

*17<sup>th</sup> November 2023 @ the Sugathadasa Indoor Stadium at 6.30pm.  
Organized By the School Development Society of Royal College.*

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## ***Introduction***

***SAGA , a festival of music was first organized in the year 2004 by the Royal College School Development Society under the patronage of the Principal of Royal College Mr. Upali Gunasekara & by the guidance of the Mr. Ashoka Pushpakumara.***

***Since the first edition in 2004,***

***SAGA has come a long way & the Twelfth edition is due. SAGA 2023, will be held on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at the Royal College Nawaragahala from 3.30pm onwards in two shows. Due to higher demand on tickets organizers decided to give a live stream to the Royal college junior ground for those who are not getting a chance to purchase a ticket.***

***Guest artists will also be performing on the SAGA XII stage along with our talented Royalists, who will be ably backed by our own orchestra.***

***SAGA from the first edition has not only produced a masterpiece at each edition but has also raised the bar.***

***SAGA is more than a musical extravaganza; it has become a national festival of music for teachers & parents to be proud of the achievements of their students & children, for a nation to be proud of the budding talent in the country which is being identified & groomed at the school level.***



*Rakitha Wickramaratne, Nalina Kashmeera, Nilaksha Neththikumara, Nuwan Liyanage, Gairuka Weerasinghe, Kalpa Gunasekara, Randla Kaldera, Sahan De Silva, Shari Vaas & Shamika Wickramasinghe, Sanuka Wickramasingha, Sumiran Gunasekara are just a few which started on a SAGA stage & has reached greater heights today.*

*This has resulted in many other leading schools in the country attempting to emulate SAGA by organizing events “like SAGA”.*

*SAGA is a blend of eastern & western music. This is a stage where budding, talented & dedicated applied musicians in the making showcase their talents to the world, a stage which has broken the shackles between social music & applied music & continues to do so.*



## *History*

### *2004 - SAGA*

*SAGA is born. The orchestra which performed to bid farewell to the outgoing principal Late Mr. H.L.B. Homes & to welcome the new principal Mr. Upali Gunasekara is further developed with the efforts of Mr. Ashoka Pushpakumara master in charge of eastern music at Royal College with the backing & guidance of the principal of Royal College & the hostel warden . The name SAGA was based on the legendary Greek poet Homer's works, Odyssey & Iliad, which are considered to be SAGAs in English literature. The name was proposed by Mr. Aruna De Silva.*

*The first edition of SAGA is held at the BMICH with over 500 students taking part to an audience of over 1,500.*





### **2005 - SAGA ii**

*The second edition of SAGA is held at the BMICH to a capacity crowd on the 6<sup>th</sup> of November with the participation of over 500 performers.*

### **2006 - SAGA iii**

*The third edition was graced by Pandith W.D. Amaradewa amongst many other distinguished artists. The edition too was held at the BMICH in front of a capacity crowd.*

### **2008 - SAGA iv**

*Three past principals of Royal College, Mr. B. Sooriyarachchi, Mr. S.H. Kumarasinghe & the late Mr. H.L.B. Gomes graced the fourth edition of SAGA as the chief guests. This event too, was held at the BMICH.*



### **2009 - SAGA v**

*The fifth edition of SAGA was the last edition to be held at the BMICH. SAGA v, unfortunately had to be cancelled mid way due to a terrorist attack in the country & was held again in April 2009 as SAGA v Plus.*

### **2010 - SAGA vi**

*Navarangahala, the iconic stage of all Royalists, the first stage of many talented artists produced by Royal College, was the venue for the sixth edition of SAGA. The year 2010 also happened to be the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Royal College & SAGA vi was held on the eve of the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. The theme of SAGA vi was the changes in music that had taken place over a 175 year period between 1835 & 2010.*

### **2012 - SAGA vii**

*The seventh edition of SAGA was held at the Nelum Pokuna, at that time, the newest & most sought after auditorium in the country for an audience of nearly 3,000.*



### **2013 - SAGA viii**

*The eighth edition was held at the Navaramgahala. For the first time in SAGA history there were two shows with an audience of nearly 2,500. The eighth edition of SAGA also brought another first, the ENCORE after party which was attended by around 5,000. SAGA viii was the first time the show was endorsed by the Ministry of Education.*

### **2014 - SAGA ix**

*The SAGA team raised the bar once again. The venue was the Sugathadasa Indoor Sports Complex. More than 500 performers & a sellout audience of over 3,500. SAGA ix was the second year the Ministry of Education endorsed the event.*

### **2016 - SAGA x**

*The Tenth edition was held at the Sugathadasa Indoor Sports Complex. More than 800 performers & a sellout audience of over 3,500. SAGA X was the Third year the Ministry of Education endorsed the event*





