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**ATLANTA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CELEBRATES INDIAN MUSIC AND CULTURE WITH CONCERT AND FESTIVAL**

***Visions of India Festival Precedes Concerts***

**ATLANTA** – Celebrate Diwali at the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra’s free Visions of India festival, which is held just prior to the orchestra’s Delta Classical concert: **Celestial Illuminations featuring *The Planets***, Thursday and Saturday, October 23 and 25 at the Woodruff Arts Center.

The free *Visions of India Festival* precedes the concerts from 6 to 8 pm in the lobby of the Memorial Arts Building, and features henna tattoo artists, Indian food vendors, traditional dancers, music and more.

Directly after the festival at 8 pm, the orchestra takes the stage under the direction of guest conductor Vinay Parameswaran who opens the evenings’ celebrations of light with a recent work by Nina Shekhar, *Lumina*.

Then, Hindustani violinist Kala Ramnath joins the orchestra for her interpretations of Reena Esmail’s Concerto for Hindustani Violin, a genre-bending work of the ancient elements of space, air, water, fire, and earth. Ramnath’s technique, dubbed the “Singing Violin,” derives from a patchwork of sound, including Western Classical, Jazz, Flamenco and traditional African music.

The ASO Chorus Women’s Ensemble joins the Orchestra as the concert comes to an epic finale in Holst’s *The Planets*—music that influenced rock bands like Led Zeppelin and futuristic cinematic scores.

Tickets for this concert are now on sale at [aso.org](http://aso.org). The concert is sponsored by Alston & Bird.

**CALENDAR LISTING**

**FESTIVAL:** [Visions of India](#)

THU/SAT, OCT. 23/25, 6pm

Celebrate the vibrancy of Indian culture with a free Diwali festival featuring Indian food vendors, henna tattoo artists, traditional dancers, music and more!

**CONCERT: [Celestial Illuminations featuring \*The Planets\*](#)**

THU/SAT, OCT. 23/25, 8pm

Vinay Parameswaran, conductor

Kala Ramnath, Hindustani violin

Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus

NINA SHEKHAR: *Lumina*

REENA ESMAIL/KALA RAMNATH: Concerto for Hindustani violin

HOLST: *The Planets*

Experience *The Planets*, the astrological romp that turned Gustav Holst into a rock star. The off-world orchestral suite spawned rock-and-roll remakes by bands such as Led Zeppelin and King Crimson. The one planet that didn't make the cut in Holst's score—Earth—gets its due when the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra does a mashup with Hindustani violinist Kala Ramnath. Her scintillating, genre-bending evocation of the ancient elements of space, air, water, fire, and earth comes to life with composer Reena Esmail. Guest conductor Vinay Parameswaran launches the evening on a cosmic journey with Nina Shekhar's seductively mesmerizing *Lumina*.

**About Vinay Parameswaran**

Internationally recognized for his energetic presence, imaginative programming, and compelling musicianship, Vinay Parameswaran is one of the most exciting and versatile young conductors on the podium today. Recent highlights include Parameswaran's debuts with the Phoenix Symphony, San Antonio Philharmonic, Knoxville Symphony, Charlotte Symphony and Houston Symphony, return appearances with the Nashville Symphony and Rochester Philharmonic orchestras, opera productions for Curtis Opera Theater and Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and education and family concerts with the Chicago Symphony and New Jersey Symphony. The 2024/25 season sees Parameswaran make his debut with the London Philharmonic, Philharmonia (London), BBC Symphony, BBC Philharmonic Orchestra, Chicago Sinfonietta and Seattle Symphony.

**About Kala Ramnath**

Kala Ramnath stands among the world's finest, most inspirational instrumentalists. Her playing has been featured on the GRAMMY®-nominated *Miles from India* project, compositions of hers have appeared on the GRAMMY®-winning album *In 27 Pieces* and the Kronos Quartet's *50 For the Future*. The UK-based *Songlines* magazine hailed Kala Ramnath as one of the "50 world's best instrumentalists" and selected the album *Kala* as one of its "50 best Recordings". Acknowledged as a virtuoso of staggering proportions, Kala has performed at the most prestigious music festivals in India. She has appeared on world stages including the Sydney Opera House, Paris' Théâtre de la Ville, London's Queen Elizabeth Hall, San Francisco's Palace of Fine Arts, Singapore's Esplanade, New York's Carnegie Hall, among others.

### **About the ASO Chorus**

The Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus (ASOC) was founded in 1970 by former ASO Music Director Robert Shaw. An auditioned ensemble composed entirely of volunteers, the Chorus meets weekly for rehearsals and performs regularly with the ASO. Led by ASO Director of Choruses Norman Mackenzie, the ASO Chorus is known for its precision and expressive singing quality. Current Music Director Nathalie Stutzmann, a world-renowned contralto, is sure to expand on the Chorus's already incredible repertoire and reputation.

In addition to its regular performances with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, the Chorus is featured on many of the ASO's recordings, which have won multiple GRAMMY® Awards, including nine for Best Choral Performance, four for Best Classical Recording and one for Best Opera Recording. Those include Vaughan Williams' *A Sea Symphony* and Berlioz's *Requiem*.

### **About the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra**

Under the leadership of Music Director Nathalie Stutzmann, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra (ASO) offers live performances, media initiatives, and learning programs that unite, educate and enrich our community through the engaging and transformative power of orchestral music experiences. The ASO engages the diverse international community of our city, bringing people together in harmony—including our youngest citizens, with extensive opportunities for youth and families to experience the power of live orchestra music.

The Orchestra's range and depth are featured in more than 150 concerts each year, including the flagship Delta Classical Series, Movies in Concert, Family Concerts, Coca-Cola Holiday series, and many community and education concerts. In addition, the ASO presents many vibrant, wide-ranging events and artists through its Delta Atlanta Symphony Hall Live presentations. The ASO also performs regularly with the ASO Chorus, originally founded by Robert Shaw, and currently under

the direction of Norman Mackenzie. The Chorus is featured on nine of the ASO's 27 GRAMMY® Award-winning recordings.

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