Mahatma Gandhi: 150 Years
Character is Leadership

Kalapriya
Center for Indian Performing Arts

I Sing for Change!
A story of justice, equality, compassion and peace
Narrated by Gowri Ramnarayan • Sung by The Voice of Chicago

Sunday, November 3, 2019
David & Reva Logan Center for the Performing Arts
The Kalapriya Foundation, Center for Indian Performing Arts is one of the foremost Indian arts organizations in the city of Chicago. Kalapriya, is committed to cultivating, producing and presenting high-quality performances (dance, music, theater, and stories), and education rooted in the diverse cultural traditions of India. Kalapriya embraces multiple genres of the Indian performing arts and works through artistic processes to engage audiences, empower students, and build community. The board of the Kalapriya Foundation adopted a new mission statement in January of 2019.

Kalapriya Center for Indian Performing Arts presents India’s artistic diversity through the performing arts (dance, music, theater and story-telling) that preserve traditional South Asian art forms, and that build bridges between the performing arts and our contemporary lives.

To further this mission, Kalapriya works in the underserved communities of Chicago and in the public and private schools in the city to enhance their understanding of diversity. Kalapriya is a non-profit, federally tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization.

Dr Gowri Ramnarayan

Deputy Editor, The Hindu, now Senior Associate, Sruti Magazine, and columnist, Daily News & Analysis, Dr Gowri Ramnarayan was vocal accompanist to India’s iconic classical musician MS Subbulakshmi.

As inhouse playwright and Artistic Director, JustUs Repertory, India, Dr Ramnarayan uses modern techniques to evolve theatre performances steeped in Indian culture—always in a global context. She creates multi-genre texts with music, dance and the visual arts, to explore the weight of historical, political and literary pasts that arts must engage to represent the complexities of contemporary life. These productions have been staged in major Indian cities and at national theatre festivals, as also in the United Kingdom, north America and South Asia.

Dr Ramnarayan’s Dark Horse won two national awards, while her Night’s End (about the forest, the tiger and human survival), was selected for a dramatised reading by Swedish actors at a playwrights’ conference in Stockholm (2013). Night’s End was also commissioned for a week’s run at Soho theatre, London (2017).

She has translated Vijay Tendulkar’s celebrated plays from Marathi, Kalki Krishnamurti’s fiction from Tamil, published an anthology of her original plays (Dark Horse & Other Plays), children’s books, and biographies of Indian artists. She has served as member, Fipresci Jury, at international film festivals in Europe.

Dr Ramnarayan is Chairperson, Rukmini Devi Arundale Trust; Member, Regional Advisory Committee, Indian Council for Cultural Relations; and Adjunct Faculty, Asian College of Journalism, Chennai.

Roopa Mahadevan

Roopa Mahadevan is a leading Indian classical and crossover vocalist in the American diaspora. Roopa performs Carnatic concerts, collaborates with artists in jazz/new music and R&B/soul, and accompanies front-running South Asian dancers and choreographers. Based in New York City, Roopa can be found leading her crossover ensemble, Roopa in Flux, and directing the innovative choir Navatman Music Collective. Roopa was a lead soloist for a track on the Grammy award-winning album Calling All Daws and is releasing a Carnatic album this fall.
Chicago Children's Choir is a non-profit organization that inspires and unites youth from diverse backgrounds to become global citizens through music. Founded in Hyde Park in direct response to the Civil Rights Movement in 1956, CCC has grown from one choir into a vast network of in-school and after-school programs serving 5,200 students across the city of Chicago. CCC has impacted the lives of more than 50,000 diverse youth throughout its 62-year history. Since its founding, CCC has focused on building programs that reflect the racial and economic diversity of Chicago. Eighty percent of youth served are from low-moderate income homes, with over 4,000 students annually participating completely free of charge. All singers in CCC programs receive some level of subsidy. High school seniors enrolled in CCC have a 100% graduation and college acceptance rate, becoming global ambassadors who carry on CCC's core values in a wide array of professional fields.

Collaborating with The Kalapriya Foundation and performing I SING OF CHANGE will be Voice of Chicago, the premier mixed-voice ensemble that tours internationally and collaborates with Chicago’s finest institutions.

Josephine Lee
President and Artistic Director

Acclaimed conductor, pianist, singer, producer and non-profit leader Josephine Lee has made a widespread impact in the fields of music and education through an array of engagements across the globe. Ms. Lee has worked with a sterling roster of local and international artists and currently serves as President and Artistic Director of the United States’ preeminent youth choral organization, Chicago Children’s Choir.

