



Nartanam Dance Academy Presents

*Kuchipudi Rangapravesam*

of

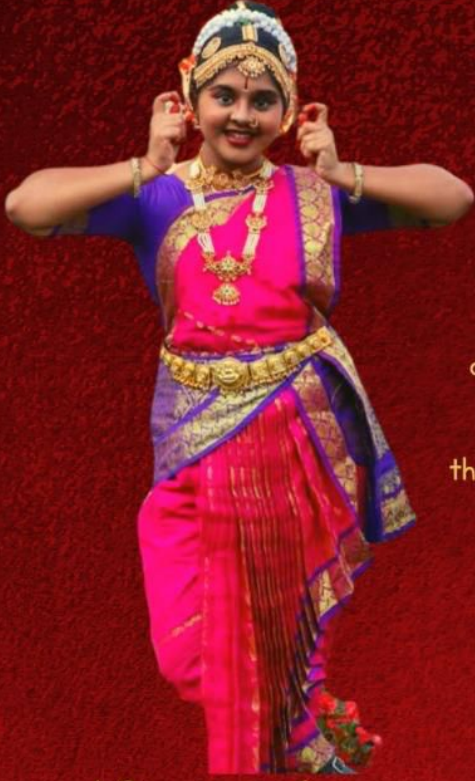
*Ashritha Kota*

Disciple of GURU SUDHA KIRANMAYI TOTAPALLY



Saturday, August 5, 2023





## 1. Mamavatu Sri Saraswati

Ragam: Hindolam ~ Talam: Aadi

Composer: Mysore Vasudevacharya

---

The composer pays homage to Goddess Saraswati, the presiding deity of Kamakoti Pitham. She has delicate hands resembling lotus flowers, holding her Dhruta Veena. She is worshiped by kings and the Three Murthis themselves. One can find the essence of all four Vedas near her feet. It is a beautiful invocatory item where the dancer seeks Goddess Saraswati's blessings before proceeding with this evening recital.

## 2. SwaraJati

Ragam: Vasanta ~ Talam: Aadi

---

Swarajati is a mixture of swaras (musical notes) and Sahithyam (lyrical notes), which is a very critical piece in the Carnatic music repertoire. Vasanta Swarajati, adapted for Kuchipudi from the Carnatic music repertoire, is very energetic and apt for a dance recital. As a part of the adaptation, Padmasri Dr. Vempati ChannaSatyam Mastergaru leveraged the swaram part of Swarajathi, adding fast-paced sollukattu jathis for a rhythmic Nrutya (pure dance) presentation.



## 3. Tumakachalatu Ramachandra (Bhajan)

Ragam: Gara ~ Talam: Tisra Nadai

Composer: Saint Tulsidas

---

This is a beautiful and melodious bhajan where Saint Tulsidas describes baby Rama from the perspective of Queen Mother Kousalya, who is adoring the tottering first steps of Prince Rama.



## 4. Jagadananda Karaka

Ragam: Naati ~ Talam: Aadi

Composer: Saint Tyagaraja Swami

---

"Jagadananda Karaka," as the word suggests, glorifies Sri Rama as the giver of happiness to the worlds and the lifeline Nayaka of Ma Sita. It is one of the famous five PanchaRatna Keertanas (famous five compositions) of Tyagaraja Swami. This is the only one composed entirely in Sanskrit, while the remaining four are in the Telugu language. The entire song consists of Sri Rama's 108 names, each wrapped around an important event from one of the Kandas (sections).



