



15 Livingston Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ 732-246-

SHOW

Date: August 29, 2007

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

NEW JERSEY THEATRE to present
Two musical legends: Dr. Balamurali Krishna and Ajoy Chakrabarty
and captivating dances by the visually challenged
In the Discover Artistic India program



The New Jersey State Theatre, in cooperation with IACRF INC and World Entertainment, is scheduled to present a jugalbandi between Carnatic and Hindustani music maestros, Dr. Balamurali Krishna and Ajoy Chakrabarty on Saturday, September 22 at 7 pm as part of the Discover Artistic India program.

This is the first time ever that music aficionados of New Jersey will be treated to a concert featuring these two stalwarts performing on the same stage.

The evening will also feature stunning performances in Indian classical dance by a group of visually challenged dancers from India. The audience is taken beyond the senses of sight and hearing. They will be bathed in an aura of colors that is experienced during the awakening of the chakras—solar plexus; fragrance associated with each manifestation wafts in the air. Tantric images and mystical syllables will lead the spectator to a spiritual experience.



For Dr. Mangalampalli Balamuralikrishna, singing with a Hindustani ustad or pandit such as Ajoy Chakrabarty is nothing new. He has performed with giants such as Bhimsen Joshi and won applause from the audience and acclaim from his co-artists. But his jugalbandi at the New Jersey State Theatre on September 22 promises a different kind of experience. Not only because he is teamed with a Hindustani vocalist known for his mellifluous style, but also because that vocalist happens to be his disciple in Carnatic music. Pandit Ajoy Chakrabarty, a frequent visitor to Chennai, Carnatic doyen for some years now, and even hopes to offer a full fledged Carnatic recital. If he succeeds, he will be the first Hindustani musician to do so.

For, though many Carnatic musicians have mastered the north Indian genre, no Hindustani counterpart has so far gone beyond a light take off on a "Nada tanumanisam" or a fluffy "Sogasuga". This time, the illustrious guru and the renowned sishya will contrast and complement each other by singing in their own genres. Listeners expect that they will also sing Carnatic compositions together.

Three factors contribute to Balamuralikrishna's charisma. A voice totally aligned with the sruti in three octaves, perfect diction, and phenomenal skills in voice modulation. Born to a flautist father and veena-artiste mother, the

child prodigy vocalist showed astonishing skills on several instruments. On occasion, he even recorded his singing with his own viola and mridangam accompaniments. He is the only Indian musician to be accorded the top grade in seven performance categories. Innovative, at times iconoclastic, but always with a complete grasp of tradition, Balamuralikrishna ranks among significant contemporary Carnatic composers. He is credited with inventing new ragas and talas. He also won national awards for playback singing and music direction in films.

Pandit Ajoy Chakrabarty too revealed early musical gifts. In fact, he could sing before he could talk. His first lessons came from Pandit Gnan Prakash Ghosh. Later he trained under Munavvar Ali Khan, son and disciple of the legendary Bade Ghulam Ali Khan. Today, Chakrabarty is recognised as a frontline exponent of the rich and highly emotive Patiala gharana. He has performed with leading accompanists and in prestigious venues across the world. His knowledge of theory adds to his musicianship. Chakrabarty has extended his appeal with his sizeable repertoire of lighter forms such as the thumri and bhajan, and with his penchant for Bengali songs.

Tickets for this program are priced between \$23 to \$48. Also, special discounted tickets at **\$13 are available for Seniors & Students subject to availability**. *There will be a \$2 per ticket facility fee applied to each ticket. Additional fees apply.*

To become a **STATE THEATRE MEMBER** and get the **BEST SEATS**, call 732-247-7200, ext. 512. STATE THEATRE MEMBER presale is limited to 4 tickets per order. Phone (732-246-SHOW) and window orders only. For more information, log on to <http://www.statetheatrenj.org> and select the date September 22.

Tickets are also available by e-mailing IACRFCONCERTS@AOL.COM.