

*FACULTY AND GUEST ARTIST  
RECITAL*

*PHILLIP KLOECKNER, organist  
SURENDER TALWAR, baritone  
SRINIVAS KOUMOUNDURI, sitar  
DEXTER RAGHUNANAN, tabla*

*Sunday, March 20, 2011*

*7:00 p.m.*

*Edythe Bates Old Recital Hall  
and Grand Organ*

*Celebrating* 1975-2010  
*35* Years

THE SHEPHERD SCHOOL OF MUSIC RICE UNIVERSITY

## **IMPROVARAGA**

*An hour of improvisations that experiment with the synergies  
between ancient Eastern and Western musical traditions.*

### **I. Om Bhuoor Bhuva Svaha**

*The Gayatri Mantra  
(Sanskrit)*

*God is omnipresent. I surrender myself unto Him.*

### **II. Kahne Ki Jaroorat Nahi**

*from a 1960's Bollywood Movie*

*Hindi Spiritual Song  
(Bhajan)*

*It is more than sufficient to come to the temple  
and bow in front of God.*

### **III. Kahan Le Chale Ho**

*from a 1960's Bollywood Movie*

*Hindi Philosophical Song  
(Bhajan)*

*Where are you taking me? What is this world  
beyond the stars?*

### **IV. Barhi Der Bhayee Der Bhayee**

*from a late 1950's Hindi Movie*

*Hindi Spiritual Song  
(Bhajan)*

*I have been walking for long on the journey of my life.  
My feet are tired. I am in the twilight of my life.  
When will you reveal yourself to me?*

### **V. Ya Devi Sarv Bhuteshu**

*Shakti Devi Mantra  
(Sanskrit)*

*Goddess of energy and power. I bow before you  
and pray to you.*

*The reverberative acoustics of Edythe Bates Old Recital Hall magnify the slightest sound made by the audience. Your care and courtesy will be appreciated. The taking of photographs and use of recording equipment are prohibited.*



## BIOGRAPHIES

PHILLIP KLOECKNER has distinguished himself as a multifaceted musician. He has established a successful and admired career as a conductor and keyboard musician at the organ, harpsichord, and piano. His solo and collaborative performances have been heard to high critical acclaim in numerous live performances and radio broadcasts throughout North and South America, and in Europe.

His 2010-2011 schedule of performances will be highlighted by a program of music for organ and voice by twentieth-century American composers, with soprano Cynthia Clayton, in Lima, Perú. His solo organ performances will take him to St. Paul, Minnesota (Church of King Louis, King of France), Washington, D.C. (National Cathedral), and Cairo. Dr. Kloeckner will again join forces from the organ with the Shepherd School Brass Ensembles under the direction of Marie Speziale, at Rice University on April 10. Collaborating from the harpsichord, he will help to open the new season of *Among Friends* at St. Mary's, in Cypress, Texas, and will play continuo for an April 15 performance of concerted works by J. S. Bach, led by Kenneth Goldsmith.

His first solo recording, *Exotic Variations*, will be released in 2011 by Raven Records and includes music by Louis Vierne, Samuel Scheidt, and André Isoir. In it, Dr. Kloeckner explores the full tonal capabilities of the Fisk-Rosales organ at Rice University and highlights variation techniques in repertoire that spans more than four centuries. The recording features the first digital release of André Isoir's *Variations on a Huguenot Psalm*.

Dr. Kloeckner serves on the faculty of the Shepherd School where he teaches a wide variety of courses that include applied organ, music theory, ear training, keyboard skills, figured bass and continuo realization, score reading, and church music. As the result of his early teaching experience, his first book, *Functional Hearing: A Contextual Method for Ear Training*, written with Arthur Gottschalk, was published in April of 1997, and remains in wide use.

His interest and research in the field of nineteenth-century organs lead him to the first comprehensive study of these instruments in Perú: *Nineteenth-Century Organs in Perú and the Special Case of Innocente Foglia* (2001). With the assistance of Hans van Gemert, he was able to document and publish for the first time the locations and specifications of several significant instruments that had been heretofore unknown, including three built by Aristide Cavallè-Coll between 1850 and 1880. An article describing the highlights of this work appears in the December 2009 issue of *THE AMERICAN ORGANIST*. He is currently serving as the consultant for the restoration of the 1855 Belgian organ (Loret) in the Lima Cathedral.

Dr. Kloeckner has commissioned, performed, or conducted the premieres of numerous works for organ and choir by Arthur Gottschalk, Gerre Hancock, Ann Gebuhr, Carlyle Sharp, Jeffrey Nytch, and Kate O'Connell.

