

*Margaret Kartomi Gallery of Musical
Instruments and Artefacts presents*

The Place of Indian Music and Dance in Australia

*Case 2: Tara Rajkumar's Cultural Mosaic
Acknowledgements*

Tara Rajkumar as Krishna in The Singing Anklet film
View trailer via [THIS](#) link



Ravi M Ravichandhira OAM

Co-composer *Temple Dreaming* music score



Ravi M Ravichandhira OAM is a trailblazing mridangam artist, educator, and cultural ambassador with over 55 years of dedicated service to Indian classical music and dance. He founded the Academy of Indian Music in Australia in 1983 and co-established the Indian Performing Arts Convention (IPAC) at Monash University Performing Arts Centres. A-Graded artist of All India Radio and TV, Ravi was instrumental in facilitating the introduction of the Performing Arts Honours Degree in Indian Music at Monash University in the 1990s. A chartered civil engineer, he also held senior leadership roles at VicRoads for over three decades. Awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in 2012, Ravi collaborates with global icons like Zakir Hussain and curates major heritage festivals alongside his wife, Narmatha OAM, an accomplished music and dance educator. As President of Sruthi Laya Kendra Australia Inc, he pioneers globally recognised 'New Music and Dance' projects and serves as a peer assessor for Creative Australia.

Shobha Sekhar OAM

Co-composer *Temple Dreaming* music score



Shobha Sekhar OAM is the epitome of dedication to Music, Education, Humanitarian services and Cultural Harmony. She was awarded the Medal of Order of Australia in the Queen's Birthday Honours list, 8 June 2020 for her extraordinary work services to Indian Music and Dance in Australia. Shobha is a classical performer, teacher, lecturer, composer, Journalist and convenor of Charitable concerts and events.

Career highlights:

- Artistic Director of Kalakruthi School of music. The School has the unique honour of being accredited by the most prestigious Institution in India, Music Academy of Chennai.
- Makes History by introducing Indian Classical music (voice and Veena) at Universities - She has taught at University of Melbourne, NMIT and Australian National University. She has mentored PHd students at the Universities too!
- Former President of FIMDV (Federation of Music and Dance Victoria).
- Free lance Journalist- Contributing to The Age, Herald Times. Straits Times (Singapore) and is the Foreign correspondent for Arts Magazine Sruti.
- Recipient of several Awards from Local, State, National and International Awards including Multicultural Excellence Award from Victorian Government and Outstanding Long service Award from reputed Institutions in Chennai, India.
- Honoured with 'Kala Acharya' award by TV Gopalakrishnan Academy of Music in 2022, Tamil Icon of the Year 2022 -Tamil TV.
- Academic Qualifications: Shobha holds MBA - Master of Business Administration and Bachelor of Commerce degrees. She stood 6th at the University of Bangalore (India) and excelled in Music education as part of her studies.

Adrian Sherriff

Co-composer *Temple Dreaming* music score



Adrian Sherriff is a master musician of Indian classical music and several other styles. He is a performer, composer, teacher and multi-instrumentalist. Amongst his many teachers, the late South Indian master drummer Guru Karaikudi Mani has been a particularly potent source of inspiration. Adrian's musical foundations are drawn from his studies of European classical, Afro-American jazz, South Indian classical, Japanese shakuhachi, Afro-Cuban bata, Balinese gamelan and experimental music traditions. In each of these traditions, Adrian has studied and performed with master musicians of international calibre. As a touring artist, Adrian has been a frequent performer at the Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide and Brisbane Arts Festivals as well as regionally throughout Australia.

Internationally, Adrian has performed across the Asian subcontinent, South East Asia, Australasia, North America and Europe. Adrian's current performance projects include: the Adrian Sherriff Trio performing transcultural original works. In his career, Adrian has been an integral member of the Australian Art Orchestra, The Wide Alley, Andrea Keller's Bartok Project and the Bennett's Lane Big Band amongst other ensembles. He is currently employed as a Lecturer in Music at Melbourne Polytechnic in performance, intercultural music and musicianship. Adrian was awarded a Bachelor degree in trombone and flute from the Victorian College of the Arts and Honours from Monash University in South Indian classical percussion. His Masters degree from the Victorian College of the Arts included the study, performance and exploration of connections between shakuhachi, South Indian classical music (adapted to bass trombone), gender wayang and bata.

Ramnath Iyer

Artist Tara Rajkumar portrait (2024)



Ramnath Iyer, an Indian musician, has contributed immensely to the music and art scene in Melbourne over the last 35 years and has been recognized by the Victorian government. He is also a popular visual artist. His works have been featured in exhibitions in India and Australia.