

nrityalaya school of dance

BHARATANATYAM ARANGETRAM
DEEPTHA BABU

SEPTEMBER 13TH, 2025



GURU SMT. VIDYALAKSHMI VINOD

Vidyalakshmi Vinod is a celebrated Bharatanatyam choreographer, dedicated educator, and accomplished performer. A senior disciple of the eminent Padmashri Chitra Visweswaran, she exemplifies both the depth of classical tradition and the spirit of innovation. Her refined technique, expressive artistry, and thoughtful pedagogy continue to inspire students, peers, and audiences alike. In recognition of her outstanding contributions to the arts, She was recently honored with the Kala Deepika Puraskar by Temple of Music, led by violin maestro Ganesh Rajagopalan.



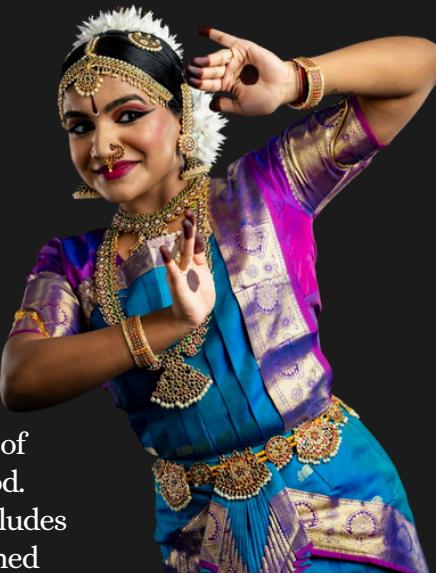
Driven by a deep passion for Bharatanatyam, Vidya founded the Nrityalaya School of Dance in Washington, USA, in 2002. Her vision was to create a space where students could engage with the art form not only as dancers, but also as teachers, choreographers, and lifelong cultural ambassadors. Today, Nrityalaya is a vibrant hub for classical dance education, with hundreds of graduates who have completed over a decade of rigorous training in the traditional Margam repertoire. Many have excelled in national competitions and performed at prestigious venues across the U.S.

In addition to over 300 choreographed works—spanning classical and thematic styles—Vidya has conceived and directed six acclaimed large-scale productions: Shree Mathre Namaha (2010), Dharmo Rakshathi Rakshitaha (2012), Pancha Mahabhutham (2014), Nama:shivaaya (2017), Dashavataram (2020–2022), and Balakandam (2024). Supported by grants from 4Culture and other cultural organizations, these productions have played to sold-out audiences and earned widespread acclaim for their artistic excellence and cultural significance.

DISCIPLE DEEPTHA BABU

Deeptha Babu is an incoming senior at Eastlake High School and a full-time running start student at Bellevue College, where she's on track to earn her associate's degree in business.

Deeptha's Bharatanatyam journey began at the age of six under the guidance of Guru Smt. Gayathri Govind, then under Guru Smt. Sandhya Bhargavi and has continued under the mentorship of her current Guru Smt. Vidyalakshmi Vinod. Her training spans multiple styles and includes enriching experiences with world-renowned artists such as Smt. Janaki Rangarajan, Sri Madurai R. Muralidharan, and Smt. Shwetha Prachande. These influences have further deepened her dedication to the classical art form and shaped her unique artistic voice.



She was recognized for completing Guru Madurai R. Muralidharan's 50 jathis challenge, earning honors in the India Book of Records, Asia Book of Records, and Guinness Book of World Records.

Beyond dance, Deeptha is a martial artist with a 2nd Degree Black Belt in Taekwondo and Arnis at True Martial Arts, where she also serves as a Senior Instructor. She also practices Silambam, an ancient Tamil martial art, with Seattle Tamil Arts of Rhythm.

Deeptha is a Teaching Assistant at Redmond Tamil School and expresses her creativity through photography and sketching. She's also a two-time Deca international qualifier, showcasing her strengths in leadership, communication, and business strategy. She plans to pursue a degree in business with a focus on entrepreneurship and finance.