## 2018 SAGA Xi

*SAGA 2018 was a different & unique experience even to an audience who has witnessed all ten previous episodes. It was the “Back to the School” show as the venue was our own NAWARANGAHALA. With the upliftment in the staging area coupled with the enhanced ambiance gave a one of a kind show to the enthusiastic participants. The biggest number of performers in the history of SAGA including performers from the primary section of Royal College, the biggest audience thus far with continuous two shows for the day.*





# ACHIEVERS OF THE LEGEND OF SAGA



**Rakitha Ruwan Wickramaratna**

**Performed in:** Saga I, II, III  
**Instrument:** Percussion

Achievements of the arena of music:

- Won All Island Inter School Championship 4 times in Drumming
- Followed a course in indigenous Sri Lankan drumming under Mr. Piyasara Shilpadipathi
- Founder of "Naadro" & his performance reached both national and international audience and media.

Entertained the audience of USA having obtained the endorsement of Latin Percussion in USA as the first ever Sri Lankan artiste.



**Rochana Ramanayake**

**Performed in:** Saga I, II, III, IV, V Plus

**Instrument:** Cello

Achievements of the arena of music:

- Composed music for the opening theme of Saga 4 along with Mr. Asoka Pushpakumara, the teacher in charge of the subject.
- Composed the Sri Lankan style Symphonic poem - "Niyagaya Wessa saha Sashrikathwaya" at the National School Music Competition in 2008 which made the Royal college orchestra emerged 1st.
- Conducted popular Hindi nonstop songs for Saga 6 by providing music under the guidance of Mr. Asoka Pushpakumara

Played in many teledramas, films, songs, TV programmes and concerts including some of the hits in the recent past.



**Nilaksha Neththikumara**

**Performed in:** Saga I, II, III, IV, V, V Plus

**Instrument:** Keyboard, Piano

Achievements of the arena of music  
Musical Performances- Treasurer of the Oriental Musical Society in 2004

- Created the 'SaGa' logo, which was initially used in 2004.
- Obtained the Degree in Sangeeth Visharada in 2004 (Violin).
- All Island prize winner of the western music examinations held by IWMS (Institution of Western Music Speech and Speaking Skills) from 2001 to 2004.
- Keyboardist/Vocalist in the 'WINGS' band.
- Recording engineer/ Co owner of the WINGS Recording Studios.
- Manager of the "WINGS" Entertainment
- Currently working as a scientist at the Human Genetics Unit, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo.

# ACHIEVERS OF THE LEGEND OF SAGA



**Sanuka Wickramasinghe**

**Performed in:** Saga I, II, III, IV, V, V Plus, VI

**Performances:** Vocalist

Achievements of the arena of music  
Performed in the theme song of CHOGM 2013 with the musical band "Glory"

Internationally recognized with appreciations of the audience of the USA at the tour of the musical band "Glory"



**Gyrika Weerasinghe**

**Performed in:** Saga V, V Plus

**Instrument:** Percussion

Achievements of the arena of music  
Mastered indigenous Sri Lankan drumming under Ravibandu Vidyapathi

- Joined the renowned musical band "Naadro"
- Engaged in TV commercials, introducing the workshops of percussion items to the schools of Sri Lanka & has entertained the international audience
- Currently performing with Magic Box Mix up (MBM) as a percussionist.



**Dinanjana Madhusanka Kulasinghe**

**Performed in:** Saga III, IV, V, V Plus, VI

**Instrument:** Flute

Achievements of the arena of music:

A bachelor of Western Music at the University Of Visual & Performing Arts

- Professional player in the musical field; Played in many teledramas & movies in Sri Lanka
- Played in many concerts including Shakthi Super Star



**Sumiran Gunasekara**

**Performed in:** Saga III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII Senior comperer of Saga IX

**Section:** Announcing

Achievements of the arena of music & announcing:

- Compered Amasara Bakthi Gee of Royal College in 2003
- Was the script writer of Saga V, VI, VII
- Was a presenter of Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation & compered Supipi Tharaka, Hiru Viyana, Adaraneeya Yawwanaya
- Joined ITN & was the presenter of Sonya Mangalya, Heena Hathak, Lux Ridee Rayak, Brave Hearts, Tharu Dilena Rayak, Viru Dana Gee Sara
- Presenter of Young Inventors Club on ITN
- An actor in most renowned teledramas including Sulaga, Ransamanalayo, Sith Ahasa





### Janith Chathuranga

**Performed in:** Saga VI & VII  
**Instrument:** Saxophone

Achievements of the arena of music :

