

GANESH KUMARESH



Introduction

Ganesh and Kumaresh – the violin duo, known as artists, musicians, performers, composers, directors, producers, researchers and teachers, consider themselves students of life and existence. They are on continuous search for comprehending the essential qualities of nature’s creative idioms by connecting to it seamlessly with their own inner creative resource. The brothers believe that musicians themselves need to redefine the art form by the mere force of intent, practice & surrender, rather than letting scholars do that.

The brothers, who are hailed as ‘Child Violin Prodigies’, gave their first public performance in the year 1972, when Ganesh was just 7 years and Kumaresh 5 years. Since then, the brothers have performed in different places in India and in a number of countries across the globe.

Ganesh Kumaresh have been the only violin duo to have performed for more than four decades together. The brothers have carved a niche for Indian instrumental music

with their impeccable and remarkable technique both in playing the instrument and in interpreting the musical forms. Their music is laden with virtuosity and brims with soul stirring creativity, soaked in classicism.

Trained by their father Shri T. S. Rajagopalan, a veteran violinist, Ganesh Kumaresh completed their hundredth stage appearance before the younger brother was ten years of age. By the time they were into their teens, they were performing with the veterans in the musical field.

Ganesh Kumaresh are today a much honored and widely traveled musical team. They have made inspirational and exhilarating forays into world music teaming up with such luminaries as Dr. Balamurali Krishna, Ustad Zakir Hussain, Vikku Vinayakaram, Late Valangaiman Shanmugasundaram, A R Rehman, John McLaughlin, Ilayaraja, Rajan Mishra, Sajan Mishra, Umalayapuram Sivaraman, Palghat Raghu, T K Murthy, Steve Thornton, Trilok Gurtu and the list is truly long.

Their deep-rooted strength in playing Carnatic Music in the traditional way has made them the favorites with the purists as well as the uninitiated. Their strict adherence to classicism and their virtuosity with an innovative approach in their presentation has earned the appreciation of thousands of music lovers across the globe. The brothers have given new dimensions to the realm of music and have brought out a refreshingly original content and style for this form of art. Having performed in several top notch global festivals, their creative idiom is international in nature and their communication through music crosses all boundaries. Their musical caliber is recognized worldwide. They have been responsible in making violin, which was all along considered a mere accompanying instrument, occupy the centre stage of a concert platform.

Distinctions Achieved and Awards and Honours Received

1. First and only violin duo to play and perform as violin duo and not as accompanists
2. Kalasigaram – 2020 by AKP Fine Arts, Chennai
3. Vocational Excellence Award – 2019 by Rotaty Club Madras East and Saraswathi Vidyalaya, Chennai
4. Lifetime Achievement Award for the year 2019 conferred by Karthik Fine Arts, Chennai
5. Sangeetha Vedantha Dhureena Award for the year 2019 instituted by Ramalalithakala Mandira, Bengaluru
6. Performed at the 70th Republic Day Funtion at Raj Bhavan, Chennai

7. Proclamation of “GANESH-KUMARESH DAY” by the City of Frisco on 21st April 2018
8. May 5th 2018 was declared as “GANESH-KUMARESH MUSICAL DAY” by Arizona, Tempe
9. Special recognition from the City of Plano, Texas
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11. Performed in Summermela, 2018, Rome, Italy
12. Maharajapuram Santhanam Memorial Award for the year 2017
13. K. Balachander rolling trophy For Artistic Excellence (Instituted by Kavithalaya Krishnan) for the year 2016
14. Academy of Music Chowdiah Award for the year 2016
15. Played a special concert to mark the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Polish Republic and the Republic of India.
16. Ganesh and Kumaresh represented the nation in the ASIA PACIFIC FESTIVAL – 2003, organized by Indian Centre for Cultural Relations – ICCR, in Berlin, Germany
17. Youngest violinists of Tamil Nadu Government’s KALAIMAMANI award (in the year 1997)
18. Youngest violin artists to be made as the ‘State Artistes of Tamil Nadu’ (in the year 1984) by the Government of Tamil Nadu.
19. Youngest Violin Artists to receive the “ A – TOP” rating by the All India Radio (in 1995)
20. Recipients of “Lifetime Achievement Award from Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Chennai” in the year 2012.
21. Their album “Aksharam” won the GIMA award for best Album in the year 2011 and is one of the largest selling albums of Carnatic Music.
22. Recipients of “Dwaram Venkataswamy Naidu Award” from the then CM of Andhra Pradesh, Shri Vijayabaskar Reddy

