



Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan AUSTRALIA

Let noble thoughts come to us from every side

Veena Music for Peace

Played by Maestro Prof. Raghurama Ayyar

Veena, the Divine musical instrument revered through the ages, is the source and vehicle of Nada and of serene and sublime devotional feelings in ethereal language. It is sonorous in its articulations of a deep musical message. Its origin can be traced to the Vedic period. The *yajnas*, rituals and chanting were accompanied by playing of different kinds of veenas and its prescribed tunes. The two most popular epics of India, the Ramayana and Mahabharata contain episodes in which veena figures and so do we learn from different Buddhist text the importance of the veena.



The long history of Veena through the ages is a magnificent saga of innovation in the science, culture an art of music. The evolution of the Veena as an instrument and the survival classical music through Veena is a panoramic epic of change and continuity in which South India occupies the pride of place.

In the prehistoric past Veena was synonymous with each and every stringed instrument. Veena has been known as Saptatantri, Chitra, Vichitra, Raudri, Navtantrikfl, Kachapi, Kubjika, Jaya, Ghoshvati, Brahmi, Kinnari, Surandri, Shruti, Swara, Ghoshavati, Kalawati and Siraswati. In fact Sifcr, Saatccr sad Ssiad -are the daughters of Veena. Sarod was Syarodaya, Santoor was Shat-tantri.

Attached to the Indira Gandhi Centre for the Arts in New Delhi, Veena Maestro Prof Raghurama Ayyar, 80 (retired as Principal Information Officer in the Prime Minister of India's office) believes that whereas music instrument Sitar is for communication, Veena is for communion with God.

Prof. Raghurama has been performing world over for 60 years and was last in Australia in November 1981, March 1984 and August -September 1998 when he played throughout Australia at numerous venues. Sydney Morning Herald; The Age and other Australian papers published extensive editorials on him: "Getting of Blissdom"; "Ancient Message from an Ancient Veena"; "Nine Steps to Bliss Absolutely"; "Music for Peace"; "Maestro Who's a Natural"...

We were fortunate to have Prof Raghurama in Sydney planning a big Veena Festival in not too distant future. Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Australia in association with YOGA In Daily Life; The Theosophy Society and ISKCON had organised several free performances of the Veena Maestro during the week 30 April to 4 May 2008 in Sydney.



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Performances

Wednesday 30 April 2008 4:30pm to 5:30pm
at Blavatsky Lodge Of The Theosophical Society
Theosophy House, 484 Kent Street SYDNEY 2000
Tel: 02 9267 6955

Friday 2 May 2008 7:00pm to 8:00pm
at YOGA in Daily Life, Kensington Yoga Centre
1st Floor, 117-119 Anzac Parade Kensington, NSW
2033
Tel: 02-9294 4884 /0408-630-417

Sunday 4 May 2008 7:30pm to 8:30pm
at Hare Krishna Temple, ISKCON
180 Falcon Street (Cnr Miller Street) North Sydney 2060
Tel: 02-9559 4558

