



Violinist/composer and conductor Ananda Dabare

CHAMIKARA WEERASINGHE

The president of Sri Lanka Symphony Orchestra, Prof. Ajith Abeyskera on Thursday said in an interview with the "In Tune" that the concert will be a novel experience for both Sinhala and Western classical music lovers. Prof. Abeyskera said the concert will feature Sinhala oriental songs that are based on Sri Lanka folk and Indian classical music.

The integrity of diatonic harmony in Western classical music will complement the patterns of sweet sounds or swaras that produce mind pleasing sounds also known as Rags in Indian classical music tradition, when Symphony Orchestra of Sri Lanka presents a classical music concert this evening (September 05) at the Ladies' College Hall, Colombo, from 7 pm.

The concert titled "Classics in Harmony" will feature iconic figures of oriental classical music in Sri Lanka Victor Ratnayaka and Nanda Malini.

# Symphony Orchestra of Sri Lanka presents Classics in Harmony today

Abeyskera said about the concert on being asked whether it be a fusion of Western classical music and oriental music, it will not be a concert of fusion of the two great traditions. "In order to produce fusion, the two styles have to be blended to produce a different sound," he explained and added, "Classics in Harmony will stand to complement the two music traditions rather than creating 'fusion'. It will preserve the orchestral color of both Western and Eastern traditions," he said. "We do not want to create a monstrous hybrid as such by fusing the two," he added.



Nanda Malini

ern classical music fans to appreciate Western classical music," he said. "The concert will not be a pop show and the experience will be totally different because the Western orchestra will not become a pop orchestra by any means although from recent times the Symphony Orchestra of Sri Lanka has been changing its profile from being a purely high classical orchestra to being versatile," he said. As pointed out by Shamini Wettimuni, of the board of governors of the Orchestra of , they want to describe those classical music lovers who listen to serious music of the orient to Western



President, Sri Lankan Symphony Orchestra, Prof. Ajith Abeyskera

classical music and vice versa. Singers like Victor Ratnayaka, Nanda Malini, W.D.Amaradeva and T.M. Jayaratna are high caliber vocalists. With concerts like this we hope to expose these high caliber performers to Western orchestral music so that they can appreciate the values of Western classical music, she said. There will be fifty to sixty musicians playing in the Symphony Orchestra. On being asked to describe what could this mean to all Sri Lankan music fans, Prof. Abeyskera said, "The concert will serve as a cultural bridge that joins local Western

music fans and oriental classical music fans."

Victor Ratnayaka will sing a set of six songs at the Classics in Harmony concert. Unlike in Western classical music, North Indian classical music recognises voice to be predominant in the tradition of fusion a Rag. According to Sangeetha Ratnakara by Pandit Saranagadeva, music is defined as the combination of vocal music, instrumental music and dance.

Even without Dance and Instrumental music, vocal music alone can be called music. A performer should not forget that voice is predominant in the tradition of North Indian classical music.

Ananda Dabare, who has arranged music for the set of songs that are to be sung by Victor and Nanda at the concert had been familiar with oriental classical music before he joined the world of Western classical music. He learned Western music in Russia at Moscow State Conservatory.

Vocal recitals by Victor Ratnayaka appeal to the most discerning of music lovers, the man on the street. He is one of the most acclaimed radio artists and one of Sri Lanka's top playback singers of the past two decades. Lyrical content is one of the significant features of Victor's music for



Singer and composer Victor Ratnayaka

he most of his song have been composed by the country's top lyricists. Nanda Malini, also regarded as the emblem of the Sinhala identity in Sinhala Song, too has songs with very powerful lyrical content and versatile-melodious aspects. Song such as "Ran Kenden Benda" ("Entwined with a Golden

Thread"), Udangu Layan ("the Arrogant Maiden") and "Mih Mandale" have become much appreciated by all music lovers in the country. Nanda Malini with career spanning over three decades of singing, has made over 50 solo albums and is one of the most respected playback singers of the Sinhala film.

“Unlike in Western classical music, North Indian classical music recognizes voice to be predominant. Even without Dance and Instrumental music, vocal music alone can be called music.”

## Westlife- Miss you

Intro: D A Bm G  
A G  
I can't sleep, I just can't breathe  
D G  
When your shadow is all over me, baby  
A G  
I don't wanna be a fool in your eyes  
Bm G  
cause what we had was built on lies  
Bm A D  
And when our love seems to fade away  
G D  
listen to me hear what I say  
Chorus  
D  
I don't wanna feel  
A G  
the way that I do  
Bm G  
I just wanna be  
G  
right here with you  
D  
I don't wanna see  
A G  
see us apart  
Bm G  
I just wanna say it straight from my heart  
I miss you  
A G  
What would it take for you to see  
D G  
to make you understand that I'll always believe  
A G  
you and I can make it through  
D G  
and I still know I can't get over you  
Bm A D  
And when our love seems to fade away  
G D  
listen to me hear what I say  
Chorus  
A G D G 2x  
Bm A D  
Cause when our love always fades away  
G A  
listen to me hear what I say  
Chorus  
D#  
I don't wanna feel  
Bb  
the way that I do  
Bm  
I just wanna be  
G#  
right here with you  
D#  
I don't wanna see  
Bb  
see us apart  
Bm  
I just wanna say it straight from my heart  
D#  
oh baby I miss you I do

## Westlife

In the tradition of British and Irish boy bands like Take That and Boyzone comes Dublin's Westlife, a quintet consisting of Shane Filan, Nicky Byrne, Bryan McFadden, Mark Feehily, and Kian Egan. Filan, Egan, and Feehily were among the group's six founding members, but the other half of the group was dispatched when Louis Walsh, Boy-

zone's manager, took interest in them. This made room in the band for Byrne and McFadden, Walsh also introduced Westlife to Boyzone vocalist and solo artist Ronan Keating, who became the group's co-manager shortly after they cemented their recording contract. The group's first single, 1999's "Flying Without Wings,"

entered the U.K. charts at number one, a feat they replicated with "Seasons in the Sun" and "Swear It Again" in 2001. Their self-titled debut album met with similar chart-topping success and quickly went platinum in their homeland. Westlife was released in the U.S. by Arista Records in early 2000.



