

# MEDIA RELEASE

Strictly embargoed to 6pm Monday 25 May, 2015

QLD  
MUSIC  
FESTIVAL  
17 JULY  
- 2 AUG  
2015



SPRIT OF INDIA  
BRISBANE  
GOLD COAST



Masterclass

Fri 31 Jul 10am  
Ian Hanger Recital Hall  
Queensland Conservatorium

Tickets \$15

[qmf.org.au](http://qmf.org.au)

Brisbane

Sat 1 Aug 7.30pm  
Ian Hanger Recital Hall  
Queensland Conservatorium

Tickets \$22 – \$39

[qmf.org.au](http://qmf.org.au)

Gold Coast

Sun 2 Aug 6.30pm  
Paradise Showroom  
The Arts Centre Gold Coast

Tickets \$18 – \$32

[qmf.org.au](http://qmf.org.au)

## SPELLBINDING DOUBLE BILL TO SHOWCASE THE SPIRIT OF INDIA TO BRISBANE AND GOLD COAST AUDIENCES

Two of India's finest musicians, veena player Jayanthi Kumaresh and classical singer Pandit Kaivalyakumar, will perform a magical double bill celebrating Indian culture and classical music on 1 and 2 August, a highlight of this year's Queensland Music Festival (QMF).

With concerts in Brisbane and on the Gold Coast, QMF will kick start the national tour of *Spirit of India*, which will see both artists perform individually, and Jayanthi Kumaresh, for the first time in Australia.

QMF Artistic Director James Morrison said *Spirit of India* would transport audiences right to the heart of India.

"Kumaresh and Kaivalyakumar are two astonishing artists, renowned in India and across the globe for mastering traditional Indian music. Their beautiful technique and respect for heritage and cultural philosophy is incredibly stirring," Mr Morrison said.

A performer, composer and Guru from the south of India, Jaynathi Kumaresh comes from a long lineage of musicians and started playing the veena at just three years of age. She is now the most eminent player in India today.

The veena is India's most ancient and revered instrument, known for being closest to the human voice, and is associated with Hindu gods and goddesses, particularly Saraswathi, the goddess of arts and learning.

Kumaresh has performed in Paris, New York and London; is the founder of the Indian National Orchestra; was awarded a doctorate for her work relating to the veena; and has used the instrument in projects involving healing through music

Kaivalyakumar is one of India's most loved and admired classical singers from the north and an expert in Hindustani Kirana Gharana singing style. His grandfather was one of the first disciples of Ustad Abdul Karim Khan, founder of Kirana Gharana

The Kirana style is regarded as the most creative of all singing styles and the rhythmic texture of this music is highly intricate and ornamented with grace notes, producing poignant effects.

Kaivalyakumar has won several awards over his career including the annual Raza Foundation Award and he is the youngest Hindustani classical vocalist to get a top grade by 'All India Radio' (India's national radio channel) and 'Doordarshan' (India's national television channel).

Prior to their Brisbane performance on 1 August, the pair will also present a masterclass at the Queensland Conservatorium, providing budding musicians with a rare opportunity to learn from the masters.

"Our first *Spirit of India* showcase in 2011, was met with critical and audience acclaim, so I'm very excited to once again share with Brisbane and Gold Coast audiences the exquisite and captivating sounds of Indian music during this year's festival," Mr Morrison said.

*Spirit of India* is presented by QMF and Brisbane City Council, and is proudly supported by Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University, The Arts Centre Gold Coast, ABC Local Radio, Nataraj Cultural Centre and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations.

ENDS

BOOKINGS

[qmf.org.au](http://qmf.org.au) or qtix 136 246 (Brisbane)

Queensland Music Festival is an initiative of the Queensland Government.

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