Delivering a “sensual and bluesy” performance (The New York Times), Ms. Lee recently sang in the world premiere of Pulitzer Prize-finalist Ted Hearne’s Place, which played to critical acclaim at the Brooklyn Academy of Music’s Next Wave Festival. Ms. Lee will reprise her role in the Los Angeles premiere of Place with the LA Philharmonic in March 2020. Other recent artistic engagements include a conducting debut with members of the National Philharmonic at Strathmore and Grammy Award-winning artist Lisa Fischer and her band Grand Baton (2019); a collaboration with Chicago Children’s Choir and Bobby McFerrin & The SpiritYouAll Band at Ravinia Festival (2019); the development and world premiere of Long Way Home (2018), a fully staged theatrical work with the Q Brothers Collective; the co-creation of the original world musical Sita Ram with David Kersnar of Lookingglass Theatre (2003, 2006, 2012); an original suite for piano and cello, Ascension, commissioned by Ballet Chicago (2017); an original piano composition, The Good Goodbyes, commissioned by Frank Chaves and River North Dance Chicago (2012); a collaboration on Chance the Rapper’s debut studio album The Big Day (2019) as well as a collaboration on his Grammy Award-winning Coloring Book, for which Ms. Lee led choruses in studio recordings and tour performances in 2016. In 2015, Ms. Lee founded Vocality, a festival chorus comprising Chicago Children’s Choir alumni as well as young vocal artists from a wide array of communities within and surrounding the city of Chicago whose mission is to exemplify the highest level of choral singing with an emphasis on excellence and diversity within its membership. Vocality made its premiere in July 2015 at Ravinia Festival in a concert performance of Porgy and Bess with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, under the baton of Bobby McFerrin. Vocality returned to Ravinia Festival in July 2018 in a new staged production of Leonard Bernstein’s MASS under the direction of Marin Alsop as well as the encore production in July 2019, which was filmed for a national PBS broadcast to be released in 2020. Ms. Lee’s past orchestral engagements include those with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Chicago Sinfonietta, Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra, Grant Park Orchestra, Lyric Opera Orchestra, Oregon Symphony and Sphinx Virtuosi. Future engagements include the development of a new theatrical work by J. Nicole Brooks, David Kersnar and Chicago Children’s Choir Composer in Residence W. Mitchell Owens III.

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I Sing For Change!
Mahatma Gandhi’s Legacy for the future of humanity

2019 marks the 150th anniversary of the birth of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi – who came to be known as Mahatma or the Great Soul. Gandhi revolutionized the fight for justice and freedom in South Africa and India. His principles influenced many other world leaders in their struggles for freedom and equality, such as Nelson Mandela fighting apartheid in South Africa, and Dr Martin Luther King pushing for civil rights in North America.

Gandhi’s success came - not from wealth, weapons or powerful alliances, but from the strength of his character. From being the message of love and compassion while adhering to his principles of being the change he wished to see in the world.

I Sing for Change takes us through the episodes in his life that defined his principles and his character. They continue to inspire us to this day.

**SONGS:** Voice of Chicago, Chicago Childrens Choir  •  **STORYTELLING:** Dr Gowri Ramnarayan

Conducted by Josephine Lee and Judy Hanson
A Change is Gonna Come
Sam Cooke, arr. W. Mitchell Owens III, CCC alumnus and Composer In Residence

**Introduction: “My Life is my message”**

**Vaishnava jana**
Narsi Mehta, 15th Century (India, Gujarati)

“Only those who know the pain of others and help them unselfishly can be called devout. They respect the entire world, they do not disparage anyone, they are pure in thought and deed, and free from conceit.”

**Satyagraha: The Power of Truth**

**Ain’t Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me ‘Round**
Civil Rights Movement Song, arr. Mollie Stone

**South African Medley**
Oliver Tambo (South Africa, Xhosa)
Traditional
“Oliver Tambo, speak to Botha to release Mandela.”

lindonga zaJerico (South Africa, Zulu)
Traditional
“The walls of Jericho are falling down.”

Toyi-Toyi (South Africa, Xhosa)
Traditional
“We greet them, hello! They do not answer, I wonder! Oliver Tambo, Nelson Mandela, Luthuli are our leaders. Clap your hands, raise your knees—I don’t see it— even higher!”

**Importance of the Community, Role of the Government**

**We Are**
W. Mitchell Owens III, CCC Alumnus & Composer in Residence
Commissioned in 2010 by Chicago Children’s Choir

**Raghupati Raghava (India, Hindi)**
Traditional, music composed by Vishnu Digambar Paluskar

“O King Rama, head of the clan of Raghu, the consort of Sita! You uplift and purify the fallen! You are Ishwar to Hindus, Allah to Muslims. Lord, give us wisdom!”
Faith banishes Fear
Hari Tum Haro
Mirabai, 15th century (India, Hindi)
Music by R. Vaidyanathan
Recorded by MS Subbulakshmi at Mahatma Gandhi's request • Sung by Roopa Mahadevan
“Lord! Legends speak of how you protected a woman from being dishonoured, a child from torture, an animal from slaughter. Lord, destroy our fears.”

