

### **B.U. Ganesh Prasad – Violin**

Ganesh Prasad is an extremely talented youngster. He had his initial training from Basavanagudi Natraj of Bangalore and advanced training under the able guidance of the violin maestro V.V. Subramanyam of Madras. Ganesh has gained fame in India and abroad for his excellent accompaniment to leading artistes of South India and in particular he has been on several tours abroad in the company of Shashank.

### **P. Satish Kumar - Mridangam**

Satish Kumar was initiated to this art by his mother, late Padmavathi, a former lecturer at the Govt. Women's College, Vizianagaram. He learnt *mridangam* playing from Sreeramachandra Murthy, Appalaswamy and Vankayala Narasimham. Equally proficient in mridangam and khanjira, Satish has accompanied many senior artists in India and abroad. Satish is one of the top ranked artistes among the younger generation and is one of the most sought after *mridangam* players. His name appears on scores of audio and video recordings. He is known for spontaneity, fine artistry and deft fingering techniques.

### **Triplicane K. Sekar – Tavil**

Sekar was trained in the art of *tavil* playing by his father P.Kodandaraman and by Tanjore S.Vellaiswami. A very reputed artiste, he has been on the team of the renowned violinist L.Subramaniam for the last several years. Known for his virtuosity and able accompaniment, Sekar has been on many tours abroad and has been a part of percussion ensembles of Vikku Vinayakram and Subhashchandran.

### **Vaikom Gopalkrishnan – Ghatam**

A veteran artist, Gopalkrishnan had his initial training under his grandfather Vaikom Ramaswamy Iyer and later under Karaikudi Chandramouli of Bombay. He has accompanied several leading South Indian artists both in India and abroad. Known for his sensible accompaniment and virtuosity, he is currently on the staff of All India Radio, Madras. He is the recipient of several awards including the “Kalaimamani” from the Government of Tamilnadu.

### **Mysore M. Gururaj – Morsing**

Trained in the art of percussion by famed mridangam artist, T.A.S. Mani of Bangalore, Gururaj plays both *mridangam* and *morsing* with equal proficiency. He has been a member of the Drums of India ensemble, and has traveled widely abroad in the U.K., Germany, Switzerland, U.S., Canada, Scotland, Switzerland, Hong Kong and Germany. Gururaj has accompanied many stalwarts from South India and has been a prime *morsing* accompanist in the concerts of Shashank. He is currently on the staff of All India Radio, Mangalore, India

### **S. Shantala – Supporting Flutist**

Shantala the younger sister of Shashank was brought up in the family soaked in music for the last 3 decades. She naturally imbibed most of the music by being in the family of Shashank and has been under the guidance of veteran vocalist Vairamangalam Lakshminarayanan and Shashank. She has accompanied Shashank on his tours abroad and in India.