



Nartanam Dance Academy
Presents

Kuchipudi Rangapravasam of **Hamsika Totapally**

(Disciple of Smt. Sudha Kiranmaya Totapally)



Saturday , July 13th, 2024



Program

Invocatory Slokams - Rangadevata pooja with Natyarambha Slokams
Seeking blessings of all Ranga devatas, Guru, & the creator of
Natyam for a successful program

Traditional Kuchipudi Prayer: Amba paraku

*A traditional prayer on preceding deity of Kuchipudi village Goddess
Bala Tripura sundari*

BHAMAKALAPAM

Bhama kalapam is a dance drama tradition within Yakshaganam, centered on a romantic dispute between Satyabhama, the beloved wife of Lord Krishna, and Lord Krishna himself. This specific bhama kalapam originates from the famous dance drama, Parijataapaharanam. The bhamakalapam is composed and written by the Father of Kuchipudi, Siddhendra Yogi.

Satyabhama - Pravesa Daruvu

Ragam: Bhairavi

Talam: Misrachapu

This item serves as an invocation, introducing the heroine, Satyabhama, to the audience for the first time. Here, she establishes her identity and the reason for her appearance.

Siggayano Daruvu

Ragam: Madhyamaavathi

Talam: Aadi

When Madhavi inquires about Satyabhama's partner, his appearance, and his name, Satyabhama, feeling shy, explains that a noble lady wouldn't reveal her husband's name.

Madana Daruvu

Ragam: Shanmukha Priya

Talam: Aadi

When Madhavi inquires about her husband's absence, a tremor runs through Satyabhama. Her voice catches as she confesses her despair. Yearning for Lord Krishna's love, even the smallest sounds, like a bee's buzzing, pierce the hollowness she feels, grating on her raw nerves.

Yenduboththevi

Ragam: Mukhari

Talam: Aadi

Along with Madhavi, Satyabhama starts searching for Lord Krishna, yearning for him to come home.

Vaada Mela Pove

Ragam: Harikambhoji

Talam: Aadi

When Satyabhama requests Madhavi to find Lord Krishna and bring him home, Madhavi sees this as a good opportunity to ask Satyabhama for her nose ring. In return, Madhavi agrees to search for Krishna. This song depicts the conversation between Madhavi and Satyabhama.



Lekha Daruvu

Ragam- Ragamalika

As Madhavi prepares to depart in search of Krishna, she realizes she can't remember all of Satyabhama's plea for him to return home. To ensure her message reaches Krishna directly, Madhavi asks Satyabhama to write a letter so she can take it and give it to Lord Krishna.

Sakunalu

Ragam: Mohana

Talam: Aadi Talam

Traditionally, seeking good omens precedes an important undertaking. Satyabhama, adhering to this belief, searches for auspicious signs before Madhavi departs. Finding many positive indicators, Satyabhama is confident of Madhavi's success in bringing Lord Krishna back. Thus, the saga of the search for Lord Krishna continues.



Intermission

Pasyathi Disi Disi - Jayadeva Asthapadhi

Ragam: Desh

Talam: Aadi Talam

Composer: Saint Jayadeva

As Madhavi leaves to find Lord Krishna, Radha grapples with a similar loss. This song explores Radha's emotions – sadness, loneliness, and heartbreak – in Krishna's absence. She experiences visions of him even during daily chores. The Ashtapadi, from *The Gita Govinda Kavyam* (12th century) by Saint Jayadeva, explores these themes of separation.

[*The Gita Govinda* is a collection of Ashtapadis part of prabandhas within 12 chapters. It elaborates on the eight moods of the Heroine (Ashta Nayika).]

Swagatham Krishna

Ragam: Mohana

Talam: Aadi Talam

Composer: Oottukkadu Venkata Subramanyar

Pining for Lord Krishna's return, the gopikas and villagers of Vrindavan eagerly await his arrival. They spot Krishna in the distance and are overjoyed. Eager to welcome him, receive his blessings, and recount his adventures in praise, the gopikas rush forward. ("Swagatham" translates to "welcome").





Marakatha Manimaya- Tarangam

Ragam: Arabhi

Talam: Aadi Talam

Composer: Oottukkaadu Venkata Subramanyar

The heart of a Kuchipudi dancer's Rangapravesam is the Tarangam. The dancer performs intricate footwork and expressive gestures (Abhinaya) on a brass plate, accompanied by the rhythmic guidance of the Natuvangam. This particular Kruti is also called Tarangam, set to a well-known composition (Kruti) by Oottukkaadu Venkata Subramanyar, depicts the magnificent qualities and beauty of Lord Krishna. The dance portrays the overwhelming joy felt by the people of Vrindavan upon Lord Krishna's return after a long separation.

Tillana

Ragam: Hamsadwani

Talam: Aadi Talam

Composer: T.K. Govinda Rao

Often serving as a grand finale in Kuchipudi performances, a Tillana showcases the dancer's skill in intricate footwork, rhythmic movements, and graceful poses. It includes a short Sahityam that allows the dancer to express emotions and tell a story (Abhinaya) through gestures and facial expressions. This is followed by improvised rhythmic syllables (chitta swaram). In this particular Tillana, Hamsika beautifully depicts the ten incarnations (Dasavatharas) of Lord Vishnu.