23. Some of the titles received by them are - “Sunadha Siromani”, “Sangeetha Saragnya” etc.
24. Honoured with the title “Asthana Vidwans” by Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Mutt , Srimad Andavan Ashramam, Srirangam and Sringeri Mutt
25. Ganesh and Kumaresh have toured extensively in India, taking his music to different schools, colleges as an outreach programme in cordination with SPICMACAY to promote and preserve the Traditional Art.
26. The brothers are currently researching on the possibility of Dhanur Veena, an instrument referred in our ancient scriptures, being the origin of the modern day violin.
27. Have worked on a project for Digital Analysis of Music at Sastra University, Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu
28. The brothers are in the process of setting tune for Soundarya Lahari

Creative Contributions and Innovations....

1. Ganesh and Kumaresh have introduced a new musical expression called '**RAGAPRAVAHAM**' to Carnatic Music. It is a total musical creativity of pure melody - not dependent on language or religious flavours. Ragapravaham is a presentation of carnatic music in its purest form based on the typical ragas (melodic scales) and typical thalas (rhythmic cycles) sans lyrics. The brothers have composed several such instrumental compositions that bring out the beauty of the respective instruments. This is what they consider as his humble contribution to the heritage of carnatic music.

Some of the Ragapravahams the brothers have composed are

1. Aditya
2. Amritavahini
3. Begada - 2
4. Chalanattai
5. Chakravaham
6. Charukesi
7. Hamsadhwani
8. Hemantha
9. Kadanakudukulam
10. Kalyani
11. Kannada – 2
12. Kanakangi
13. Kedaragowlai
14. Mayamalavagowlai
15. Nattai
16. Nattakurinji – 2
17. Ritushatchala Nattai (New Ragam)
18. Reetigowlai - 2
19. Sarasangi
20. Saveri
21. Shankarabharanam
22. Shanmugapriya

23. Suruti
24. Thodi
25. Varamu
26. Yadukula Kambhoji

2. Ganesh and Kumaresh have taken part in National Unity building music projects like ‘ JAI HIND’ ‘JANA GANA MANA’.... 'VANDE MATARAM'

3. They have presented concerts based on '**GRAHABEDAM**'.

4. Ganesh and Kumaresh have created new ragas like Hemantha, Mohanasri, Amrutha Kalyan, Sheila Sri, Pamara Ranjani, Ritu Shat Chala Nattai, Aditya

5. They have also composed a few Varnams, many Thillanas and Kruthis.

Details :

Varnams :

1. Pancha Gana Raga varnam
Male Manivanna - Adi
2. Bilahari
Vaa Shankaraney – Adi
3. Saranga
4. Yadukula Kambhoji

Thillanas :

1. Bahudari
2. Behag
3. Madhuvanathi
4. Karnaranjani
5. Hamsanandhi
6. Sindhubairavi
7. Vaasanthi
8. Kapi
9. Dwijavanthi

10. Kadanakudukulam

Songs Composed :

1. Vazhvellam on Maya

Ragam : Nayaki, Talam : Adi

2. Kankalandudey on Nadam

Ragam : Saranga, Talam : Roopakam

3. Karpanaye on Imagination

Ragam Shyama : Talam : Adi

4. Nanmayainaadi on Guru

Ragam : Sindhubairavi, Talam : Adi

5. Mohana Ragam on Ragam Mohanam

Ragam : Mohanam, Talam : Misra Chapu

6. Chandrasekhara on Maha Periyava

Ragam : Yamuna Kalyani, Talam : Adi Tisra Nadai

7. Rama Rama on Lord Rama

Ragam : Hariharapriya, Talam : Adi

New Talam created :

Chithram

6. The brothers have composed music for lyrics of great composers like Purandaradasar, Bhadrachala Ramadasar, Annamacharaya, Vallalar, Patanjali which are followed by other eminent musicians as well.

