

Just as the Margazhi season begins, musicians K N Shashikiran and Sudha Ragunathan launch an association 'by the musicians and for the musicians' to bring their fraternity together

# Musicians gather ...before the audience come in

**I**n an endeavour to make the field of Carnatic music more stable and global, KN Shashikiran, musician and executive director of [www.carnatica.net](http://www.carnatica.net) and singer Sudha Ragunathan have teamed up to form the Global Carnatic Music Association. The organisation, meant for both Carnatic musicians and patrons around the world, will be a confluence of musical minds seeking to discuss, resolve and highlight issues concerning them.

Launched at an event held on Tuesday morning, the association, hailed as "by the musicians for the musicians" was attended by stalwarts of Carnatic music like Aruna Sairam, TN Krishnan, Unnikrishnan, besides Shashikiran and Sudha Ragunathan themselves.

An idea to establish a body for the welfare of Carnatic music, which was "gnawing Sudha Ragunathan's mind" took wings only after she met Shashikiran who happened to share the same concerns. "As a representative body, our activities will be constructive and will have an impact on the musicians," said KN Shashikiran. Insurance, pension schemes, travel concessions, performance opportunities - were some of the issues they'll take under their wing.

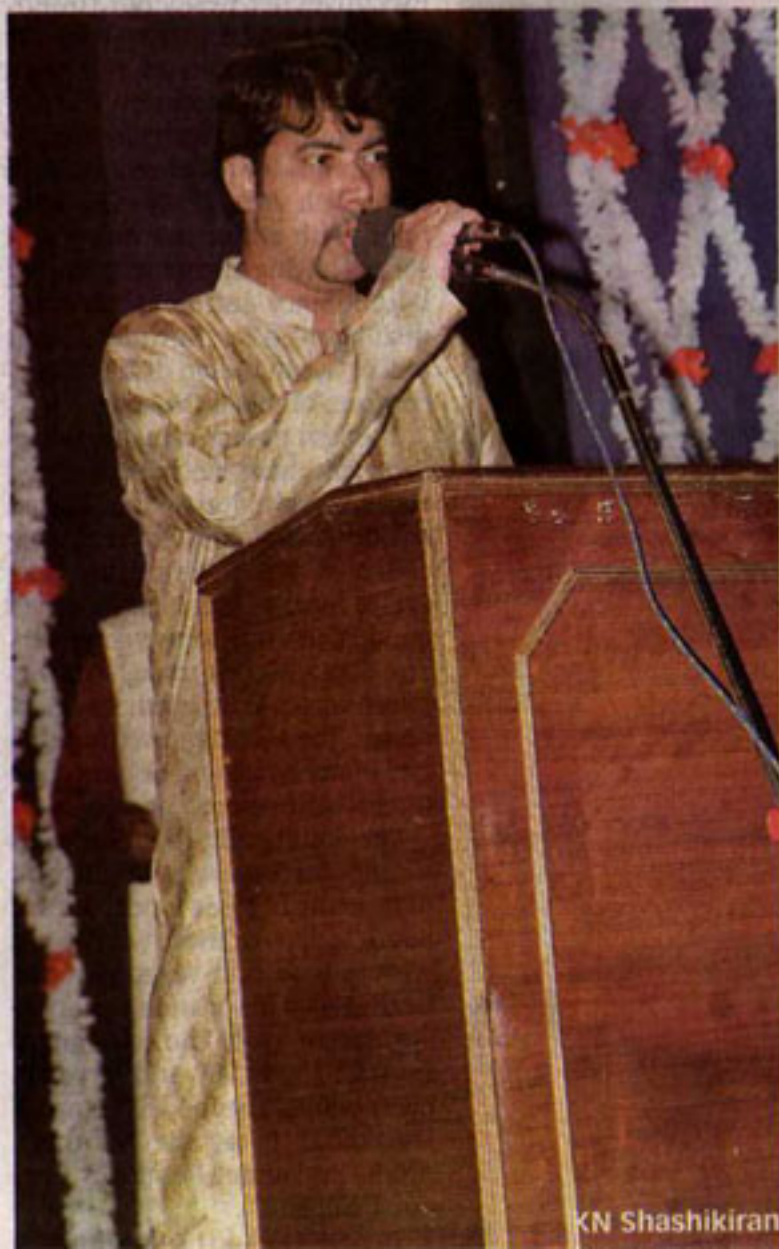
And with Margazhi closing in, the organisers decided now was the time to bring together the

music fraternity. "This is the most active month for us all and many NRIs in the music arena make it to India then. This is why we are launching it now," explained Sudha Ragunathan.

The event was also the occasion for the association to announce its first programme - a free health checkup campaign, titled Music for Mind, Body, Heart and Soul. An opportunity for musicians to get a free health checkup done to check their fitness levels, both physically and mentally. Vocalists can also have a voice analysis test done at the event. It will be held on November 29 (from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.) and November 30 (from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.) at Hotel Residency Towers.

Speaking about the response from artistes, KN Shashikiran said over 100 artists have already joined the association, extending their solidarity. "Though many artistes have been boisterous about the launch of such an association, a few sceptics are there. They are sceptical about the success of projects that will be undertaken by us. But overall, the response has been overwhelming," was what Sudha Ragunathan had to say.

Those Carnatic musicians wanting to be a part of Global Carnatic Music Association can call Shashikiran at 9444018269 and 9840015013.



KN Shashikiran