also worked with music composers like R. D Burman and A. R Rahman.

Her album Global Fusion released by Warner Bros where she was the main featured soloist with Dr L Subramaniam was a critically acclaimed milestone. It featured artists from five continents. Although primarily a playback singer, she has sung with many orchestras as a soloist. She has performed at Royal Albert Hall

in London, The Kennedy Center in Washington DC, The Lincoln Center in New York, Madison Square Garden, Zhongshan Music hall in Beijing, The Esplanade in Singapore, etc.

Few of her famous songs are from movies 1942: A love Story, Mr India, Bombay, Hum dil de chuke sanam, Dil Chahta Hai, Kabhi Khushi Kabhi Gam.

The event will be held at NYU Skirball auditorium in Washington Square in New York.

According to Simmi Bhatia, executive director SAMAA (South Asian Music and Arts Association) is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting quality music and arts from South Asia through live performances, education and advocacy.

"Changing times demand diverse and innovative approach to spreading the music of the great artists of today and yesteryears. Our goal is to keep alive the music for the future generation through classical, semi-classical, folk, sufi and jazz concerts. It aims to spread the music and arts from South Asia to the western world".

Take advantage of Govt's FDI initiative: Ahamed

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Non-resident Indians and Persons of Indian Origin should take complete advantage of foreign direct investment (FDI) initiatives of the Government of India, said E. Ahamed, Minister of State for External Affairs.



Minister Ahamed flanked by Dharmendra Yadav and Prabhu Dayal. - Photo by Prakash M Swamy

Addressing a reception hosted by the Consul General Ambassador Prabhu Dayal at the New India House ballroom, the Minister who is leading an Indian delegation to the United Nations General Assembly session praised the contribution of Indian-Americans in their chosen field and said they bring laurels to the US and honor to India with their dedication. "They have to invest their resources and skills in India."

Expressing his happiness at the comfortable life led by the Indian-American community, the Minister hoped to see a similar standard of life in India in the near future.

He said India's foreign policy was dictated by national interest and there are bound to be differences even with friendly countries like the US in issues such as Myanmar on which India differed with the US.

Complementing the Indian Foreign Service officers for their acumen and foresightedness in chalking out India's foreign policy, he said that having been associated with the Ministry of External Affairs and working closely with these officers for long years, he has complete faith in their competence and com-

mitment.

The Minister during his speech thanked Ambassador Dayal for hosting the grand reception and providing him an opportunity to meet and interact with the vibrant Indian-American community. Echoing Ambassador Dayal's words, Ahamed said that he had known Ambassador Dayal for over 25 years even while he was a Member of Parliament and had always remained in close contact with him.

Dharmendra Yadav, the youngest Member of Parliament from Uttar Pradesh and belong to Samajwadi Party who had addressed the United Nations in Hindi earlier in the day, spoke in Hindi expressing his happiness on given a chance to speak in Hindi at the UN.

Welcoming the Minister, Prabhu Dayal said that he is privileged to have known him from the early 90s and has since then been in contact with him during his earlier assignments in Kuwait, Dubai, Morocco, etc.

Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, deputy permanent representative of India to the UN and others attended the gala dinner event.

Kamala Lakshman to perform in New York on November 24

PRAKASH M SWAMY

NEW YORK

One of the greatest exponents of Bharathanatyam and considered a living legend Padma Bhushan Kamala Lakshman is to give a dance performance in New York on Nov 24.

Sri Bharatha Kamalalaya, the dance school of the renowned guru, is to present a dance drama on Lord Rama "Jaya Jaya Sree Rama" with live orchestra at PS 115 Auditorium, 80-51 261st Street, Floral Park, Queens, at 3:30 PM.

Kamala Lakshman Narayan is among the important iconic figures in dance in modern India. After Balasaraswati and Rukmini Devi Arundale, it was Kamala who was responsible for making Sadir the national art of Bharatanatyam. The leading exponent of the Vazhuvoor bani of Bharatanatyam, she has been associated with the dance scene for over six decades.

At age 78, Guru Kamala will be giving a special performance in the show. Guru Kamala's students will be participating in the drama such as Pooja Aier from Westchester will be playing the role of Rama, Shreya Desikan as Lakshmana, Komal Keerthy as Sage Viswamitra, Ambika Venkatakrishnan as King Janaka and Pallavi Moorthy will be playing the role of Sita in the drama. Rucha Acharya will be



Bharathanatyam exponent Kamala Lakshman

playing the role of Ravana.

Planned as a tribute to the living legend, in addition to the dance drama, Mala Desai and dancers will be performing a Odissi piece; guru Sadhana Paranjani and her students from Sadhanalaya School of Dance will be performing in Kuchipudi; and Sowmya Viswanath of Kathak Ensemble & friends will do a number in Kathak.

According to the organizers, delicious Indian snacks and dinner will be available at the venue. The last time Kamala presented this drama was some 25 years ago in New York.

She literally took Bharathanatyam to the silver screen, and still brings a misty eyed look to the eye of the rasika. 'Kottu Murase' you can hear them think, 'Naadhar mudi mel irukkum nagapaambe.' And she is still the sprightly, beautiful 'Kumari' Kamala to them.

Kamala belongs to the Vazhuvoor style and was a disciple of Kattumannar Kovil Muthuku-

marappa Pillai in Bharathanatyam. She started learning Kathak when she was 5 years old at Bombay. Later she shone as a Bharathanatyam artiste, whose dance sequences in Tamil films like 'Naam Iruvar', were a vehicle for patriotic messages during the freedom struggle.

The foremost exponent of the Vazhuvoor tradition of Bharata Natyam Kamala is the ideal combination of Dancer and Guru. Her career in dancing has been a long and illustrious one. She has performed extensively in India and abroad, serving as cultural ambassador of international acclaim. She performed at the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953 and enthralled many dignitaries including Jawaharlal Nehru, S. Radhakrishnan, President Eisenhower, Prime Minister Chau Enlai and Marshal Tito, and the King of Jordan.

She established a dance school, "Sri Bharata Kamalalaya."

Kamala has more than 120 compositions of her own covering the entire margam and including several dance-dramas. She has received many honours including the Kalai Sigamani title given by the Tamil Nadu Eyal Isai Nataka Manram in 1967, the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1968 and the Padma Bhushan in 1970.

An exemplary teacher, she conducts classes in New York and New Jersey, where she has introduced many fine young artistes to Bharata Natyam and given them a special appreciation of Indian culture. She is also an Adjunct Professor of Indian Classical Dance at the Center for India Studies, Stony Brook University. She teaches an undergraduate course in Bharatanatyam (Theatre 353) every fall.

