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The Wisdom of Vitthala

Abhangs



When Aruna Sairam sings, myriad emotions reverberate through the concert hall. There's bhakti, there's gyaana, and, most of all, an exuberance and abandon that strikes a chord with every listener. The singer, known for her rich, deep timbre, makes it a point to sing an abhang or two at every concert. The fondness for this form of devotional poetry, sung in praise of Vitthala, has roots in her growing-up years in Bombay. At *The Hindu Friday Review November Fest* in 2006, she came up with a concert woven entirely around abhangs. She delves deep into that genre yet again, to come up with creations that promise to lift the soul.

Aruna has collaborated with acclaimed international artistes such as Dominique Vellard, the French master of Gregorian chant, and multi-faceted musician Christian Bollmann of Germany. In India, she has collaborated with Shankar Mahadevan, U. Shrinivas and several North Indian musicians, among others.

She has performed throughout the world, including at Carnegie Hall in New York, Le Theatre de la Ville in Paris, and the Festival of World Sacred Music in Morocco.

Among the many national and international honours that have come her way are the Padma Shri, the Kalaimamani and the prestigious U.S. Congress Proclamation of Excellence.

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ARUNA SAIRAM

RAGHAVENDRA RAO
VIOLIN

J VAIDYANATHAN
MRIDANGAM

S KARTHICK
GHATAM

NIRANJAN LELE
HARMONIUM

SAI BANKAR
TABLA

PRAKASH SHEJWAL
PAKHAVAJ

PRATAP RATH
ADDITIONAL PERCUSSION