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Photos available on request

ENJOY SONG, DANCE, FOOD & MUSIC OF INDIA AT WESLEYAN'S NAVARATRI FESTIVAL, OCTOBER 3–7, 2007

Middletown, Conn., September 18, 2007—Wesleyan University's Center for the Arts will present some of India's leading artists and most popular art forms during its annual Navaratri Festival, October 3 through 7, 2007. *Navaratri* is one of the main festivals in India, where it lasts for nine (*nava*) nights (*ratri*), and is considered a time to see family and friends and seek blessings for new endeavors. Wesleyan's festival provides both the aficionado and the novice with an opportunity to immerse himself or herself in the culture of India. It is recognized as one of the most significant celebrations of Indian music and dance in the country.

Tickets for the Navaratri Festival can be purchased online at www.wesleyan.edu/cfa, via phone at 860-685-3355 or in person at the University box office. The Center for the Arts is located at 283 Washington Terrace in Middletown, CT.

Navaratri Performances

B. Balasubrahmanian: Vocal Music of South India

Thursday, October 4, 8pm, Crowell Concert Hall

B. Balasubrahmanian, vocalist, will host the event with Artist-In-Residence David Nelson on *mridangam* and guest artist Anantha Krishnan, violin. The concert will open with short student performances. Tickets are \$12 general admission; \$10 for seniors and students.

Sanyog: Madhu Nataraj and Satyanarayana Raju

Friday, October 5, 8pm, Crowell Concert Hall

Madhu Nataraj and Satyanarayana Raju are two of the finest dancers from India's present generation. Madhu is a Kathak dance exponent while Satya is a Bharatanatyam exponent. Based in Bangalore, the dancers have taken the dance world by storm and are known internationally for their solo work. *Sanyog* refers to union. Tickets are \$15 general admission; \$12 for seniors and students.

Sabina Mumtaz Islam: The Music of North India

Saturday, October 6, 2pm, World Music Hall

Winner of several competitions and scholarships, Sabina Mumtaz Islam is an accomplished singer who has performed at many prestigious concerts across India and the United States. Her fluid style and familiarity with *khayal*, *thumri*, *dadra*, *kajri* and *tappa* have earned her considerable praise. Tickets are \$10 general admission; \$8 for seniors and students.

T. N. Krishnan: Music of South India

Saturday, October 6, 8pm, Crowell Concert Hall

T.N. Krishnan is India's preeminent violin virtuoso who has been performing, composing, teaching and promoting Indian classical music all over the world. For the past six decades, Krishnan's music has represented the purest expression of the Carnatic tradition. His emphasis on melodic clarity, spectral fidelity and a bold and emphatic bowing technique are unparalleled in his field. His instrumental style captures the essence of the *gayaka* experience, which delivers the music with all the depth and emotion of a human voice. York University Professor Trichy Sankaran will provide accompaniment on *mridangam*.

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Tickets are \$15 general admission; \$10 for seniors and students.

More Navaratri Festival Events

Colloquium: Lewis Rowell

Wednesday, October 3, 4:15pm, Daltry Room (Rehearsal Hall 003)

Lewis Rowell is an author and ethnomusicologist on the music of Indian time and rhythm and the philosophy of music. Free admission

Film: The Music Room (Jalsaghar, 1958)

Wednesday, October 3, 7pm, CFA Cinema

The Music Room is a masterpiece of world cinema by Indian art-film director Satyajit Ray. In this moody and evocative portrait of a physically and emotionally isolated man, distinguished Bengali actor Chhabi Biswas gives an outstanding performance as a once-happy and prosperous landowner who used to spend his evenings in the music room (or *Jalsaghar*) of his magnificent palace. The film features excellent classical Hindustani music and Kathak dance, with a score by Ustad Bismillah Khan and performances by vocalist Begum Khan and dancer Roshan Kumari. Free admission.

Bharata Natyam Dance Workshop

Conducted by Madhu Nataraj and Satyanarayana Raju

Saturday, October 6, 11am, Crowell Concert Hall

Both workshops have free admission however advance registration is recommended. Please call 860-685-3355 to register.

Bhojanam (feast)

Saturday, October 6, 6pm, World Music Hall

Tickets are \$15 for adults (\$10 for children 12 and under).

Saraswati Puja (Hindu Ceremony)

Sunday, October 7, 11am, World Music Hall

This religious service, led by A. V. Srinivasan, celebrates the victory of good over evil and marks the most auspicious day of the year for beginning new endeavors, especially in learning and the arts. The audience may participate and bring instruments, manuscripts and other items for blessing. Free admission.

The CFA is an 11-building complex on the Wesleyan campus (283 Washington Terrace) that houses the departments of art and art history, music, theater and dance, as well as Film Studies events and classes. It serves as a cultural center for the region, the state and New England. The CFA includes the 400-seat Theater, the 260-seat Cinema, the World Music Hall (a non-Western performance space), the 412-seat Crowell Concert Hall and the Ezra and Cecile Zilkha Gallery.

*Performers and schedule are subject to change.

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