

# *Margam*

## *Pushpanjali*

Raga- Nattai              Tala- Aadi

Shreya and Soumya begin today's Margam (repertoire) with Pushpanjali to offer flowers to the Hindu deities as a salutation to Lord Nataraja (lord of dance). This composition is purely instrumental without any lyrics.



## *Ganesha Stuti*

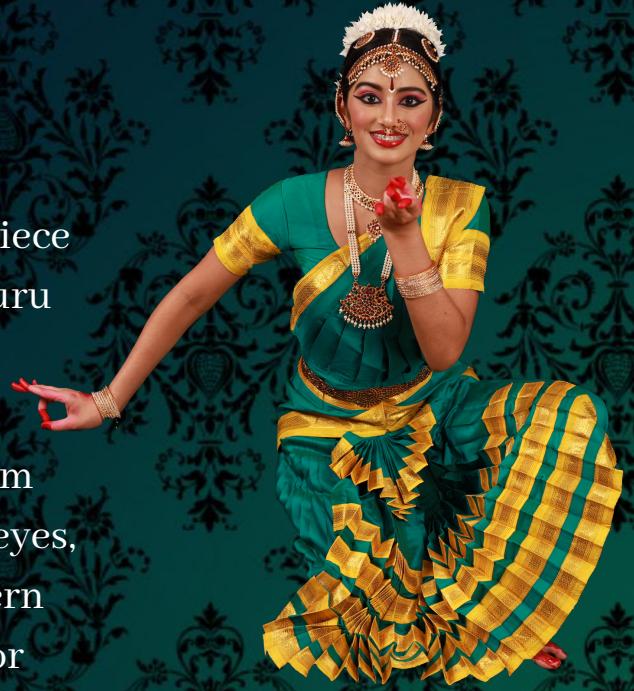
Raga- Nattai              Tala- Aadi

It is tradition to begin each Bharatanatyam Arangetram by worshipping Lord Ganesha. This piece, composed by Oothukadu Venkata Subbaiyar, praises Lord Ganesha as the remover of all obstacles and god of success. Shreya and Soumya offer their salutations to Lord Ganesha to remove all worries and bring joy to all of his devotees.

# *Alarippu*

Raga- Thrishra Jathi

Alarippu means flowering bud which symbolizes the blossoming nature of Bharatanatyam dancers. This invocation piece represents the respects paid to the God, Guru and audience. Alarippu is commonly accompanied by a nattuvanar (verbal percussionist) and the mridangist. This item displays the interconnection between the eyes, neck and body. The unique rhythmic pattern and increasing tempo prepares the body for more challenging dances later in the program.



# *Jathiswaram*

Raga- Bahudari Tala- Aadi



Jathiswaram is another Nritta (pure dance) piece which highlights the graceful mudras (hand gestures) and basic aduvus (Bharatanatyam steps). Jathiswaram exhibits a combination of Jathis (rhymical patterns organized into syllables) and Swaras (musical passages commonly presenting a story). This piece is a high energy piece which requires much strength and determination to master.

# *Shabdam*

Raga- Ragamalika      Tala- Misrachapoo

Shabdam is a graceful piece introducing facial expressions for the first time in the repertoire. Shabdams consists of a combination of Korvai (nritta steps) and storytelling. Throughout the piece, multiple stories will be told which unite to explain the life and accomplishments of Goddess Devi, the all-embracing Mother Goddess who personifies all aspects of womanhood. This lyrical masterpiece was composed by Vidwan Madurai N. Krishnan to embody the exquisite qualities of the Supreme Mother Goddess who conveys utmost compassion to her devotees.



# Varnam

Raga- Reethigowla      Tala- Aadi

Varnam is the central and most intricate piece in an arangetram, which requires the dancer to shift between pure dance and abhinaya (expressions). The performers depict the numerous tales of Lord Krishna which epitomizes his might, benevolence, and wit.

This Varnam commences with a trikaala jati succeeded by a sahithyam (prose) that correlates to an avartanam to illustrate the various stages of Lord Krishna's life story: the imprisonment of Devaki and Vasudeva and the birth of Krishna, Vasudeva crossing the Yamuna River and exchanging the infants, and the slaying of the demoness Putana at the hands of infant Lord Krishna.

The final portion of this number continues into Lord Krishna's adulthood, where the performers render his preeminence when he lifted Mount Govardhan with a mere pinky, and revealed his true omnipotence to Arjuna in the events of the Bhagavad Gita.



# *Keerthanam*

Raga- Paras

Tala- Aadi

This Keerthanam honors Lord Shiva. Lord Shiva is commonly referred to as the destroyer, however, today's Hindus believe Lord Shiva is the destroyer of imperfections and illusions which pave the way for a more inclusive and prosperous future. Smt. Pallavi Doraiswamy Iyer composed this beautiful masterpiece to symbolize Lord Shiva's majestic personality and the alluring image he presents.

