

## **Classics Across Continents**

A Concert for Charity

Saturday, 14 March 2026 at 6 pm, Scudder Auditorium

### Sheila Arnold

Sheila Arnold is an internationally renowned pianist born in Tamil Nadu but based in Germany from childhood. She started performing publicly from the age of 12 and as a teenager, went on to win many prestigious classical music prizes and perform with the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra. Since then she has collaborated with many international orchestras and ensembles and performs at famous concerts and music festivals around the world as well as recording a number of classical CDs. Additionally, she has been instrumental in developing the introduction to music for pre-school and elementary school children and conducts regular masterclasses. She is currently Professor of Piano at the University of Music at Cologne, Germany.

### Alexander-Sergei Ramirez

Alexander-Sergei Ramirez is an internationally renowned classical guitarist who was born in Peru. After winning the first prize in an international guitar competition in Spain, he has gone on to perform in prestigious concerts and music festivals around the world both as a soloist and in collaboration with famous orchestras. He has recorded a number of acclaimed CDs and was featured as one of the five international guitarists in the CD "Masters of the Guitar." He, too, conducts masterclasses worldwide and is currently Professor of Guitar at the Robert Schumann School of Music and Media at Düsseldorf, Germany.

### Manna Meals Scheme

CMC Vellore sees over ten thousand patients every day, many of whom are daily-wage workers from far away who stay in Vellore for days or weeks while undergoing treatment. Although the hospital provides free or highly subsidised treatment, they face many indirect expenses like food, accommodation and travel.

The Manna Meal Scheme (MMS) was started in 1998 when we saw the need to reach out and provide food for patients who could not afford their next meal. During the Covid lockdown, many patients were unable to go home, even after completing their treatment. They found it hard to pay for their stay in Vellore and struggled to find the means for their next meal. During this crisis the MMS helped many stranded patients who were struggling for food.

Last year, the MMS has provided over fifty thousand meals free of cost and the scheme continues to help patients and the families. It is supported by generous donors and is managed by the Missions Office and Public Relations team. Patients who need help are identified and given food tokens which they use to get food at the Vellore Good Samaritan canteen. The cost of meals for one patient plus one caregiver per day is Rs. 250. We welcome donations to this scheme to allow us to keep helping those patients and their families to ensure that no one goes hungry.

"You pray for the hungry. Then you feed them. That's how prayer works." - Pope Francis