

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

INDIAN CLASSICAL MUSIC SOCIETY OF VANCOUVER



Credit: Mike J Southworth

NOVEMBER 27, 2021



PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT

We have had a year of growth, perseverance, and collaboration. 2021 has marked many new beginnings for ICMSV including our first curated dance-music production, global and local partnerships with inspiring organizations such as Chan Centre for the Performing Arts and First Edition Arts, as well as the launch of our institute - Kalāvāṇī.

We are very excited that this time for us to reflect, grow, and adapt is leading into the re-introduction of live programming in 2022. With more new initiatives on the horizon, including a month-long launch festival for our institute generously funded by CreativeBC, we look forward to having you experience the fruits of our labour in-person.

AKHIL JOBANPUTRA
ICMSV, FOUNDER & PRESIDENT



RAGADARI: A LEC-DEM ON RAGA BILAVAL

2021 started off with an immersive lecture by Pandit Arijit Mahalanabis on Raga Bilaval, a rather important raga in current Hindustani musical pedagogy. The session took listeners through the nuances of the raga through mapping its musical evolution, analyzing various dhrupad and khayal compositions from across gharanas and generations, as well as referencing ragas similar to Bilaval in the allied tradition of Carnatic music.

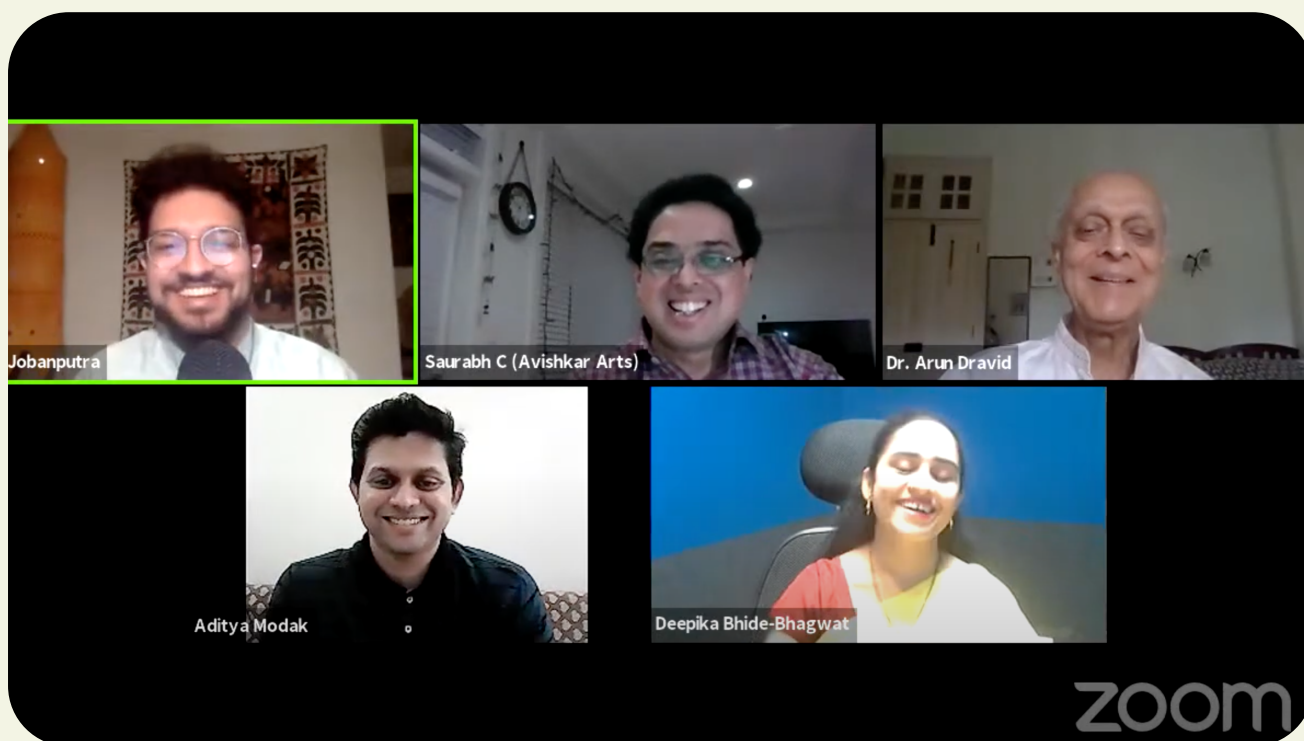
This program was kept free-of-charge with the intention of increasing dynamic and engaged conversations with people from various experience backgrounds on difficult, technical topics pertaining to raga development and grammar. This project was the initiative of the Society for Indian Music and Arts (SIMA).