7. Apart from the regular Carnatic Music concerts, they have made many thematic presentations i) The other album 'COLOURS OF INDIA', projects our nations unity among diversities. It is a colourful instrumental representation of the cultural ethos of the different regions of India through musical melodies. This presentation aims at awakening the spirit of pride and patriotism. ii) The other album presented a unique concept called 'AKSHARAM' - This is an effort to combine melody, numbers, music, mantras and slokas. Ganesh Kumaresh have taken five, six, seven, eight and nine note ragas, connected them to the corresponding talas and also have incorporated mantras equivalent to the number of notes iii) The seasons and festivals of India are musically represented in another presentation called SEASONS. Each season is represented using an appropriate raga. (In the

process Ganesh Kumaresh have introduced a new raga HEMANTH invented by them, which picturises one season). iv) They have presented whole concerts based on the concept of GRAHABEDAM. And followed with an Album SHADJAM. v) Another album titled MANORANJANI depicted a garland of different ragas with suffixes of RANJANI

8. Their typical presentations in contemporary music is presented in albums like ‘CARNATICCHILLS’ , ‘ EXPRESSIONS’ , ‘SPARK’ .’ NAVARASA’, ‘BRAHMA’.

9. Ganesh and Kumaresh have even composed music for the lyrics of contemporary poets like Gangai Amaran, Kannadasan, Ulundurpettai Shanmugam, Kavi Kannan etc.

10. Ganesh and Kumaresh have given lecture demonstrations on “Innovation in Ragas” and “Reinventing Carnatic Music” at TEDx in the year 2012

11. The brothers have given lecture demonstration on GRAHABEDAM and RAGAPRAVAHAM to music students, musicologists and rasikas at Music Academy, Chennai

12. They have given a Lecture Demonstration on “Creative possibilities in Ragas with special focus on Instruments”, at Music Academy, Chennai for the elite audience of Carnatic Music in December 2013 .

13. Ganesh Kumaresh have regularly collaborated with legendary Music Directors like AR Rehman, Ilaya Raja in many of their musical outputs.

14. They have scored music for feature films like ‘ Dance like a Man’ , ‘Lessons in Forgetting’ and tele film ‘Chandrikayin Kadhai’ and have composed music for many jingles and advertisements

15. The brothers have set music for dance ballets like ‘Maya Ravan’, ‘Savithri’, ‘Gajamukha’, ‘Srishti’, Zappereockel (a German play).

16. They have scored music for different and special situations in commercial movies and art films.

17. They have set tunes for lyrics of great composers like Purandaradasar, Bhadrachala Ramadasar, Annamacharaya, Vallalar ,Patanjali which are followed by other eminent musicians as well.

18. They have even set tunes for the lyrics of contemporary poets like Gangai Amaran, Kannadasan, Ulundurpettai Shanmugam, Kavi Kannan etc.

19. Apart from his mastery over violin, Ganesh is also an outstanding Vocalist, with the A – GRADE in Vocal Music, given by the All India Radio. He has given a number of Vocal music performance and albums

20. They have codified the technique of playing violin and have been teaching the students accordingly.

21. They have been regularly conducting Master Classes for students both in India as well as abroad...

22. They have been collaborating with SPIC-MACAY for their outreach programmes

23. They have been regularly conducting workshops for aspiring musicians and passionate beginners

Some of their notable performances have been at

Summermela, 2018, Rome, Italy – 2018

Konark Dance and Music Festival, Konark – February 2014

Womex 2013 – October 2013

Sangeeth Research Academy, Kolkatta – August 2013

Alchemy, Queen Elizebeth Hall, London – April 2013

Elephanta Festival, Mumbai – March 2013

Doverlane festival, Kolakatta – January 2013

Music Academy Annual Music Festival, Chennai, December 2002, December 2012

Indian International centre, Golden Jubilee celebrations – November 2012

Shanmukhananda , Mumbai – March 2012

NCPA, Mumbai

Tansen Music Festival

Edinburg Jazz festival, Scotland – July 2011

Sangeeth Natak Research Academy, Kolkata, January 2010

Darbar Festival, UK – April 2009

Gunidas Festival, Mumbai – December 2008

Sawai Gandharva Music Festival – December 2008

Sydney Music festival - 2008

Bangalore Habba, Bangalore – December 2007

Cleveland Thayagaraja Festival - 2003

Vasantha Habba , Bangalore – February 2002

Swar Utsav, India Gate, New Delhi – December 2001

Rashtrapathi Bhavan, India

BBC Radio, UK and many more...