



**'Kansas' Raja** is a self-trained singer and a harmonium player who enjoys performing a varied genre of music like Film songs, Ghazals, Bhajans, Arangetram Dance Songs, and Non-film modern songs.

This July he will be singing in FeTNA convention along with Anuradha Sriram accompanied by Sruthi "Bay"dham. Sruthi "Bay"dham, as the name suggests, is a group of musicians from the San Francisco Bay area who have performed together and part of Pallavi and V-Daze – two of Bay area's popular bands.

Raja was born and raised in Kolkata before moving to and settling down in Kansas City, Missouri - USA. He was lucky to be exposed to music and communication in many languages – Tamil, Telugu, Bengali, Malayalam, Kannada, Marathi, and Hindi. While he has performed many full length concerts in many languages he has also performed many combo concerts – majority in a particular language with a sizable other regional segment. Prior to moving to the America he was the lead singer for his own group in Kolkata consisting of wonderful Bengali musicians. He still reminisces about the Bengali musicians playing iLaya nila, en iniya pon nilaave, raagam taanam pallavi, and other marvelous hits.

All the expertise that he has acquired is through osmosis, being in the company of wonderful musicians who have been his friends, philosophers, and guides, and have been lucky to surround with incredibly talented people and he has constantly challenged himself to raise his

standards to the levels of his peers. Above all, he strives to achieve self-actualization whether it is singing in his bathroom or in front of thousands of people.

### **Albums and Private songs**

Signatures – Composer - Srikanth Devarajan (Tamil songs)

Himalayan Dreams – Composer – Venky Shanmugam (Tamil and Telugu)

Chicago – Composer – Shyam Vaidhyanathan (Tamil songs)

Mahakavi Bharathiyaar songs – Composer Srikanth Devarajan – (Other singers – Dr. SPB, Sujatha, and Karthik)

### **His notable performances (in the U.S.A)\***

2008 – NY Ganesh Temple Fund-raiser

2008 – Cancer Research Center (coordinated by Bay Area Telugu Association), Oakland, CA

2007 – Heart and Hands for the Handicapped, NJ

2007 – Art of Living Foundation, Washington D.C.

2007 – Seattle Tamil Sangam

2005 – Heart and Hands for the Handicapped, NJ

2005 – Seattle Tamil Sangam

2005 – Banga Sanskriti Sammelan (Bengali) – Kansas City

2004 – Seattle Tamil Sangam

2003 – Performance with Shujat Ali Khan, Sitarist at Western Missouri University

2003 – Heart and Hands for the Handicapped, NJ

2002 – Performance with Dr. S.P. Balasubramaniam, Houston, TX

2000 – FeTNA Conference, Tampa, FL – with Harini

1999 – TNF, Atlantic City, NJ – with Anoorada Sriram

1998 – FeTNA, St. Louis, MO

1997 – TANA conference, Los Angeles, CA

### **Special mention**

Raja has conducted a 90 Minutes Interview with Dr. SPB for [www.dhool.com](http://www.dhool.com). Please see the details here <http://www.dhool.com/spbinterview/>

Also listen to <http://www.dhool.com/sotd2/343.html> which he is especially proud of singing this wonderful lullaby which pictures Tamil from 'kuzhandhaip' paruvam to 'kumarip' paruvam. This song has been composed by Srikanth Devarajan (Maryland) and written by Balaji Srinivasan (Fremont).