

[FRONT PAGE](#)[LOCAL](#)[NATIONAL](#)[WORLD](#)[WEATHER](#)[EDITORIALS](#)[OPINIONS-LETTERS](#)[SPORTS](#)[SCENE](#)[LIFE](#)[REAL ESTATE](#)[CLASSIFIEDS](#)[BUSINESS](#)[ADVERTISING INFO](#)[SPECIAL SECTIONS](#)[FEATURES](#)[ARCHIVES](#)[COPYRIGHT](#)[PERMISSIONS](#)[SITE INDEX](#)[PHOTO GALLERY-NEW OKIES](#)[LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS](#)[View Today's Front Page](#)[Homes in Coral](#)

Cape Coral.
Today is a
"Buyer's Market!"
www.mylproperty.com

[Times Record News](#)

Local News,
Sports and
Information
National and
Breaking News
Reports
www.timesrecordnews.ci

[Greensburg, KS newspaper](#)

Follow our local
news coverage in
Greensburg's
Kiowa County
Signal.
kiowacountysignal.com

[Ft Myers News](#)

Visit The Official
Ft. Myers Site.
Escape to Exotic
Tropical Paradise.
www.FortMyers-Sanibel.com



The stylish Katana™ by Sanyo®
The Sprint Power Network. Try it yourself risk-free for 30 days.



Scene

[Home » Scene](#)[Email Story](#)[Print Story](#)

IN CONCERT: Band of brothers - Ganesh and Kumaresh bring Indian music to UCSB

Josef Woodard, NEWS-PRESS CORRESPONDENT
May 11, 2007 9:58 AM

Indian musical culture, by no means a recipient of mainstream media exposure, has found surprisingly strong support in Santa Barbara. The long-standing two-hour radio program "The India Show" (Saturday afternoons on KCSB 91.9 FM) has been reliable in its programming of classical Indian music, as well as the lighter fare from Bollywood.

On the local concert scene, aside from somewhat regular appearances by such "household-names" as Zakir Hussain and Ravi Shankar (and now his sitarist daughter Anoushka), the University-based organization Raagmala has brought renowned classical Indian artists to UCSB.

This season's Indian music highlight showcases the dynamic sibling violinists Ganesh and Kumaresh, long celebrated figures in South Indian Carnatic style. Their Santa Barbara debut will be at UCSB's Lotte Lehmann Concert Hall on Saturday, in what promises to be the season's most significant Indian concert.

The brothers are products of a rich family lineage, being taught by their father, Shri Rajagopalan. They have been performing for 35 years, dating to their 1972 stage debut at ages 5 and 7.

As a life path, music was never in question, as Kumaresh explained in a recent interview: "Right from the time that we started to learn music, it was understood that music will be the mainstay of our life, and we have enjoyed every bit of the journey."

Like other contemporary Indian musical masters -- including the Shankars and Hussain -- the brothers have experimented with other forms and contexts, including the project Tabla Beat Science, with Trilok Gurtu and producer Bill Laswell. In the Ganesh and Kumaresh discography, the latest album is "Carnatic Chills," and it freely blends electronic textures and world-beat flavors with Carnatic violin playing. All in all, it's easy-going stuff, designed to sell and soothe.

But diversions and commercial detours notwithstanding, they recognize the integrity of classical Carnatic tradition when in that mode, as they will be at Lotte Lehmann. The two violinists will be joined by percussionists playing the mridangam (a double-headed drum) and the ghatam (a specialized clay pot).

Apart from the music's ancient heritage, there is a spiritual component woven in, adding to the seriousness of the practice.

"Unlike the other forms of music, Indian music dates back to Vedic times. Indian music is always very closely linked to Indian culture and the tradition," Kumaresh says, adding that spiritual sages known as rishis "have seen and realized the futility of desires, and have talked about spirituality and about being connected to oneself. Indian music is very spiritual, and it is up to us to realize that."

Whereas much of Carnatic music has been based on vocal songs, the brothers are finding their own path to personalizing it.