PUSHPANJALI & VINAYAKA SHLOKAM

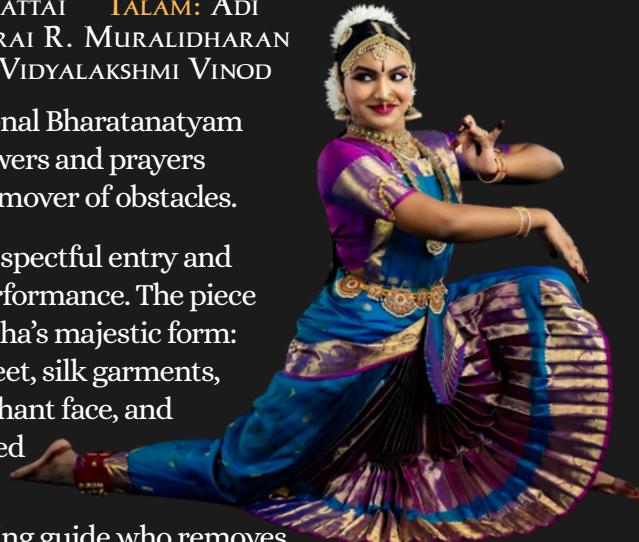
RAGAM: GAMBHEERA NATTAI **TALAM:** ADI

COMPOSER: SRI. MADURAI R. MURALIDHARAN

CHOREOGRAPHER: SMT. VIDYALAKSHMI VINOD

Pushpanjali is a traditional Bharatanatyam invocation, offering flowers and prayers to Lord Ganesha, the remover of obstacles.

It marks the dancer's respectful entry and sets the tone for the performance. The piece vividly describes Ganesha's majestic form: sandalwood-smeared feet, silk garments, glowing blue body, elephant face, and five hands holding sacred symbols.



He is portrayed as a loving guide who removes confusion, brings clarity, and leads the soul toward truth. Through this offering, the dancer seeks blessings, protection, and inspiration, beginning the performance with devotion, discipline, and grace.

JATHISWARAM

RAGAM: SAVERI **TALAM:** ROOPAKA

COMPOSER: TANJORE QUARTET

CHOREOGRAPHER: SMT. VIDYALAKSHMI VINOD



Jathiswaram is a vibrant and rhythmic piece that highlights the dancer's technical skill, precision, and grace. Unlike narrative-based items, it focuses on pure movement—blending intricate footwork (jathis) with melodic sequences (swarams).

This piece features dynamic patterns, elegant poses, and seamless transitions, showcasing the geometry and symmetry of Bharatanatyam. As a pure nritta performance, Jathiswaram invites the audience to experience the beauty of form, rhythm, and energy in its most essential expression.

SWAMIYAI AZHAITHODI VAA VARNAM

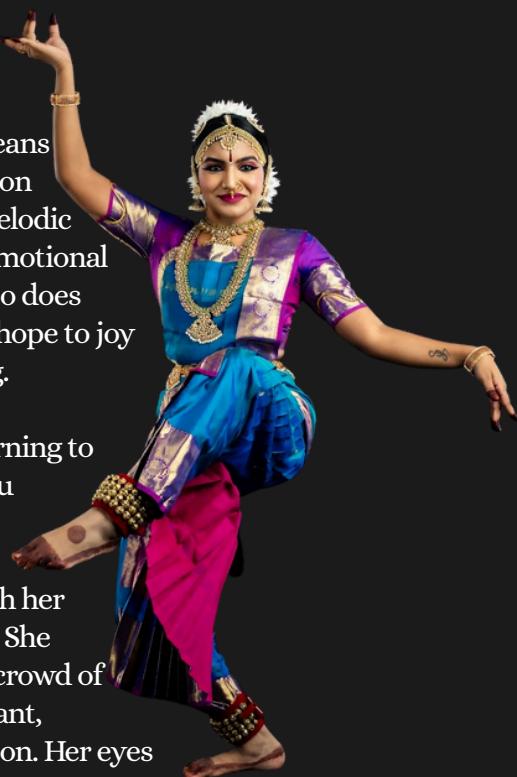
RAGAM: NAVARAGAMALIKA TALAM: ADI

COMPOSER: SRI. K.N. DHANDAYUDHAPAANI PILLAI

CHOREOGRAPHER: SMT. VIDYALAKSHMI VINOD

Set in the vibrant Navaragamalika, This varnam is a centerpiece of the repertoire, both emotionally and technically. Navaragamalika means “A garland of nine ragas.” Each section of the piece unfolds in a different melodic mode, creating a rich and shifting emotional landscape. As the ragas evolve, so too does the heroine’s story — moving from hope to joy to sorrow and finally quiet yearning.

