Music and Dance Program

Bridgewater Temple Community Center April 11, 2009 (4:30 pm to 7:30 pm)

Fundraising Event for Sri Malolan Arts & Science College



Bharatanatyam by Smt. Akhila Rao and Dr. A.R. Sreedhara

Practising the Pandanallur/Tanjore style, popular for its crisp execution of Nrittya, Akhila Rao, blends the fluidity and purity of movements effortlessly. Born into a musical family, Akhila achieved excellence under "Sangeet Natak Academi" Award recipient Guru. Smt. Narmada, who ably guided her enthusiasm and passion. Akhila has had the fortune of being guided by many renowned & stalwart artists including Legendary Dancer & Teacher Padma Subrahmanyam. She has performed extensively in India and United States, most notably "India International Trade Fair", Indo-Russian Festival of arts and many charitable events. Based in NJ, she is dedicated to providing meticulous training to youngsters with a vision to impart the rich culture and heritage that are an integral part of this supreme art form, while emphasizing theoretical aspects for a more holistic learning experience.



After completing MBBS, he was engaged in post-graduate studies and healing human bodies when he felt a compelling urge to explore the dynamics of the mind and body. Bharathanatyam was the tool he chose to dwell on the mind and body. His sojourn started under the tutelage of Guru Smt. Narmada of Bangalore, one of the earliest disciples of Guru K.P.Kittappa Pillai. The initial desire to unravel the mind-body-spirit through the medium of classical dance soon became a passion, which was to compete with his passion for the medical profession. Ever since his Arangetram (Debut Performance) in 1989, He has demonstrated exemplary skills in both nrittya, the pure dance form and abhinaya, the mimetic form. His talent was further nurtured by Padmabhushan Smt. Kalanidhi Narayanan, abhinaya doyenne. He has enthralled audiences in India, USA and Australia with "facile grace married to perfection of movement and inordinate leonine beauty in form".







Indian classical music is a spiritual experience that blends swara (notes), laya (rhythm), bhava (emotion) and bhakti (devotion). Lakshmi, alias Sumati, has been exposed to various forms of classical music from childhood and has had more than 15 years of training in Carnatic and Hindustani styles of music under eminent scholars in India. She receives advanced training from Smt. T.R. Balamani, in Mumbai. She has also learnt Hindustani music from Smt. Madhubala Chawla of the Gwaliar Gharana and is a Sangeet Visharad from Akhil Bhartiya Gandharva Mahavidyalaya. Lakshmi, who holds a MS in Economics, gave up a lucrative career path in finance to take up music as her full time occupation. Currently based in NJ, she has been teaching music to students in India and USA for more than 12 years. She has performed both in India and US and has seven devotional albums to her credit.

For more details on Sri Malolan Arts and Science College: http://www.ahobilamutt.org/us/data/pdf/Maduranthakam_School.pdf

Tickets are \$20 per person.

Tickets can be purchased online at www.ahobilamutt.org; or from

Sunrise Grocery, Bridgewater (908)-722-5999

Smt. Lakshmi Sarangapani (908)-781-1480

Smt. Vinu Gopi (908)-358-8571

Smt. Akila Rao (908)-575-0933 Smt. Usha Akella (908)-229-2077

All proceeds are tax-exempted and go towards Sri Malola College of Arts and Science. Checks can be made payable to Sri Ahobila Muth, USA.

Snacks will be provided at a cost and proceeds from that too will go to the same good cause.