"Instruments need to find their own expression of music and it is up to the practitioner to do it," Kumaresh says. "With our experience and practice of this art form for more than three decades, we have evolved this new system which we call Ragapravaham. These are purely instrumental melodies, based on the science of raga and tala. We have tried to bring out the inherent identity of each raga."

As the brothers have ventured outside India and toured the world, they have taken on the role of ambassadors and educators. Kumaresh says, "We have seen that it is with intrigue that the Western audience looked at us, in the beginning. They were not used to seeing violinists squatting and playing. Then the tuning is also different. Initially, it is the curiosity among the Western audience, and then the music takes over. The audiences generally are very appreciative of the melodic structure of the Indian raga and the rhythmic structure of the Indian talas."

Among the more unconventional projects on the brothers' agenda these days is work in "musicopathy." Kumaresh says, "It has been long an understood fact that Indian music has therapeutic value and we are working very closely with our doctor friend in New York on the influence of music on human body and mind. It is specially addressed toward cancer care and post-surgical rehabilitation."

With the musicians, the therapeutic power also turns inward.

"Happiness is what we always find with our music," Kumaresh says, "and just like we have been fortunate to be able to find joy and happiness with music, we are very lucky and fortunate to have found peace in our life as well. For that we thank our parents, our family and God."

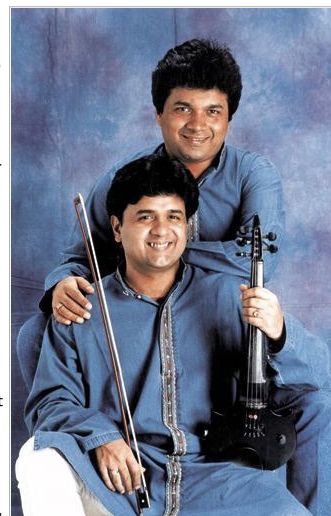
• • •
GANESH AND KUMARESH

When: 7 p.m. tonight

Where: Lotte Lehmann Concert Hall, UCSB

Cost: \$10 general, \$6 UCSB students, free for Raagmala members

Tickets: 893-2064



COURTESY PHOTO

Related Stories

[IN CONCERT: A purist's night out](#)
[ARCHIVE](#) Sep 1, 2006

[TODAY](#)
[ARCHIVE](#) Jan 9, 2003

[KCSB broadcasting UCSB baseball game](#)
[ARCHIVE](#) May 15, 2001

[Generations deep in the music](#)
[ARCHIVE](#) May 3, 2006

["The Last Dance"](#)
[ARCHIVE](#) Nov 3, 2001

[TODAY](#)
[ARCHIVE](#) Dec 6, 2002

[Your day in Santa Barbara](#)
[ARCHIVE](#) Dec 1, 2001

[Filing cabinet](#)
[ARCHIVE](#) Mar 31, 2007

[Clarification](#)
[ARCHIVE](#) Mar 9, 2005

[Public Square: You Should Know](#)
[ARCHIVE](#) Apr 27, 2007

Get up to
\$1,800 in
energy
efficiency
rebates.

[CLICK HERE](#)



Email this Article reference.

Your Name:

Recipient's Name:

Your Email Address:

Recipient's Email Address:

Message:

[CLICK HERE](#)

Get up to \$1,800 in energy efficiency rebates.



[Front Page](#) | [Local](#) | [National](#) | [World](#) | [Weather](#) | [Editorials](#) | [Opinions and Letters](#) | [Sports](#) | **[Scene](#)** | [Life](#) | [Real Estate](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Business](#) | [Advertising Information](#) | [Special Sections](#) | [Features](#) | [Archives](#) | [Reprint Forms](#) | [Site Index](#) | [Photo Gallery-New Okies](#)

[TV Listings](#) | [USA Weekend](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Pay Your Bill](#) | [About Us](#)

All Content Copyright © 2007 Santa Barbara News-Press / Ampersand Publishing, LLC unless otherwise specified.