## Westlife promise 'strongest album yet'

Westlife have promised that their upcoming ninth studio album will be the group's strongest to date. The Irish boyband, who have not released any new material for two years, insisted that they will surprise fans when they return later this year. "The album will have no covers at all - we want it to be our strongest ever," Shane Filan told the "Irish Daily Mirror." "We're working on it in the studios at the minute and it's really

exciting. We took a decision that we didn't want to do any covers at all this time round and give the fans 100% new material. "We know this has to be something special because we have been away for over a year. I think everyone is going to be really surprised when they hear it." Guy Chambers, former Savage Garden star Darren Hayes and Ryan Tedder, who penned Leona Lewis's "Bleeding Love" are all rumored to have contributed material for the new record. "We're lucky to

be working with some amazing writers and I'm sure this album is going to bring us back with a bang," Filan added. "We want great up-tempo songs and some really strong ballads. That's what we made our name with and that's what we want to do again. "The plan is to release the album before Christmas and then hit the road for a tour next year. "Westlife have sold over 40 million copies of their nine previous albums, seven of which were bestsellers in the UK.

## Sunil's splendour in Lankan music

WUJITHA NAKKAWITA

The Independent Television Network recently staged a grand musical concert Sunilasar Sirisara at the BMICH and had it telecast on ITN a week later featuring the music and songs of yesteryear's great music composer, lyricist, Sunil Santha, who died without fulfilling his life's promise on a pathetic turn of events that made him merely exist in a society that was not grateful for the singer's service of complete dedication he rendered for the people of his times and later generations.

The concert brought back nostalgic years from the 1940s and '50s when Sunil Santha among the contemporary musicians devoted his whole life for the development of a Sri Lankan musical tradition like Ananda Samarasinghe who believed that both the North Indian Ragadhari Music or the South Indian Karnataka Music did not harmonize with the Sri Lankan culture and civilization.

Therefore these two especially Sunil Santha worked very hard to after his graduation and return home from Shanthiniketan and Bhatkhande music universities of India to work for the development of a Sri Lankan music school blending the positive aspects of our folk music tradition perhaps akin to the path followed by the Russian musical genius Tchaikovsky whose compositions greatly absorbed Russian folk music.

The singers who joined the two-hour performance Ivor Dennis the only singer who faithfully followed Sunil Santha's style of music over the years, Victor Ratnayaka, Nanda Malini, Sunil Edirisinghe, T.M. Jayaratna and Edward Jayakody performed Sunil Santha's songs as orchestra of senior musicians backed them.

Yet for those of us the two-hour performance that recreated the best songs composed and sung by Sunil there was one void, the absence of the depth and beauty of the golden voice of Sunil. What was the stamp Sunil put on the



Sunil Santha

indigenous music? His compositions touched the inner strings of the Sri Lankan culture and ethos especially the sylvan freshness of his people's style of life and the immensity of his perception of the beauty and elegance of our country captured so well. His rapporteur embraced the nuances of Sinhala folk music, Bengali folk music that has several similarities to ours and also some percentage of western music

that an Indian musician was not a competent judge of the Sri Lankan singers who were not similar to the North Indian singers. Although Ratnayakar was once Sunil's teacher he made his stand not only for himself but for the cause he espoused. Thereafter Radio Ceylon refused to allow Sunil to sing and some people in the radio station started damaging his records that were on discs at the time and they stopped playing his songs. Though Sunil refused to be auditioned by Ratnayakar during his student years in India Sunil once won the all India folk singing competition.

But Sunil refused to appeal to higher authorities and lived almost a penniless life after that though he could have commercialized his music. When he died at the age of 66 of a heart attack he had become the victim of an ungrateful and heartless milieu of mediocrities in the local music scene except for a few like Pandit Amaradeva. Still the golden era of music that Sunil brought to a newly independent nation with his heart in national resurgence cannot be simply written off though he was made a penniless pauper by that same society. For the contemporary music schools and faculties of aesthetics owe him a deep debt of gratitude that should research on Sunil's music and honour him even now in this 2009 hour.

It began in 1953 when Radio Ceylon the predecessor to the SLBC decided to invite Prof Ratnayakar of India to audition all the singers of the radio station but Sunil Santha refused to be auditioned on the princi-



## Bonnie Tyler Returns with Total Eclipse of the Heart

Singer Bonnie Tyler is returning to the charts with a new version of her 1983 hit Total Eclipse of the Heart, which will feature Only Men Aloud. The

58-year-old said: "I'm delighted with this version of Total Eclipse and it is wonderful to be working with such a great choir as Only Men Aloud."

Her song has been covered by others including Nikki French, Westlife, Jan Wayne and Tori Amos. **Wednesday, 02 September 2009**