

THE SOUTH ASIAN SYMPHONY  
FOUNDATION (SASF)  
Bengaluru  
IS A REGISTERED NON-PROFIT TRUST  
founded in 2018 by Nirupama and  
Sudhakar Rao

The mission of SASF is to connect India closely with  
South Asia – a shared civilizational and  
geographical space. The South Asian Symphony  
Orchestra is the creation of SASF – an orchestra  
designed to foster peace in our region. We believe  
that music is a basic human right



THE INDIA INTERNATIONAL  
CENTRE  
AND  
THE SOUTH ASIAN SYMPHONY  
FOUNDATION

PRESENT

THE IIC DIAMOND JUBILEE  
CLOSING CEREMONY CONCERT

PEACE NOTES 2023

BY THE SOUTH ASIAN SYMPHONY  
ORCHESTRA

FOUNTAIN LAWNS, INDIA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE

MARCH 29TH, 2023, 5:30 PM



INDIA  
INTERNATIONAL  
CENTRE **IIC** where ideas grow

The Orchestra

Alvin Arumugam, Conductor

1st Violins

Raja Halder \*(U.K./India)  
Martyn Jackson (U.K.)  
Carol George (India)  
Earl Joseph Vasanthakumar (India)  
Lim Jae Sern (Malaysia)  
Martina Charles (India)

2nd Violins

Omiros Yavroumis \*(Greece)  
Sandip Halder (India)  
Zubin Behramkamdin (India)  
Amanullah Noori (Afghanistan)  
Sanjib Mondal (India)

Violas

Aibek Ashirmatov \*(Uzbekistan)  
Joy Peter (India)  
Mark Nunes (India)  
Gleb Nechaev (Russia)

Cellos

Ashok Klouda \*(U.K.)  
Meera Priyanka Raja (U.K.)  
Carolina Lopez (U.K.)  
Olav Balslev (Denmark)

Double Basses

Jasiel Peter \*(India)  
Andrea Leitan (Sri Lanka)

Flutes

Dilshad Posnock \*(U.S./India)  
Chanasak Wongweerawinit (Thailand)

Oboes

Mezraq Ramli \*(U.S.)  
Lorraine Hart (U.K.)

Clarinets

Bharat Chandra \*(U.S.)  
Anoushka Divekar (U.S.)

Bassoons

Jamshid Botshaev \*(Uzbekistan)  
Kittima Molee (Thailand)

French Horn

Nivanthi Karunaratne \*(U.S.)  
Alexander Ian Hoon (Singapore)

Trumpets

Daniel Venglar \*(U.S.)  
Amir Hasif (Singapore)

Timpani/Drums

Ishvinder Singh \*(Singapore)

Vocalist

Akshatha Rudrapatna (India)

Orchestra Manager  
Amy Hinds (U.K.)

## Invocation: "Maithreem Bhajatha"

Sri Chandrashekarendra Saraswati (1894-1994)

Music: Vasant Desai (1912-1975)

Vocalist: Akshata Rudrapatna

*"Cultivate friendship to conquer all hearts  
Look upon others as yourself  
Renounce war, forsake competition  
Give up aggression on others"*

## Melodies from the Mountains

*For the South Asian Symphony Orchestra*  
Various, arr. Lauren Braithwaite (b. 1990)

## Symphony No. 8 in F major, Op. 93

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

- I. Allegro vivace e con brio
- II. Allegretto scherzando
- III. Tempo di Menuetto
- IV. Allegro vivace

## The Four Seasons

### Concerto No. 4 in F minor, Winter

Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741)

- I. Allegro non molto
- II. Largo
- III. Allegro

Raja Halder, Violin Soloist

## Primavera Porteña

Astor Piazzolla (1921-1992)