As artistic director of the United Nations Association International Choir for the past eight seasons, Dr. Kloeckner has helped the multicultural ensemble to establish its place in the cultural landscape of Houston, in part by presenting premieres and revivals of numerous works unavailable elsewhere. In addition to offering standard choral repertoire, Dr. Kloeckner has led the choir in the Houston premiere of César Franck's *Seven Last Words*, the North American premiere of nineteenth-century Peruvian composer Melchor Tapia's *St. Luke Passion*, and in several original works by choir members. He has established an enviable record of collaborating with a refreshing variety of soloists and ensembles from a wide array of cultural and ethnic backgrounds.



*SURENDER TALWAR is singer by birth and studied the art for a very short while with a guru in New Delhi during his school days. He has developed his talent informally throughout the last several decades and has sung for numerous occasions and events in India and the United States, organizing a full band with which he sang for events in the Houston Indian community. He has sung for many charitable organizations for their fund raising activities, and he is frequently invited by his Temple to sing Bhajans.*

*Mr. Talwar is a member of the United Nations Association International Choir, with whom he has sung solos in songs of his own music, notably at the Hobby Center for U. N. Secretary General Kofi Annan's first public appearance in the United States after leaving the U.N. He also sang for the Shunnya Theater in Houston as a background singer for their production of **Bricks & Lyrics**. He has appeared on several CDs that feature Western-Eastern fusion music.*

*Surender Talwar is a businessman and owns Zarposh India, located for seventeen years in the Rice Village, offering the finest collection of art, artifacts, and stone sculptures from India, Tibet, and Nepal.*

*He has served as President of Bellaire Lions Club for 2 years. He also is an active Rotarian. Currently he is the vice president of the India Cultural Center and Executive Director of Indo-American Charity Foundation, Houston, which supports local charities. He is also serving on the advisory board of SEWA-Houston, a grass-roots organization aspiring to spread the message of service to low income families of Houston. He has served on the board of the Cancer Survivors' Fund.*

*SRINIVAS KOUMOUNDURI is a sitarist and music teacher based in Houston, TX. He was born in Hyderabad, India on December 1, 1955. He was born into a Telugu Brahmin family that has a long history of interest in the arts and music. His mother's name was K. Chudamani and his father's name was Koumounduri Venkata Charyi and his father was an amateur sitarist of some note. Srinivas was one of seven children.*

*Srinivas' musical training was extensive. He started learning music from the age of five from his father. Later he started learning sitar from his older brother K. Narsim Acharyi. From the age of 16, Srinivas has been learning from Atma Ram Sharma of Hyderabad, under whom he continues to study today.*

*Srinivas has made numerous musical tours of Europe. His first musical tour was in 1986, when he visited Switzerland and Germany. Subsequently he has also toured Great Britain, France, and US. In 1988 he moved to the United States. Since that time he has been living and teaching in Houston, TX.*

*In 2009, Srinivas released his first CD; this is entitled **Eastern Fantasia**. In the same year, he along with David Courtney, released an instruction book / CD set entitled **Learning the Sitar**. This was also this year that he established Houston's premier sitar school, "Saraswati School of Music".*

*DEXTER RAGHUNANAN is a highly accomplished tabla player based in Houston Texas. He is one of the most distinguished Indian Classical artists to originate from Trinidad W.I. Dexter always had a great penchant toward percussion as a child and his passion for drums was recognized by his paternal grandmother who bought his first pair of tabla and subsequently encouraged him to learn tabla formally.*

*His musical journey began under tutelage of Shri Tensing Ramlakhan. It was not long before Dexter became a sought after accompanist and performer in Trinidad and the rest of the region. Dexter continued his tabla training and during his early years, he was fortunate enough to also learn from tabla players such Shri Nirmal Mandal, Shri Sandeep Das and Pt Pooran Maharaj (son of the late Pt Kishen Maharaj.) Dexter established his own tabla school which started off with just four students in a temple in south Trinidad but soon expanded to a school of over two hundred.*

*Dexter's love of tabla took him to the U.S. and Canada, where he accompanied many artists. It was in Toronto that he met Shri Ritesh Das in 1999, since then he has received rigorous training under the guidance of Riteshji and his guru, Maestro of Lucknow gharana, Pt Swapan Chaudhuri. In 2005 Dexter moved to Houston Texas where he began teaching tabla and performing extensively in the U.S. with Classical musicians, Ghazal singers, Dancers and Fusion artists. During his time in the U.S. Dexter has also had the opportunity to learn from the leading exponent of Farukhabad gharana, Pt Anindo Chatterjee.*

*Performances with top Artists include:*

- Pt Jasraj
- Pt Ramesh Misra
- Bhajan Samrat- Sri Anup Jalota
- Pt Ajay Jha
- Shri Sudhir Narain
- Ustad Ghulam Abbas
- Shri Indrajit Banerjee
- Sunil Mungee