- 4th Place with Shane Vass in Sri Lankan Life Talent Competition conducted by Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation
- Was a member of the musical band "Glory" with Sanuka Wickramasinghe, Sahan Silva and Shane Vass
- Performed with Aruna Siriwardena, Mahesh Denipitiya, Hussain Jiffery and Robert Kyle
- Member of Jazz Unlimited Association in Sri Lanka
- Playing in TV programmes including Dell Studio and many concerts



### Randula Kaldera

**Performed in:** Saga I, II, III

**Performances:** vocalist

Achievements of the arena of music:

- Represented Sri Lanka at Univision International Youth Song Contest 2014, Baku, Azerbaijan.
- Emerged the 2nd Place at "Kavitha-2012" under best singer category.
- Finalist in "ITN Swarna Sammana-2006"
- Best Singer Award at "Himidiya-2007", University of Sri Jayawardenepura
- Best Singer Award at "Pahan Tharu-2010", University of Sri Jayawardenapura
- Currently works as a medical officer in District General Hospital, Kegalle



### Nalina Kasmira Wijethunga

**Performed in:** Saga II, III, IV, V, V Plus

**Instrument:** Tabla, Dolak

Achievements of the arena of music:

- First place in All island Music and Drama Competitions-2000, 2006, 2008
- Best classical singer in All Island Music Competitions-2006, 2008
- Have performed in Hapan Pedura, Hapan Pedura Aluth Wela on Swarnawahini & MINS 2001-2008
- An eminent performer in vocal & tabla
- Launched his own CD - Maa hada salena lathawen
- Performing in the musical band "Wings" as a vocalist and a base guitarist
- The music director, composer of Kireena, Nomalawun



### Profile of Sahan Silva

**Performed in:** Saga VI & VII

**Instrument:** Bass Guitar

Achievements of the arena of music:

- All Island 1st Place in Eastern Music Competitions in 2010 & 2011
- Have successfully followed a Training Course on Sound Management in Studios and Public Address System conducted by the Engineering Division of the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation in 2011
- Studied in the Institute of Western Music and Speech - Music Theory
- Founder of Music band "GLORY" in 2011 with four band members from Royal College 2011 Batch).
- Performed in USA at Dinner Dance of Alumni Association of Trinity College, Kandy, Washington DC
- Performs in so many Major Events in Sri Lanka.
- Participated in CHOGM Theme Song
- Engages in related work in his own Recording and Practice studio.



### Shane Vass

**Performed in:** Saga VI & VII

**Instrument:** Lead Guitar

Achievements of the arena of the music:

- Won All Island first place in Eastern Music Competitions in 2010 & 2011
- Won the 4th place by playing the classical guitar with Janith Chathuranga in All Island Talent Competition organized by Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation
- Studied in the Institute of Western Music and Speech - Music Theory
- Member of the musical band "GLORY".
- Performed in USA for Dinner Dance of the Alumni Association of Trinity College, Kandy in Washington DC
- Participated in the theme song of CHOGM



### Chandana Sameera

**Performed in:** Saga II, III, IV, V & V plus

**Instrument:** Violin & viola

Achievements of the arena of music:

- Qualified sound engineer of Yamaha Digital Consoles.
- SI & VI series qualified sound engineer of Sound craft Digital Consoles
- Brand ambassador of KV2 Audio
- Sound engineer of many renowned concerts including Ranaviru Real Star, Panamure Kunchanada, Royalists On Stage, Music Matters - International Music Festival.
- Sound engineer of 'Daddy' and 'WAYO' bands in International Galle Music Festival





SAGA Memories from the past











SAGA Ticket for the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary show







SAGA Ticket launch for the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary show







