



Nartanam Dance Academy  
presents  
Bharatanatyam Arangetram  
of  
Diya Nuka

(Disciple of Smt. Sudha Kiranmayi Totapally)  
Artistic Director, Nartanam Dance Academy  
Sunday, August 4th 2024







## Program

### Pushpanjali

Ragam: Saraswathi Talam: Adi

Pushpanjali is an invocatory piece and is the first item of the Bharatanatyam repertoire. The dancer is offering Pushpas (flowers), Anjali (salutation) and seeking blessings. In this item, dedicated to Goddess Saraswati, the dancer will be offering salutations to, and seeking the blessings of Lord Ganesha, Lord Nataraja and Goddess Saraswati, the Guru and the audience.

### Jathiswaram

Composer: Tanjore Quartet

Ragam: Bhairavi Talam: Roopaka

Jathiswaram is a pure Nritta presentation which is devoid of sahityam and abhinaya (emotions). Jathiswaram incorporates intricate sequences of adavus fused with repetitive musical notes. It brings out three aspects of dance; unity of music, rhythm and movements, testing the dancers' stamina and ability to complete all Korvais based on the mridangam (percussion) beats.







## Shabdam: Gokulambudi

Composer: Chinniah (Tanjore Quartet)

Ragam: Ragamalika Talam: Misrachapu

It is derived from the word 'shabda' and is the first item in the Bharatanatyam repertoire where abhinaya is introduced along with the concept of sanchari (expressions). It consists of jathis followed by sahityam in various melodies. Shabdams are generally in Misrachapu Talam and are in ragamalika starting with Khambhoji ragam. In this shabdam the poet describes the feelings of Nayika (gopika) towards Lord Krishna in various states of her mind.



## Varnam: Chamundeswari

Composer: Muthuswami Deekshitar

Ragam: Kamaas Talam: Aadi

Varnam is the central piece of Bharatanatyam margam and also most complex piece of the margam. It is a relatively long piece, starting with Tri kala jati (done in 3 speeds). In this Dharu varnam Mathe, ruling deity Goddess Parvathi is referred to as daughter of King Malayadwaja. It speaks of her beauty and also describes her as Chamundeswari after killing a demon Mahishasura who tormented people of his town. She is the divine mother and we seek her blessings.

## Intermission

## Mahishasura Mardhini Stuthi

Composer: Adi Shankaracharya

Ragam: Ragamalika Talam: Chaturasra eka

The Mahishasura Mardini Stotram is a powerful hymn in praise of Goddess Durga. It is believed that chanting this hymn enhances one's inner strength, courage, and provides protection. Mahishasura, who is described as dreadful and evil, is the son of Rambha, the king of asuras, and a she-buffalo named Mahisi. He was ultimately killed by the Goddess Durga with her trishula (trident) after which she gained the epithet Mahishasuramardini ("Slayer of Mahishasura"). This is celebrated during the festival of Durga Puja, symbolizing the victory of good over evil.







## **Annamaya Keertana - Alarulu Kuriyaga**

Composer: Annamacharya

Ragam: Ragamalika Talam: Aadi

In this Keerthana, Annamacharya takes us to the world of Alamelu Manga, dancing gracefully and drawing the attention of Lord Venkatapati. This song describes her beauty, grace and playfulness surrounded by her sakhis (friends) in a spellbinding atmosphere.



## **Thillana: Dhanashree**

Composer: Swathi Thirunal

Ragam: Dhanashree Talam: Aadi

Tillana is a composition that is centered around rhythmic patterns and usually the concluding item of Bharatanatyam repertoire. Thillana is a brisk and lively number and forms the climax of the Arangetram. Thillana brings out the ecstasy of human spirits by technical purity and vitality to convey a feeling of supreme bliss with rhythmic korvai patterns. The Dhanashree thillana is one of the authentic gems in both Indian classical dance and Karnatic world of music. It talks about a Gori (girl) dancing, how her bells go jhanana jhanana describing the sound of her bells. Swati Thirunal has written this tillana in hindi language in praise of Lord Padmanabha and how he takes away all pains.



## **Mangalam - Ksheerabdhhi Kanyakaku**

Composer: Annamacharya

Ragam: Madhyamavati Talam: Eka

A beautiful composition of saint Annamayya in praise of Goddess Lakshmi from head to toe and seeking her blessings and world peace is this mangalam.





The Guru

## Smt. Sudha Kiranmayi Totapally

Smt. Sudha Kiranmayi Totapally, is a classical dancer, teacher, choreographer of Bharatanatyam and Kuchipudi, two Indian classical dance forms. She started learning dance at a very tender age of 4 and since then constantly looks for an opportunity to improve her skills and work on creative choreography at every given chance. She first learnt Kuchipudi under the able guidance of Vidushi Madhu Narmala, and Bharatanatyam from Badampudi Lakshmi. She earned her Masters degree from world renowned Central University, Hyderabad, South India, in Performing Arts and Communication with Kuchipudi dance form as major. She went on to train for the finer nuances of Kuchipudi under the tutelage of Dr. Anuradha Jonnalagadda and legendary Guru Padmasri Dr. Vempati Chenna Satyam. She got special training in Abhinaya from Kalanidhimani on Padams. She also got a unique opportunity to get trained in Abhinaya under Sri Kala Krishna Sangeeta, Central Nataka Akademi Awardee.

She has been recognized and awarded by many associations for her dedication towards these art forms such as the Annamayya Aradhana committee, Vindhya Cultural Association and Cleveland Asia Festival Organization just to name a few. Her primary goal has always been, and will be to promote and propagate Indian classical dance forms through her Nartanam Dance Academy.

## Nartanam Dance Academy

Nartanam Dance Academy, established by Smt. Sudha Totapally is the place for young students to discover their love for the arts, hone their talent, and evolve into graceful, creative dancers. NDA focusses on imparting training in the Asian Indian classical dance styles, Bharatanatyam and Kuchipudi with grace, discipline, posture, art, rhythm and balance to all interested and dedicated students. Nartanam Dance Academy (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 Cleveland Cavaliers pre-game and half time shows, The Cleveland Art's Museum, Play House Square, Cleveland Asia Festival, Cleveland Thyagaraja Aradhana Festival, Vindhya Cultural Association Art Festival to name a few. Nartanam has been hosting the Siddhendra Aradhana Festival during spring every year for the past 3 years. As a part of this festival, many dancers and dance gurus of different dance forms participate and lecture demonstrations are conducted.

Sudha believes Dance is a profound medium for expressing the depths of human emotions; it is the language of the soul.