We All Live Here
W. Mitchell Owens III, CCC Alumnus & Composer in Residence
Commissioned in 2015 by Chicago Children’s Choir
Choreography by Judy Hanson

Precious Lord, Take My Hand
Thomas Andrew Dorsey, arr. Arnold Sevier
*Gandhi’s favourite hymn by Cardinal Newman recited during this song

Compassion: The Power of Ahimsa Peace
Jeral Gray, Percy Gray, Jr. & Demond Johnson, Transcription by Sarah Zegree

Believe in Love
W. Mitchell Owens III, CCC Alumnus and Composer in Residence
Commissioned by Chicago Children’s Choir 2017

We Shall Overcome
Traditional, as performed by Bishop Paul S. Morton and the Greater Stephen Mass Choir

Our Humanity, Our Planet
Maitreem Bhajata
A benediction by The Guru of Kanchi composed for the United Nations General Assembly opening session in 1966
Music by Vasant Desai • Rendered by M.S. Subbulakshmi

Imagine
John Lennon

Maitreem bhajata akhila hrdjetreem
Cultivate friendship to win everyone’s heart
Aatmavadeva paraanapi pashyata
Look upon others as you look upon yourself
Yuddham tyajata spardhaam tyajata
Renounce war. Forsake (unhealthy) competition
Tyajata pareshu kramam aakramanam
Give up unjust oppression
Imagine there’s no countries
It isn’t hard to do
Nothing to kill or die for
And no religion, too
Imagine all the people
Sharing all the world

Janane prthivee kaama dughaste
Mother Earth yields all that we require
Janako devah sakala dayaaluh
God, our father, is most compassionate
Daamyata datta dayadhvam janataah
Oh people of the world: Be restrained, charitable, compassionate
Shreyo bhooyaat sakala janaanaam
May humankind achieve prosperity and spiritual upliftment

You may say that I’m a dreamer
But I’m not the only one
I hope someday you’ll join us
And the world will be as one
Judy Hanson
Senior Associate Artistic Director

Judy Hanson holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Music Education from the University of Illinois and a Master of Music degree in Music Education from Northwestern University. As Senior Associate Artistic Director, Ms. Hanson collaborates with the Artistic Director to create the artistic vision for the overall organization and guides the conducting staff in serving 4,800 children each year. Ms. Hanson also co-directs the world-renowned Voice of Chicago and is the stage director and main choreographer for the group. In 2006, Ms. Hanson received a Jeff Award nomination (Choral Choreography) for Chicago Children’s Choir’s original world musical, Sita Ram.

With over 30 years of experience working with middle school singers, Ms. Hanson is the conductor of DiMension, a choir for young men with changing voices. A nationally known clinician, adjudicator and conductor, Ms. Hanson has presented sessions, workshops and conducted Honors Choirs at ACDA chapters, universities and many other organizations throughout the United States.

Ms. Hanson judges national show choir competitions and has been on staff at Show Choir Camps of America for 24 years. In 1993, Ms. Hanson received the Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching—an award given each year to 10 outstanding Chicago area teachers. From 1985 through 2001, Ms. Hanson was the Director of Vocal Music at Eisenhower Junior High School in Darien, IL. Eisenhower choirs performed at the 1996 Illinois ACDA Fall Convention, Walt Disney World and on three separate occasions in the Chicago production of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, starring Donny Osmond.

Chicago Children’s Choir
Josephine Lee & Judy Hanson, Conductors • Voice of Chicago: Encore Ensemble

Gabriela Allemana
Charlotte Amoako
Salvador Babinet
Katie Baffa
Kepler Boonstra
Jaydon Brown
Shawn Brown
Austin Burgett
Isaiah Calaranan
Charlie Calkins
Madeline Casagrande
Anyiah Chase-Mayfield
Aidan Chung
Julia Donato
Virginia Donoghue
Diondre Dunigan
Casey Franco
Ashley Franklin
Anita Gandara
Curtis Groth
Allison Hankins
Aiden Hensel
Olivia Katz
Albert Kerelis
Theo Kokonas
Lucia Kouri
Caleb Kowalkowski
Codi Lewis
Alessandra Mafiri
Isa Melli
Tessa Martinez
Lauren Marut
Gretchen Matzke
Makayla Oscar
Gabriela Poplawski
Ezra Pruitt
Angel Rodriguez
Lucia Ruggiero
Henry Samra
Jonah Schloerb
Shala Schmookler
Kira Sekhar
Nikita Sekhar
Nina Sharda
Whitney Shurtliff
Amanda Smithivas
Gretchen Steele
Zachary Stone
Miranda Swanagan
Yumi Tallud
Madyson Ward

Josephine Lee - continued from page 3

In recognition of her leadership of Chicago Children’s Choir, Ms. Lee received the Kennedy Center’s National Committee for the Performing Arts Award for Arts Advocacy in 2018, the Roman Nomitch Fellowship in 2012 to attend the Harvard Business School’s Strategic Perspectives in Nonprofit Management program and was awarded the Jesse L. Rosenberger Medal in 2014 from the University of Chicago. Ms. Lee was recently featured in “The Transformative Power of Music,” a segment on Oprah Winfrey Network’s acclaimed show, Super Soul Sunday.
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Kalapriya’s Productions: Stories, Music, Drama and Dance

India’s Daughter
Satyagraha; The Power of Truth
Rules of the Underworld, Stories of Yama and Yades
Navarasa; Mahabharata told by Draupati
Aham Sita; I am Sita
The Spirals of Shiva
The Blue God
Loyalty in the Ramayana
Ahima: the end of Violence
Yashodhara; The wife of the Buddha
Water Lilies: Stories of Displacement
Bring me home
The Birth of India
Anthropocene
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