The piece opens with the dancer turning to her dear friend, pleading, “Won’t you please go and bring my Lord?” Her heart is full of longing. When she hears that he will be passing through her street, a rush of excitement fills her. She prepares herself, pushes through a crowd of devotees, and finally sees Him: radiant, divine, and surrounded by celebration. Her eyes are full of wonder and reverence.



But once He is gone, the mood shifts. Even a soft breeze feels like fire. Just the thought of His face — so bright, so beautiful — brings tears to her eyes. The ache of separation becomes too much to bear.

In a more intimate moment, she reflects on her surroundings and quietly wonders: why hasn’t He come? Nature itself seems to invite their union. Her heart fills with gentle hope as she waits.

This varnam is a journey of devotion, anticipation, vulnerability, and love — all expressed through movement, rhythm, and subtle grace.

NAVARASAM

(NINE EMOTIONS)



BHAYANAKAM (FEAR)



VEERAM (COURAGE)



HASYAM (LAUGHTER)



BIBHATSAM (DISGUST)



KARUNAI (COMPASSION)



ADBUTHAM (WONDER)



SHANTHAM (PEACEFUL)



RAUDRAM (ANGER)



SHRUNGARAM (LOVE)

SRI CHAMUNDESHWARI

RAGAM: BILAHARI TALAM: ADI

COMPOSER: SRI. MYSORE VASUDEVACHARYA

CHOREOGRAPHER: SMT. VIDYALAKSHMI VINOD

This krithi is a lyrical tribute to Chamundeshwari, the fierce and benevolent goddess of Mount Mahabala in Mysore.

Celebrated for defeating powerful demons like Mahishasura, Chanda, and Munda, she is honored here as a divine protector filled with grace and strength.

The composition begins with a humble plea—"Oh kind Sankari, please protect me."

She is praised as the guardian of the righteous, the resident of the sacred mountain,

and the goddess revered by sages and gods alike. With rich poetic imagery, the lyrics describe her radiant moon-like face, lotus eyes, jewel-studded throne, and boundless wisdom. She is the bestower of knowledge and the embodiment of divine power, revered across time and tradition.



KAALA BHAIKAVA ASHTAKAM

RAGAM: RAGAMALIKA TALAM: ADI

COMPOSER: SRI. ADI SHANKARACHARYA

TUNED BY: SRI. SRIVATHSA PASUMARTHI

CHOREOGRAPHER: SMT. VIDYALAKSHMI VINOD



Kala Bhairava is a multifaceted deity embodying the power of destruction, protection, and the ultimate reality of time and consciousness. This is a fierce form of Shiva and the protector of Kashi. The lyrics evoke his awe-inspiring form, adorned with serpents, moon on his head, sky-clad, and armed with divine weapons.

Bhairava is both destroyer and liberator, breaking the cycle of rebirth and guiding devotees beyond fear and illusion. His wild dance, sin-destroying gaze, and gem-studded footsteps reflect his intense energy and cosmic power.

CHANDRAKAUNS THILLANA

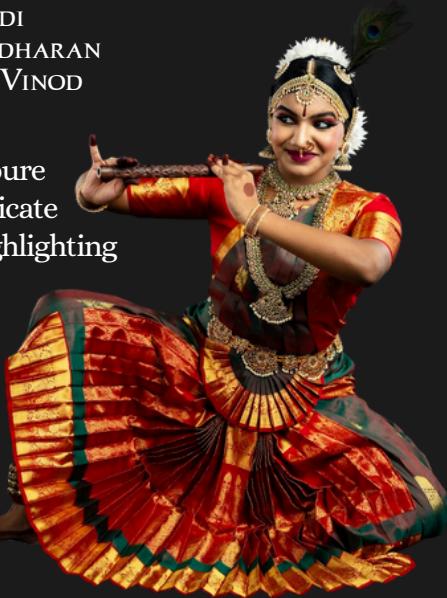
RAGAM: CHANDRAKAUNS **TALAM:** ADI

COMPOSER: SRI. MADURAI R. MURALIDHARAN

CHOREOGRAPHER: SMT. VIDYALAKSHMI VINOD

This Thillana in raga Chandrikauns is a lively and vibrant piece showcasing pure dance (nritta) through brisk jathis, intricate rhythms, and graceful movement—highlighting the dancer's precision and control.