Mangalam : Madana Gopale Mangalam

Ragam: Suruthi

Talam: Aadi Talam

Composer: Narayana Theertha

This auspicious benedictory song, composed by Saint Narayana Theertha, glorifies Lord Krishna's qualities and recounts his playful childhood deeds. The song extols Krishna as the destroyer of evil and the granter of wishes for his true devotees. Let us all join in prayer for the well-being of the world (loka kalyanam).



Orchestra

*Nattuvangam & Choreography:
Smt. Sudha Kiranmayi Totapally*

*Vocal:
Sri Vishnu Pasumarthi*

*Vocal Support:
Meghana Bhagavathi Totapally*

*Flute:
Sri Krishna Pasumarthi*

*Mrudangam:
Raghunandan NallanChakravarthula*

*Violin:
Laya Ragav*

Credits

Photo and Video: Shri Ravi Koti - RVR photo

Costumes: Apsara Tailors (Hyderabad ,India)

Special thanks to : Our friends and family for their unconditional support.



GURU

Guru Smt. Sudha Kiranmayi Totapally

Smt. Sudha Kiranmayi Totapally is a classical dancer, teacher, and choreographer in the Kuchipudi and Bharatanatyam dance forms. She embarked on her dance journey at the tender age of four, studying Kuchipudi under the tutelage of Vidushi Madhu Narmala and Bharatanatyam with Badampudi Lakshmi. She obtained her Master's degree in Performing Arts and Communication, specialized in Kuchipudi, from Central University of Hyderabad, India. Her training continued in the intricate aspects of Kuchipudi with Dr. Anuradha Jonnalagadda and the esteemed Guru Padmasri Dr. Vempati Chinna Satyam. Moreover, she honed her skills in Abhinaya, studying Padams with Kalanidhi Narayanan (Mani), and had the distinct privilege of training under Sri Kala Krishna, recipient of the Central Sangeet Natak Akademi Award.

Mrs. Totapally has received recognition and accolades from numerous organizations for her unwavering dedication to Indian classical dance forms. Among these are the Annamayya Aradhana Committee, Vindhya Cultural Association, and the Cleveland Asian Festival Organization. Her foremost ambition is to promote and disseminate the rich traditions of Indian classical dance through her Nartanam Dance Academy.

NARTANAM DANCE ACADEMY

Nartanam Dance Academy, founded by Smt. Sudha Kiranmayi Totapally, offers young enthusiasts a place to cultivate their passion for the arts, refine skills, and blossom into elegant, imaginative dancers. The academy is dedicated to teaching the Indian classical dance styles of Bharatanatyam and Kuchipudi, with a strong emphasis on grace, discipline, posture, artistic expression, rhythm, and balance. It extends a warm welcome to all students who are committed to learning.

Nartanam Dance Academy (NDA) students have been honored with opportunities to perform at esteemed venues and events, including pregame and half-time shows for the Cleveland Cavaliers, exhibitions at The Cleveland Museum of Art, showcases at Playhouse Square, the Cleveland Asian Festival, and the Cleveland Thyagaraja Aradhana Festival.

For the past three years, Nartanam has been proudly hosting the Siddhendra Aradhana Festival, attracting dancers and Gurus from various dance traditions. The festival features enriching lecture demonstrations and workshops on dance and associated arts.

Every year, several NDA students undertake diploma examinations administered by Silicon Andhra University, consistently achieving distinctions and high honors. Mrs. Totapally regards dance as a profound medium for expressing the depths of human emotion, akin to the language of the soul.

Sishya

Hamsika Totapally

Hamsika Totapally is a devoted student of Kuchipudi, the Indian classical dance form. Her fascination with dance sparked at the tender age of four, as she observed her older peers mastering the nuances of Kuchipudi and Bharatanatyam. She embarked on her dance odyssey under her mother, Sudha Kiranmayi Totapally, at Nartanam Dance Academy. As Hamsika matured, so did her passion for dance. Her days were often filled with listening to Carnatic melodies and dance routines during rides to and from school. She developed a profound love for Kuchipudi, embracing it not merely as a dance style but as a vibrant form of expression and a gateway to her cultural heritage. This fervor led her to immerse herself in Indian traditions, memorizing daily slokas with her father and learning Carnatic music under guru Smt. Aruna Darba.

Hamsika graduated from Brecksville-Broadview Heights High School with honors, distinguishing herself through her rigorous extracurricular involvement. As the Vice President of the Speech and Debate team, she consistently earned her place at the state tournament for three consecutive years, culminating in a 5th place finish at the 2024 OSDA tournament. Her skill also led her to become a two-time National Qualifier and a frequent tournament champion in inter-school competitions.

Hamsika has demonstrated exceptional leadership and versatility, holding officer roles in Speech and Debate, Model United Nations, where she received the Outstanding Resolution award twice, and Mock Trial. Additionally, her engagement with the Biology Club and speaking at the National Honor Society inauguration showcase her multifaceted abilities.

Academically, Hamsika's focus on science and mathematics fueled her interest in the medical field. A defining moment in her high school career was the publication and presentation of her first medical abstract at the Critical Care Congress in San Francisco, attended by over 7,000 medical professionals.

Hamsika is passionate about her hobbies, which include music, hiking, films, and spending quality time with family and friends. Dance, especially Kuchipudi, serves as a cultural touchstone for her, instilling virtues like discipline, patience, determination, and compassion. It's an integral part of her identity, and she intends to continue her dance journey while pursuing the Medical Sciences Program on the Pre-Medicine track at the University of Cincinnati.