

DR. L. SUBRAMANIAM

103, 3RD MAIN, 6TH CROSS, RMV STAGE II
DOLLARS COLONY, BANGALORE 560094 INDIA

Dr. L. Subramaniam, India's foremost violinist began learning the violin at a very young age from his father Prof. V. Lakshminarayana. His guru-shishya parampara can be traced back to the three greatest composers of the Carnatic music tradition - Shyama Shastry, Tyagaraja, and Muthuswami Dikshitar. He started performing Carnatic (South Indian classical) music at the age of six and soon gained immense popularity playing with his brothers in the Violin Trio. Even as a teenager he took a great interest in different forms of music and attained mastery over Western classical violin as well. At a very young age, he was honoured with the title "Violin Chakravathy" (emperor of the violin). No other musician has such diverse repertoire and collaborations, or even such mind-boggling techniques. Till date, Dr. Subramaniam has produced, performed, collaborated, conducted and close to two hundred recordings.

Dr. L. Subramaniam is the only musician who has performed/recorded Carnatic Classical Music, Western Classical Music, both Orchestral and non-Orchestral, and also composed for and conducted major Orchestras, scored for films, collaborated with a wide range of some of the greatest musicians, from different genres of music including jazz, occidental, jugalbandis with North Indian musicians, world music and global fusion. He has established himself as a force that is strongly Indian, but universal in nature and approach.

Over the years, he has created the Global Fusion idiom and composed several crossover orchestral works and international film scores, but his primary focus has been Carnatic music. His mastery over technique, his sensitive musicianship and his intellectual innovations have enthralled audiences around the world. He has performed in all continents and is largely responsible for the international status that Carnatic music enjoys today.

His insatiable musical curiosity made short shrift of all kinds of technique, of all types of form (he has composed for several western classical orchestras and ballets) and of all new experiences (he was a musical advisor to Peter Brook about the sound concepts for his "Mahabharata"). He has composed music for a select few films, including "Salaam Bombay" and "Mississippi Masala" and was the



featured soloist for Bernardo Bertolucci's "Little Buddha" and "Cotton Mary" of Merchant – Ivory Productions. This total receptivity towards the world, this polymorphous talent, this technical mastery all however find their truest experience in the service of Karnatic music, the tradition he has inherited from his Father and Guru, Professor V. Lakshminarayana. Dr. L. Subramaniam's parents Prof V. Lakshminarayana and V. Seethalakshmi were the driving force behind their son and the reason he chose a life in music.

Passionate about music, Subramaniam was also dedicated to Science. He studied medicine, finishing his M.B.B.S at Madras Medical College and registered as a General Practitioner. Subsequently he did his Master's Degree in Western Classical Music in California and he finally decided to dedicate his life to music. From then on, his artistic activity was to spread in many directions. No one else is as qualified as Dr. L. Subramaniam to experiment with new concepts and different ideas because of his stable foundation in Carnatic Classical, Western Music, Orchestration and rhythm. He is the creator of the Global Music concept.

To increase understanding of the concepts of South Indian Classical Music, he has released a four-CD set, called "An Anthology of South Indian Music" and written an authoritative book "Euphony", which was co-authored with his late wife Vijayashree Subramaniam. He has also started the SaPa Baby series to teach classical music to very young children, which is the first of its kind. He is currently working on a special project called the 'Essential Raga Collection', where he is expounding traditional ragas for an entire album. He has released Vol I – Yadukula Kambhoji and Vol II – Anandabhairavi, with other volumes to follow shortly. In his career spanning over five decades, he has several innovations to his credit, including playing a varnam in 15 speeds, playing a pallavi in a rhythmic cycle of 21 3/4 beats, and improvising in pancha nadai.

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He is also the founder/director of the Subramaniam Academy of Performing Arts, a premier institute for musical education, and the Lakshminarayana Global Music Festival, the biggest global music festival in India.

“Music is a vast ocean and no one can claim to know it all. The more you know, the more you realise how little you know. It is an eternal quest.” Dr. L. Subramaniam