

Summer Rain

Music by Nirmala Rajasekar

Featuring

Zeitgeist

Heather Barringer & Patti Cudd, percussion;

Nicola Melville, piano; Pat O'Keefe, woodwinds;

With special guests, Nirmala Rajasekar, voice & veena; Thanjavur Muruga Boopathi, mirdangam

PROGRAM

Thillana Shuffle

Summer Rain/Morning Dew

Sublime Journey

Raghupati Raghav Raja Ram

Raghupati Raghav Raja Ram

Pathita Pavan Sita Ram

Eeshwar Allah Tero Naam

Sab Ko Sanmati De Bhagwan

Ram Ram Jaya Raja Ram

Pathita Pavan Sita Ram

This tour of Summer Rain is made possible in part by a grant provided by the Minnesota State Arts Board, through an appropriation by the Minnesota State Legislature from the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund with money from the vote of the people of Minnesota on November 4, 2008.

From the artists

For millennia, the sharing of music has been a natural, joy-filled means for peoples of different cultures to grow in their understanding of one another and increase the artistic possibilities of each practice. For musicians, the pull to increase our palette by exploring new timbres, melodic structures, and rhythms is absolutely irresistible, and the rich results of cross-cultural musical sharing can be traced throughout our human history. Zeitgeist and Nirmala Rajasekar felt that irresistible pull several years ago, during a five-day workshop devoted to the development of new work. The result was **Thillana Shuffle**, a work that features Western and Indian drumming and improvisation by each of our ensemble members. As our collaboration has continued, more works have ensued, including **Summer Rain**, written by Rajasekar, and **Morning Dew**, written by her daughter, Shruthi. **Sublime Journey** was composed by Rajasekar for a world-wide tour featuring both Carnatic and Hindustani musicians. Taken with the work, Zeitgeist member Pat O'Keefe made an arrangement for Rajasekar and Zeitgeist, adding Western influences to the Carnatic and Hindustani mix. Knowing that music has a profound place in our spiritual worlds, we created an arrangement of **Raghupati Raghav Raja Ram**, a traditional Indian devotional song much favored by Ghandi. Together, this collection of works makes up our musical evening, Summer Rain. Summer Rain celebrates our differences, delves deeply into our common ground, and creates a new musical experience for our audiences and musicians. Welcome and enjoy.

Translatio for **Raghupati Raghav Raja Ram**:

The King Rama who is the Raghava, the Lord of Raghu,
He is the Sita Ram, who uplifts those who need His Help,
Easwara and Allah are his names,
I pray that he Blesses all of us with peace and good thoughts.

Nirmala Rajasekar began her training in Veena at age 6 from well-known practitioners such as Sri Deva Kottai Narayana Iyengar and Smt. Kamala Aswathama. After moving to Bangalore, she learned at the Gana Mandira School in Basavangudi Smt. G Chennama and Smt. E. P. Alamelu. The violinist Vidwan Sri A. D. Zachariah also guided her, and she began her career as a soloist at age 13. Later in Chennai, she was guided by the revered veena vidushi for Smt. [Kalpakam Swaminathan](#) who passed away on April 6 2011. Nirmala trained with her for nearly 30 years. Her vocal Gurus are Sri B.Sitarama Sarma and Sri T.R. Subramanyam. Nirmala travels around the world teaching and performing Carnatic Music vocally and on her veena She is an active collaborator with other forms of art as well including western Classical music, Jazz, Chinese poetry. She is the artistic director of the school Naadha Rasa (Essence of Tone), Center for Music.

Lauded for providing “a once-in-a-lifetime experience for adventurous concertgoers”, **Zeitgeist** is a new music chamber ensemble comprised of two percussion, piano and woodwinds. One of the longest established new music groups in the country, Zeitgeist commissions and presents a wide variety of new music for audiences in the Twin Cities and on tour. Always eager to explore new artistic frontiers, Zeitgeist collaborates with poets, choreographers, directors, visual artists and sound artists of all types to create imaginative new work that challenges the boundaries of traditional chamber music. The members of Zeitgeist are: Heather Barringer, percussion; Patti Cudd, percussion; Pat O’Keefe, woodwinds; and Nicola Melville piano. Up to date information about the ensemble and its activities can be found at www.zeitgeistnewmusic.org.