PARASAKTI: THE FLAME WITHIN

Conceived and curated by ICMSV Founder and President Akhil Jobanputra, *Parasakti: The Flame Within* explored the multiplicity of the goddess in Hindu traditions weaving together Carnatic and Hindustani music, Bharatanatyam, storytelling, and poetry. Performers featured included co-directors Arno Kamolika (Bharatanatyam) and Akhil Jobanputra (Hindustani vocals) along with Srividhya Sairam (Carnatic vocals), Satpreet Singh (Dilruba), Curtis Andrews (Mrdangam), and Sharanjeet Singh Mand (Sitar). This program was an incredible opportunity for us to collaborate and present at the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts at UBC.

Part of the Chan Centre's *Dot Com Series*, this initiative also brought organizations Indian Summer Festival, Asta Alliance Association, and the Centre for India and South Asia Research together to support and promote this unique production.



THE DISCIPLE: IN CONVERSATION

Directed by Chaitanya Tamhane, *The Disciple* is a film that explores the existential crisis of Sharad, an emerging Hindustani vocalist, while he explores his identity through his internal and external relationships with the music he learns. This event featured musician-actors Pandit Arun Dravid, Aditya Modak, and Deepika Bhide-Bhagwat in a panel discussion on their journeys playing a role in a film that intersects with their everyday lives - that of a Hindustani vocalist.

A collaborative effort between the Indian Classical Music Society of Vancouver and Avishkar Arts, the program was moderated by organization heads Akhil Jobanputra and Saurabh Chate and also featured an open-floor Q&A. The entire panel is available on ICMSV's YouTube channel for viewing.



DECODING KATHAKALI: THE ARTFUL STORYTELLERS

Decoding Kathakali explored the dance-drama and mythic storytelling tradition from Kerala through performance, informative films, and dialogue in this unique immersive festival. With breathtaking expositions of traditional narratives led by Kalamandalam Shanmukham of the acclaimed arts institution Kalamandalam, performances were accompanied by short films with insights into the history, costuming and makeup processes, literary texts, and music. This ten day-long journey culminated with an informative live Q&A session.

This event was jointly organized by the Society for Indian Music and Arts, Nritya, and First Edition Arts, with the support of the Indian Classical Music Society of Vancouver and the Indian Fine Arts Academy of San Diego. It was funded by the University Park Allocation Committee at Penn State University.



AN EVENING WITH THE TRANSFORMATION ENSEMBLE

The initiative of the Transformational Theatre Society, *An Evening with the Transformation Ensemble* brought together three local musicians - Vancouver Symphony Orchestra violinist Jeanette Bernal Singh, sitarist and composer Sharanjeet Singh Mand, and tabla player Sunny Matharu - in collaboration to explore and intersect north Indian and Western classical instrumental music.

This virtual program was funded by the generous support of SoundON, CreativeBC, and the Province of British Columbia and was streamed on October 15, 2021.



REMEMBERING DIKSHITAR

Remembering Dikshitar, hosted by the Indian Classical Music Society of Vancouver was a tribute to Sri Muthuswami Dikshitar, a renowned and integral figure in the realm of Carnatic music. This virtual event, from November 8-13, 2021, commenced with daily premieres of Dikshitar compositions and renderings by students and established artists from our local community, followed by a lecture by Chennai-based vocalist and scholar Aravindhan TR on the Life and Music of Sri Muthuswami Dikshitar. All programs were streamed for free on ICMSV's YouTube channel and are still available for viewing.

This event was organized by the Indian Classical Music Society of Vancouver (ICMSV), with the support of our community collaborators Kasturi Cultural Society, SangeetaMaruti Arts Academy, and Sankara Jayanthi Vancouver.



BLUE PLANET

Blue Planet is a four month long digital cinematic festival of Indian classical music and dance featuring 21 Carnatic and Hindustani music concerts, including two Bharatanatyam dancers in all-new productions and a North-South instrumental jugalbandhi.

Filmed across India in carefully curated natural, outdoor settings such as sacred groves, forests, rivers, and endangered biodiversity zones, the concert films highlight the connections between the living ecology of the planet and the ecology of the classical arts that we celebrate.

Blue Planet is curated and presented by First Edition Arts, co-sponsored by Transworld Group, and streams exclusively on Shaale.com. The Indian Classical Music Society of Vancouver (ICMSV) is proud to be Blue Planet's Official Canada-wide Partner.