Mini SAGA at the Ticket launch for the 10<sup>th</sup>,  
at MAS Arena



# SAGA X - 2016











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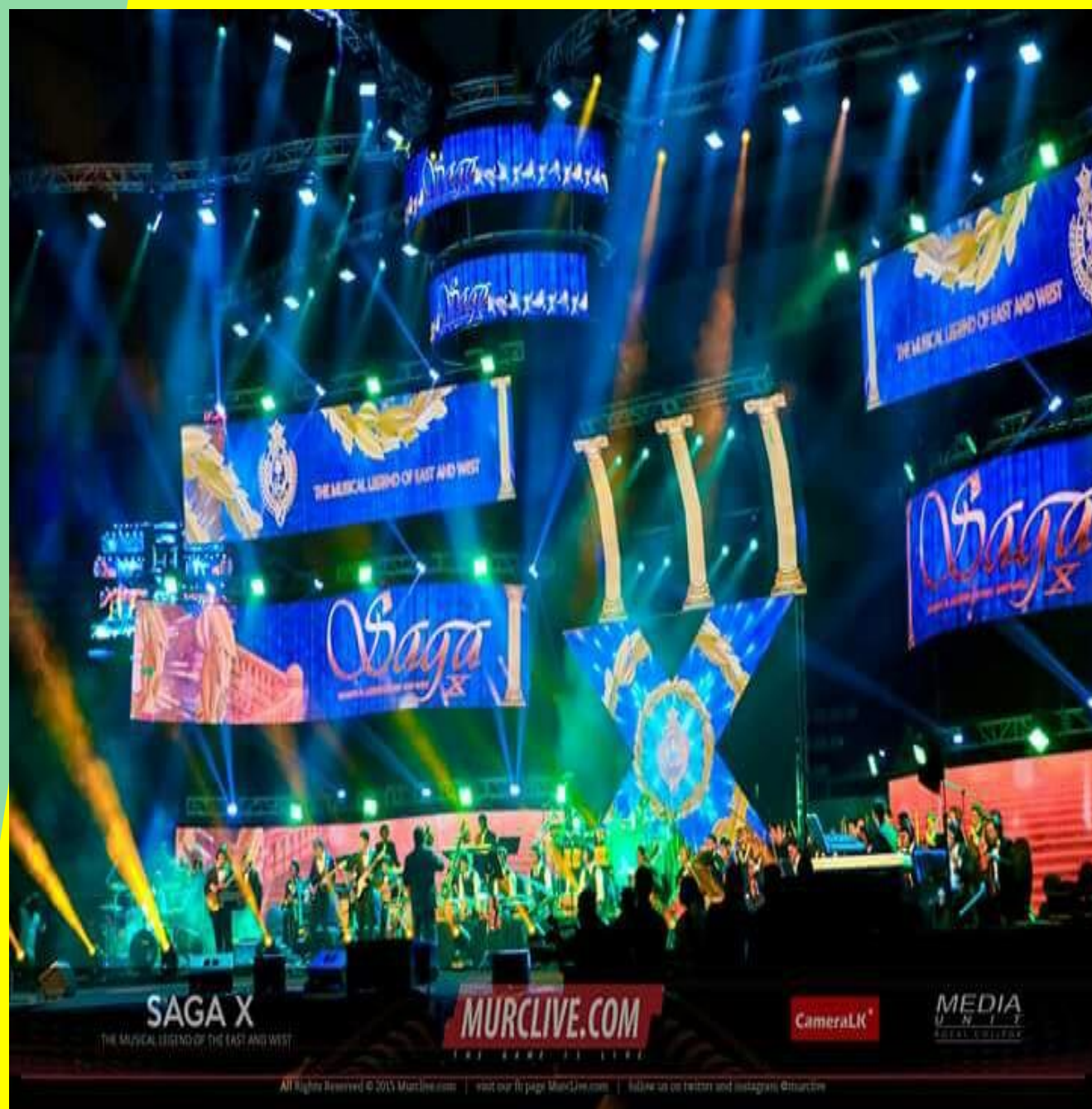
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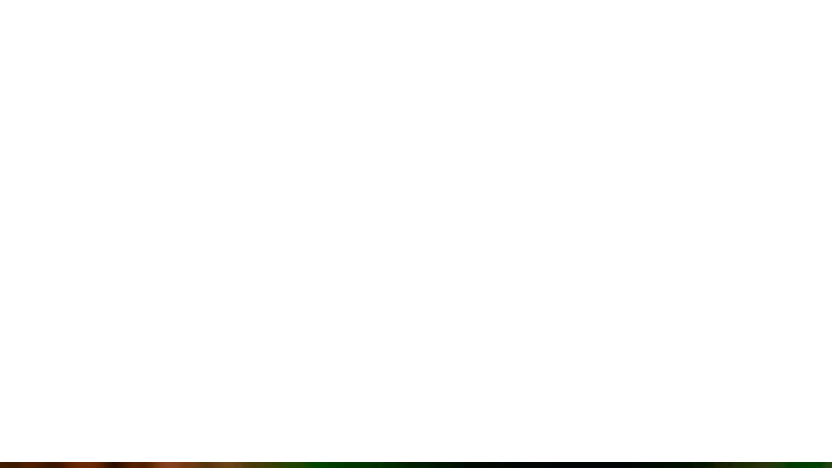












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## **2023 SAGA XII**

*17<sup>th</sup> November 2023 @ the Sugathadasa Indoor Stadium at 6.30pm.*

### *Objectives -*

- 1) To raise funds for the SDS, which to be spend on the essential school development activities.*
- 2) To bring about the music dancing and entertainment skills of young Royalists and to give them a stage to perform and show their talents to the entire nation.*
- 3) To continue the brand name SAGA for the next generation.*



*Thank  
you*