Shreya describes Shiva's various forms and expresses absolute adornment for Lord from his devotees. She continues to represent the seven expressions associated with Lord Shiva and brings emphasis to the facial expressions. The fast-paced tempo and intricate poses of this item perfectly encapsulates Shiva's divine nature and graceful dancing.



# *Padam*

Raga- Supradeep

Tala- Aadi

This Padam is heavily characterized by abhinaya (expression), which the dancer uses to convey the beauty and grace of Lord Kartikeya. The dancer details his life story, from the cause of his birth to his many accomplishments. She expresses her utmost devotion for this revered deity through her facial expressions and mudras, which are accompanied by a slow-paced tempo and melodious tune.

Lord Kartikeya is the god of war and victory, and is considered to be the personification of bravery and intelligence. In this lovely composition by Tyaaagaraaja, the performer embodies the valiant nature of Lord Kartikeya during the slaughter of Tharaka and Soora padma.



# *Accompaniments*

## Shri. Madhu Chandrasekaran (Vocal)

Madhu's first guru was his grandfather, the late Korukkai Shri Ramamurthy Iyer who was an harmonium player and an All India Radio artist as well. Under the guidance of late Gurus Shri Ramakrishnan and Vidwan Shri T.P. Vaidyanathan from Chennai, Madhu learned the carnatic vocal techniques. He has also been trained by Sangeetha Kalanidhi, Padma Bhushan, and Dr. T.V Gopalakrishnan. Madhu is well-versed in the Sampradaya Hari Bhanjani style and in Thirupugazh rendering. Madhu has blessed many with his immaculate voice at Bharatanatyam Arangetrams, classical concerts, and music programs. Some of his most prestigious awards includes the Best Singer Award from Bhagawan Sri Sathiya Sai Baba, the Governor's award from Thirumala Thirupathi Devasthanam, Chennai for Annamacharya Krithis rendering, and a special award for rendering Purandaradasa compositions judged by Padma Bhushan Dr. Balamuralikrishna. Madhu serves as the Chairman of the Cultural Committee of Shiva Vishnu Temple in South Florida. He participates in cultural events and teaches carnatic vocal music to aspiring students. Beyond Madhu's passion for carnatic vocal music, Madhu also pursues an IT career by day.

## Shri. M.R. Venupuri Srinivas (Mridangam)

Sri. M.R. Venupuri Srinivas was known as a child prodigy playing Kanjira at the age of one year and eight months in Tirupathi. He gave his first performance on All India Radio when he was just three years old. Srinivas learned Mridangam from Ramanathapuram C.S. Murugaboopathi and Tricandrum Mahadeva Iyer. Srinivas earned a degree with recognition and gold medal from Madras Music College under Thanjavur Srinivasan. He is also the Asthana Vidvan of Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam and was even awarded the Mridanga Selvam award by the former chief minister M. Karunanidhi of Tamil Nadu. Srinivas has accompanied many well-known artists throughout his career including M.S. Subbalakshmi, M.L. Vasanthakumari, Madurai Somasundaram, Dr. Balamuralikrishna Veenai Balachander, T.K. Govinda Rao, and many more. Over the course of Venupuri Srinivas's awe-inspiring career, he has travelled globally performing at various events. Srinivas currently lives in Tampa, Florida and runs Navarasa Academy of Performing Arts along with his wife, Guru Smt. Anandavalli Srinivasa.

## Smt. Kalpana Prasad (Violin)

Smt. Kalpana Prasad was guided from an early age by violin genius Sri. M. Chandrasekharan, who was awarded Sangita Kalanidhi in 2005. She has won various awards for her exemplary skills in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, and won the Best Instrumentalist Award from Chinmaya Yuva Kendra. Her performances at the Chennai December season and Cleveland Thyagaraja festival have granted her much prestige. Dr. Nirmala Sudararajan, Dr. Subhashini Parthasarathy, Smt. Jayalaksmi Santhanam, and Sri. D. Seshachari of Hyderabad brothers are among the skilled carnatic vocalists she has worked with. Her prowess in working with bharatnatyam comes from her experience with the Ragamala Dance Company in Minneapolis, as well as the variety of bharatanatyam arangetrams she has performed for across the U.S. She currently resides in Orlando as an IT professional with two daughters.

## Sri. Prashanth Kallur (Flute)

Sri. Prashanth Kallur has been playing the flute since he was ten years old. In 1998, he received the “Centre for Cultural Resource and Training,” Delhi Scholarship from the India Government. Prashanth performed at various concerts across Karnataka and now accompanies across the United States including New York, New Jersey, Georgia, Florida and Colorado. One of Prashanth's proudest accomplishments is representing the flute category at the “Unity of Diversity” program held in Hyderabad, conducted by the government of India. Prashanth has mesmerized audiences across the globe with his musical talent and hopes to continue his musical journey.