A brief moment of abhinaya adds depth, with a tender invocation of the Lord Krishna. Captivated by His divine presence and the sound of his flute, the dancer expresses pure joy. Blending technical brilliance with devotional charm, this piece leaves a lasting impression of beauty, rhythm, and grace.



MURUGAN MANGALAM

RAGAM: BRINDHAVANA SAARANGA **TALAM:** ADI

COMPOSER: THADAAGA ILAMURUGU

CHOREOGRAPHER: SMT. VIDYALAKSHMI VINOD

This Mangalam is a joyful conclusion dedicated to Lord Murugan, the radiant deity of the Pazhani Hills, known for his valor, beauty, and grace. The lyrics express a longing to sing his praises and behold his divine form.

As the piece unfolds, Murugan is lovingly invoked—riding his silver peacock, bearing the vel, and adorned with vibuthi. With heartfelt cries of “Muruga, Muruga,” the dancer offers complete surrender and devotion.



The performance culminates in the lifting of the kavadi, symbolizing faith, gratitude, and spiritual fulfillment—bringing the journey to a powerful and uplifting close.

ORCHESTRA TEAM

NATTUVANGAM: SMT. VIDYALAKSHMI VINOD

Smt. Vidyalakshmi Vinod, a senior disciple of Padmashri Chitra Visweswaran, is a renowned Bharatanatyam choreographer, educator, and performer, recently honored with the Kala Deepika Puraskar. Founder of Nrityalaya School of Dance in Washington, she has trained hundreds of students, choreographed over 300 works, and directed acclaimed large-scale productions supported by cultural grants.

VOCAL: SMT. SREEVIDYA PASUMARTHI

Sreevidya Pasumarthi, a Carnatic vocalist from a family of musicians, trained under renowned gurus and has performed at prestigious sabhas in India and the U.S. She is also the lead vocalist for Seattle's Rhythms Studio Orchestra and recently earned her Master's in Nutrition and Dietetics from Bastyr University, aspiring to become a registered dietitian.

MRIDANGAM: SRI. SHIV VINODSHANKAR

Shri. Shiv Vinodshankar began learning mridangam at age 5, training under renowned gurus Shri Tiruvarur Vaidyanathan and Kalaimamani Neyveli Narayanan, and has since performed widely, including in the Seattle area and at the Cleveland Thyagaraja Festival. He completed his mridangam arangetram in 2022 and is currently pursuing a degree in Computer Engineering at the University of Washington.

ORCHESTRA TEAM

FLUTE: SRI. PASUMARTHI VENKATARAMANA

Shri. Pasumarthi Venkataramana, a senior flautist with over four decades of experience, was first trained by his father and later by Dr. Prapancham Sitaram. Having performed worldwide with eminent composers and dancers, he now shares his rich knowledge and artistry with the next generation of students.

VIOLIN: SMT. AMATRA JAGANNATHAN

Amatra Jagannathan, a high school sophomore, has trained in Carnatic violin since age 8 under Grammy Award winner Sri Ganesh Rajagopalan and completed her arangetram at 12. She performs widely in both Carnatic and Western classical violin, sings Carnatic vocal music, and is active in ensembles like the Seattle Youth Symphony, Evergreen Philharmonic, Rhythms Studio, and eSwara band.

RHYTHM PAD: SRI. RAJESH ARUMUGAM

Shri. Rajesh Arumugam, a versatile musician and key figure in Seattle's music community, is the founder of Rhythms Studio and Rhythms FAME, initiatives that support causes and empower young artists through performance and training. With extensive experience in Bollywood music arranging, he excels in percussion, keyboard, and piano, and has contributed to countless concerts, fundraisers, and dance arangetrams.