



# The Music Circle

Presenting the finest classical music and dance of India to audiences in southern California since 1973

*This is the first of several spotlights on the participants in our Shradhanjali / Pushpanjali on February 15, 2015.*

Three of Lakshmi's accomplished students offer a musical tribute to their beloved guru.



### **SUDAKSHINA ALAGIA**

Originally commuting from Arizona for her lessons with Lakshmi, Sudakshina later moved to Southern California to be near her guru. Sudakshina has performed alongside as well as in the presence of acclaimed artists including Ravi Shankar, Ali Akbar Khan, Ajoy Chakrabarty among others. She has released both classical and semi-classical albums in India. In 2011, Sudakshina founded the Academy of Indian Music in San Diego which brings Hindusthani classical music to the Southern California community where she teaches and performs.



### **DAYITA DATTA**

As a recipient of a Music Apprentice scholarship from ACTA (Alliance for California Traditional Arts), Dayita received extensive learning sessions from Lakshmi. Dayita is a regular performer in concerts locally; vocalist for numerous Shakti Group productions directed by Viji Prakash, internationally acclaimed dancer, choreographer, and teacher of *Bharata Natyam*; lead vocalist for a dance drama featuring eminent dancer Mythili Prakash, at Vancouver, and Los Angeles; and lead vocalist in a collaboration with Quartetto Fantastico at Grand Performances, Los Angeles.



### **ASHWIN RODE**

Ashwin Rode has over two decades of involvement in Hindustani vocal music. Vidushi Lakshmi Shankar accepted him as a student in 2009, and he regularly took lessons from her until her demise. In 2010, Lakshmi and Ashwin were selected by the Alliance for California Traditional Arts to receive funding under the master-apprentice program. In recent years, Ashwin has performed solo concerts in the United States and India and was the supporting vocalist at Lakshmi's 2011 concert in San Diego. Professionally, Ashwin is a Ph.D. candidate in economics at UC Santa Barbara.