Raja Halder, Violin Soloist

## Melodies from the Mountains

*The inspiration for Melodies from the Mountains, premiered at this concert, came from a series of folk and film songs from India and Nepal, played on bagpipes by bands of the Indian Army, all of which have a connection with the mountainous regions of the two neighbouring countries. Originally recorded by Tara Devi—known as the 'Nightingale of Nepal' for her sweet and melodious voice—Fulako Thunga ('bouquet of flowers') comes from the 1974 film Man ko Bandh. The film follows the story of a young man returning to his village in the mountains to construct a dam. Almora, composed by Subedar Ganesh Gurung, was formerly the regimental quick march of the Garhwal Rifles. Returning to Nepal, Khushume Rumal comes from the 1985 film of the same name in which singer Udit Narayan stars in his first acting role. Next, we hear the romantic Kancchare from the 1971 Bollywood hit, Hare Rama Hare Krishna followed by the popular Nepali folk song Macchi Marana. The medley ends with Shankar Jaikishan's unforgettable Lal Dupatta, from the 1948 film Barsaat.*

## Symphony no. 8 in F Major, Op. 93

*Beethoven's Eighth Symphony, described as one of his shortest and most eclectic compositions, in many ways the most "ebulliently experimental" of his symphonies, was composed in 1811-12, when he was 42, as Napoleon's armies retreated across Europe and Vienna was celebrating its freedom from French occupation. This was also a relatively happy period in Beethoven's life, as his fame as a composer was nearing its zenith. He originally conceived the piece as a piano concerto, but abandoned the idea, and used his initial material and sketches for a symphony, completing it at Linz, Austria in October 1812. The first performance of the Eighth Symphony took place on 27 February 1814 in Vienna sandwiched between Beethoven's Seventh Symphony and the so-called 'Battle Symphony' (Wellingtons Sieg), and as one reviewer said, "it did not create a furor". It has been called "something of a curio in the Beethoven canon". Christoph Eschenbach calls it a "gem" with a lot of wit. Beethoven, himself, preferred it over his Seventh Symphony, and it was Stravinsky's favorite because of "its ferocious syncopations, sudden intrusions of trumpet and drum, vehement silences, the intent to disconcert in a playful, but also almost demonic way" (Michael Tanner, 2015).*

*(8th Symphony Continued) Beginning with no introduction it launches into a radiantly joyful main theme in a gushing of sound and has a compressed vitality. Beethoven called it "my little symphony in F" and it has both comic relief—a dense concentration of musical humour—and "standard-setting, super dimensional symphonic writing" with rigorous musical energy.*

## The Four Seasons

### Concerto No. 4 in F minor, Winter

*The Venetian composer Antonio Lucio Vivaldi (1678-1741) is best known for his cycle of violin concerti entitled The Four Seasons, with each concerto depicting a different season of the year. The four concertos in The Four Seasons had an accompanying sonnet, possibly composed by Vivaldi himself. The words for Winter or L'inverno, evoke the spirit of the season and in the first movement, Vivaldi brilliantly conveys the biting cold, gusting wind, trembling bodies, and chattering teeth on the violin. He was bringing people, animals, landscapes and stories to life, using music. Winter is an intense composition, dramatic and emotional, with a complex ending. Vivaldi is recreating the strength of the forces of nature that cannot be tamed but deserve respect, elicit fear, and evoke admiration. But there is also comfort: the warmth of the home fires, tranquility, and the pizzicato of ice droplets on the roof leaving us with the feeling that even at a difficult time and a difficult season, there is refuge and reassurance. More importantly, Vivaldi's Four Seasons incorporate the basic human experience about the passage of time, the cycle of seasons, and the mysteries of nature.*

## Primavera Porteña

*The piece is part of Estaciones Porteñas of The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires composed by Argentinian composer Astor Piazzolla (1921-1992) between 1965 and 1970. Each of these pieces include a hint of Vivaldi's Four Seasons. Piazzolla's music evokes the tango, and is known its tight construction, rhythmic complexity and melodic inspiration. In his hands, the tango is dance, poetry, song and gestures, a complete ethos and a philosophy of life. In his words, "For me, tango was always for the ear rather than the feet". Primavera Porteña conjures up the bold energy of springtime, the music has pounding aggression and a haze of mystery. In 1998, the Russian composer Leonid Desyatnikov reimagined Piazzolla's Seasons as an orchestral suite, arranging it in a more traditional concerto form, also tipping his hat to Vivaldi, bringing in some elements of the composer's original. The order of the four seasons is different from Vivaldi's and is: Otoño (Autumn), Invierno (Winter), Primavera (Spring), Verano (Summer) reflecting perhaps the inversion of the seasons between the northern and southern hemispheres from January to December.*