



## LearnQuest Academy Of Music

March 11,2020

### **COVID – 19 aka CORONA VIRUS RISK & PROGRAM CANCELLATIONS**

**To all the members of our immediate and extended community; the rasikas, sponsors, organizers, volunteers, and artists.**

It is with a sense of helplessness that we have all been watching the events surrounding the spread of the Coronavirus and the struggles to contain it. We have so far delayed taking any precipitous decision so that artists who have generously supported us are not impacted adversely and patrons awaiting their programs are not unnecessarily disappointed. As we have watched, the situation has evolved rapidly and become a serious global crisis. Thus, now a time has indeed come when we must act in the interest of everyone's health safety.

### **WE HAVE DECIDED TO POSTPONE AND/OR CANCEL A NUMBER OF TOURS AND EVENTS SCHEDULED FOR SPRING 2020.**

We do not take this step lightly. We have all invested much time, effort and incurred considerable expenses in preparing for various tours and events. Yet, the health and safety of everyone has to be our paramount concern. We all believe it is both the prudent as well as the correct thing to do.

Every indication is that travel will become more difficult, and artists will face a high risk of infection and/or quarantine with every flight they take. Even if artists themselves are not infected, a single infected person on a flight can cause serious damage. Hospitality and access to health care for anyone affected will be complicated by the distances involved, the expected burdens on hospital facilities, as well as the costs and difficulties of providing care for international travelers.

As the situation develops, we may see local areas and individual States take emergency measures, which may preclude conducting events with more than 50 attendees. Most corporations have already cancelled such events and conferences across the nation have been cancelled or postponed. Universities are beginning to switch to online classes and that trend may peak soon. Local organizers will also face



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non-availability of venues in schools and college campuses. Cancellations could occur without much notice and artists may find it difficult to reach destinations in time for concerts.

Artists who may only have even a mild cold or fever unrelated to this virus may not be allowed to travel and may face quarantine. Families who host them will also face quarantine issues. Those in the high-risk groups will face additional uncertainties while they are away from home and from their immediate families. These are not risks that we can ignore or brush aside however much we would like to believe with all our hearts that no such situations would arise.

We realize that these decisions will cause disruption and inconvenience to many, and it is not one we take lightly. We hope to bring all of these artists to you once the situation has settled down and the risks have dissipated. It is not possible to predict when this may be. However, by working together and supporting each other, we will get through these trying times as we have come through other tribulations in the past.

Tour sponsors will directly contact each affected local organizations and each artist whose tour is impacted by these decisions. We appreciate the efforts and the hard work of all concerned, - artists and volunteers alike.

Within the last 12 hours or so that it has taken us to consult each other and come to a decision, both India and US have announced additional travel restrictions.

We urge you all to be safe and to make prudent decisions as warranted by your individual circumstances. We look forward to a day soon to bring you our fine programs and to celebrate with you that once again we have overcome a major challenge and come out in great shape.

**Carnatic Music Association of North America, Inc- New Jersey**

**Cleveland Aradhana – Cleveland, OH**

**Indian Fine Arts Academy of San Diego, San Diego, California**

**Learnquest Academy of Music, Waltham, Massachusetts**

**South India Fine Arts, San Jose, California**