## Sri. Sriraja Srinivas (Ghatam)

Chi. Sriraja Srinivas comes from a musical background, having been taught since the ripe age of five Mridangam by his father, Sri. M.R. Venpuri Srinivas. He practices the traditional Thanjavur and Pudukottai style of playing, and continues to learn Mridangam and Ghatam from his father. He has played alongside many notable musicians such as Padmabhoshan, T.V.Gopalakrishnan, T.M.Krishna, Madhu Chandrashekaran, Kalpana Prasad, and Prashanth Kallur. His talent is shown in the myriad of Bharatanatyam arangetrams, university venues in Florida, talavadhiya concerts and fusions he has performed in as a lead Mridangist, or alongside his father.

## *Thillana*

Raga- Kamas

Tala- Aadi

Thillana is the final sequence in the arangetram, filled to the brim with liveliness and excitement! With this song, the dancers show off their impeccable synchronization, timing, and rhythm, as well as their capability to perform vigorously. This rhythmic sensation was composed by Patnam Subrahmanyam Iyer.

## *Mangalam*

Raga- Bowli

Tala- Aadi

The dancers perform the Telugu sensation, Brahmam Okate. In this lyrical piece, Shreya and Soumya demonstrate the unity amongst all of the Lord's creations. Despite the differences in the way devotees lead their life, their spirit is one. This well-known lyrical triumph was composed by none other than the great Annamacharya. As the culmination of the arangetram, the dancers conclude the recital with the namaskaram, expressing gratitude and blessings for God, Guru, and the audience, who have all contributed to the performance.



# *Shreya Bodhanapu*

Shreya Bodhanapu, 18, is a graduate of Seminole High School's International Baccalaureate Program and an incoming freshman at the University of Texas Austin. Shreya studied Bharatnatyam from the age of 6 and has been under the guidance of Smt. Anandavalli Srinivasa for about 8 years. Shreya has had a love for dancing since she was very young and has been an active performer at the Telugu Association of Greater Orlando events. Beyond dance, Shreya was part of a non-profit called People of Urban and Rural Education to raise funds for underprivileged students in India and to stay connected to her Indian roots. Shreya was also an avid member of Seminole High School's Student Government Association and other service based clubs. One of Shreya's proudest accomplishments is serving as the State President of Business Professionals of America. This fall, Shreya will be studying business at the Red McCombs School of Business at UT Austin. She hopes to major in finance and one day become a corporate lawyer to combat corporal injustices. Shreya also plans to participate in one of UT Austin's various dance teams to continue her dance journey.



# *Soumya Bodhanapu*

Soumya Bodhanapu, 13, is an incoming freshman at Seminole High School's Pre- International Baccalaureate Program. She studied Bharatanatyam under Smt. Anandavalli Srinivas for close to 9 years, since the young age of 5.

Soumya is an active performer at the Telugu Association of Greater Orlando along with her sister, and harbors a great passion for dance and Hindu culture. She has learned the Vishnu Sahasra Namam and is currently learning the Hanuman Chalisa under Smt. Vanitha Radha Krishnan, as she carries a great interest for learning stotras and more about the Hindu deities. She has participated in many STEM extracurriculars, such as Mu Alpha Theta and Science Olympiad, showing her passion not only for dance, but academics as well. She has volunteered for the TAGO association and Harvest International, and enjoys contributing acts of service to her community, such as helping to design a curriculum for SCPS students to understand and come to terms with their mental health. Her great appreciation for the arts has also compelled her to learn Sangeetham under the guidance of Smt. Avani Panduranga Yeturi Inamdar. Her favorite subject in school is social studies, and she shows a large interest in government as a former member of the We The People club.



# *Guru Smt. Anandavalli Srinivasa*

Guru Smt. Anandavalli Srinivasa established Navarasa Academy of Performing Arts along with her husband Sri. M.R. Venupuri Srinivas in Tampa, Florida. Navarasa Academy teaches Bharatanatyam in the Pandanallur style. Under the guidance of Smt. Mrinalini Sarabhai, Smt. Anandavalli Srinivasa began dancing at the age of ten at Darpana Academy of Performing Arts in Ahmedabad, India. For many years, Smt. Anandavalli Srinivasa taught and performed for the academy. She won several awards as part of the academy's professional dance troupe which travelled globally. Some of her awards include Kalki Kalakar, Natiya Mauri and Shringara Shironmari. Guru Smt. Anandavalli Srinivasa has also been trained under many accomplished gurus in Chennai, India.