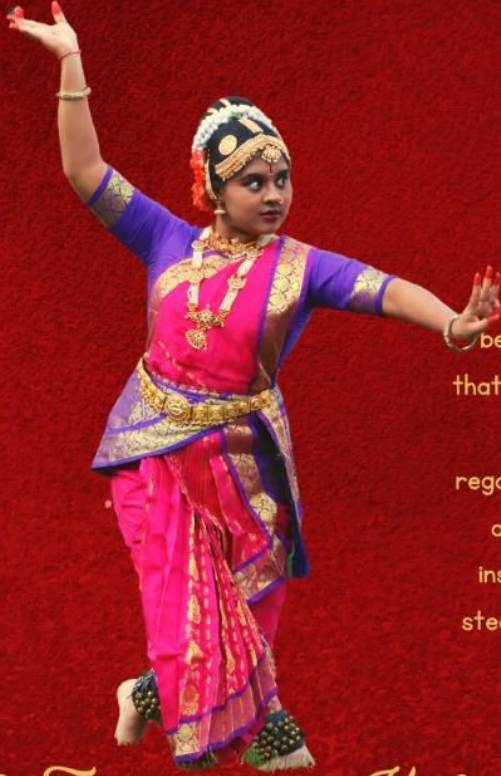
## 5. Sita Kalyana

Ragam: Kuringi ~ Talam: Misra Chapu

Composer: Thyagaraja

---

This song describes the unachievable quality of Lord Rama and the beautiful episode of Swayamvaram in Ayodhya Kanda. It is interesting that the song describes the qualities of Sri Ram, yet it is named "Seetha Kalyana Vaibhogame." We live in a society that holds women in high regard, considering them as the primary life-givers and respecting them as the soul of existence. Sita and Rama endured hardship, longing, and insults throughout their youth and middle age. However, they remained steadfast in their adherence to dharma and never wavered in their love for each other - an important lesson derived from their lives.



## 6. Tarangam : Kalaya Kalyanane Narayana

Ragam : Kedaragowla Talam: Aadi

Composer: Saint Narayana Theertha

---

The composer pays homage to Goddess Saraswati, the presiding deity of Kamakoti Pitham. She has delicate hands resembling lotus flowers, holding her Dhruta Veena. She is worshiped by kings and the Three Murthis themselves. One can find the essence of all four Vedas near her feet. It is a beautiful invocatory item where the dancer seeks Goddess Saraswati's blessings before proceeding with this evening recital.





## 7. Hanuman chalisa

*Ragam : Ragamalika Talam : Aadi*

*Composer : Saint Tulsidas*

The Hanuman Chalisa, a hymn composed by Saint Tulsidas in the Awadhi language, consists of 40 verses and is among his most renowned texts, alongside many others of his compositions such as the Ramcharitmanas and numerous Bhajans. Hanuman, the greatest devotee of Lord Rama and one of the central characters in the Ramayana, is believed by some ancient traditions to be an incarnation of Lord Shiva. The Hanuman Chalisa is the most popular hymn that praises and describes the qualities of Lord Hanuman, including his strength, courage, wisdom, and unwavering devotion to Rama. It is recited by millions of people every day.

## 8. Shiva Tandava Stotram

*Ragam: Vakulabharanam ~ Talam : Aadi*

It is said that the Hymn "Shiva Tandava Stotram" was written centuries ago by Ravana, the demon king of Lanka. Despite his infamous act of abducting Sita, the wife of Lord Rama, Ravana was known as one of the most devoted followers of Lord Shiva. Tandavam is a divine dance performed by Lord Shiva, and Shiva's Tandava is described as a vigorous dance that symbolizes the cycle of creation, preservation, and dissolution.



## 9. Tillana

*Ragam: Rageshri ~ Talam : Aadi*

*Composer: Lalgudi Jayaraman*

This is a beautiful and melodious bhajan where Saint Tulsidas describes baby Rama from the perspective of Queen Mother Kousalya, who is adoring the tottering first steps of Prince Rama.

## Mangalam : Ramachandraya Janaka

*Ragam : Kurunji Talam : Eka thalam Composer: Badhrachala Ramadasu*

"Ramachandraya Janaka" is a renowned Mangalam song, also known as a benediction song, composed in the Telugu language by Bhakta Ramadasu during the 17th century. In this Keertana, Bhakta Ramadasu glorifies the qualities of Lord Rama.



# Guru: Sudha Kiranmayi Totapally

Smt. Sudha Kiranmayi Totapally is a classical dancer, teacher, and choreographer of Kuchipudi and Bharatanatyam, two Indian classical dance forms. She started learning these dance forms at the tender age of 4 and has since constantly looked for opportunities to improve her skills and work on creative choreography. She earned her Master's degree in Performing Arts and Communication with Kuchipudi dance form as her major from the world-renowned Central University in Hyderabad, South India. She was trained under the tutelage of Dr. Anuradha Jonnalagadda and the legendary Guru Padmasri Dr. Vempati Chenna Satyam. She received special training in Abhinaya from Kala Nidhi Mani on Padams. Additionally, she had the unique opportunity to train in Abhinaya under Sri Kala Krishna, a Central Sangeetha Nataka Academy Awardee. Sudha Totapally has been recognized and awarded by many associations for her dedication to these art forms, such as the Annamayya Aradhana Committee, Vindhya Cultural Association, and the Cleveland Asia Festival organization, just to name a few. Her primary goal has always been and will always be promoting and propagating Indian classical dance forms by teaching the younger generations through her Nartanam Dance Academy(NDA). NDA, established by Sudha Totapally, is the place for young students to discover

their love for the arts, hone their talent, and evolve into graceful, creative dancers. The academy focuses on teaching Kuchipudi and Bharatanatyam along with grace, discipline, posture, art, rhythm, and balance to all interested and dedicated individuals. NDA has now become one of the leading Indian Classical Dance Academies in and around Ohio. Students of NDA have the honor of performing and being recognized in many prestigious festivals, events, and competitions such as the Cleveland Cavaliers Pregame and Halftime Show, The Cleveland Art Museum, PlayHouse Square, and the Cleveland Asia Festival, to name a few. Nartanam also hosts the Siddhendra Aradhana festival every spring, where dancers and gurus of different dance forms participate. As part of this festival, lecture demonstrations and camps on related dance topics are held to not only focus on the practical aspect of dance but also to explore the roots of the art form. Every year, a number of NDA students appear for diploma exams conducted by Silicon Andhra Music, Performing Arts, and Dance Academy and pass with flying colors, earning distinctions. She believes that dance is a way of expressing the depth of human emotions; it is the language of the soul.



## Ashritha Kota

Ashritha Kota has dedicated more than 8 years to learning the art of Kuchipudi under the guidance of Guru Sudha Kiranmayi Totapally. She has passionately performed in various events, including local temple celebrations, NEOTA's Annamayya Aradhana, the International Community Day at the Cleveland Art Museum, and even the halftime show of the Cleveland Cavaliers. Ashritha has received prizes in both solo and group categories at competitions like IndiaFest USA and Vindhya Cultural Association. To further deepen her knowledge and skills in Kuchipudi, she successfully completed the Junior Level SAMPADA Certification at the SiliconAndhra Music, Performing Arts, and Dance Academy. Apart from her devotion to dance, Ashritha actively participates in various academic pursuits. During her four years at Perkins High School, she has engaged in a multitude of activities, gaining valuable experience in teamwork, dedication, and hard work. Additionally, Ashritha is involved in a wide array of extracurricular clubs and organizations, including student government, Girls' Tennis, the National Honor Society, the Robotics Club, Model UN, Drama Club, Mock Trial, Move to Stand (an anti-bullying group), and the Yearbook Club. Beyond her school commitments, Ashritha dedicates her time to community service, supporting local hospitals, and actively participating in school-led initiatives. As she embarks on the next chapter of her academic journey, Ashritha looks forward to majoring in Computer Science and Engineering at The Ohio State University, all while nurturing her enduring passion for dance.





## Musicians

Nattuvangam & Choreography ~ Smt. Sudha Kiranmayi Totapally

Vocal ~ Lalit Subramanian

Vocal Support ~ Srihan Anand

Mridangam ~ Sam Jeyasingham

Violin ~ Deekshitha Balaji

Flute ~ Raghav Kasibhatla

---

## Credits

EMCEES: Nikitha Kota, Hasmika Totapally, Shradhdha Mandapudi



With Best Compliments From

Rama, Rekha & Dhanush Kota

Blessings From GrandParents

Kota Venakata Rama Rao & Satya Kumari

Gamini Mutya Satyanarayana & Subbala Devi