



## NATYAM

Emcee: Aditi Puttur

MALLARI
PUSPANJALI
ALARIPPU
GANAPATHI KAVUTHUVAM
VARA VEENA
JATISVARAM
SRIMAN NARAYANA
KANJADALAYATAKSHI
IDATHU PADAM THOOKI



### mallAri

rAgAm: Gambira nATTai | tAlam: :Adi

mallAri is a unique piece of music traditionally played on the instrument nAdaswaram accompanied by thavil (drum) when the presiding deity of a temple is taken on a festive procession.

DAKSHITHAA NARAYANAN, LAKSITA NANDHAKUMAR, NIYATHI JAGAN, SURABHI MYLAR, AADYA NAYAK & BHAVAANI NAYAK

## puSpAnjali

rAgam: Arabhi | tAlam: Adi

'puSpAnjali' is an invocation in which the dancers offer flowers to God, and pay respects to the Guru, & the audience. The dance concludes with a prayer to Lord ganESA, the remover of Obstacles and the granter of wisdom and good qualities. This is a composition of Dr. M. Balamuralikrishna.

KAUSHIKA NAYAK, SANMAYU NANDIPATI, HAASINI AKURATHI, PAVISHYA RAMESH, PRANATHI SRIRAM & VANI SOLANKI CAROLLO



### alArippu

TAlam: tisra Fka

alArippu means to blossom like a flower. This dance is a prayer in the form of nrittA or pure rhythmic dance.

ANAKHA PILLAI, ANIKA SASTRY, SHRIYA VARUN, ALEKHYA BOORLA, ANUHYA BOORLA, AKSHAYA JAYACHANDRAN & SAMVRUTHA ASHOK

4.

### gaNapati kavuthuvam

rAgam: nAttai | tAlam: Adi

kavuthuvam is an invocatory dance item where the rhythmic syllables called "sollus" are interspersed with lyrical passages sung in praise of a deity. This sacred hymn is dedicated to Lord gaNESA.

SHRESHTA VINJAMOORI, AISHWARYA ARULSELVAN, AKSHARA MUTSYALA, DHRUTHI MALLU, RICHA VENKATESH, INDIRA BALU, AADYA SHINDIKAR, SHIVANI LOTLIKAR, SIRI MOORTHY & SRISHTI SRINATH



#### vara veeNA

rAgam: mohanam | tAlam: rUpakam

'A beautiful krithi exalting the beautiful goddess lakshmi as the victorious queen who has great virtues and is worshipped by the devas.

ANAKHA PILLAI, ANIKA SASTRY, SHRIYA VARUN, ALEKHYA BOORLA ANUHYA BOORLA, AKSHAYA JAYACHANDRAN & SAMVRUTHA ASHOK



### jatisvaram

rAgam: rasikapriyA | tAlam: Adi

This is a pure dance item where rhythmic dance sequences are set to specific melodic patterns to create a beautiful harmony of movement, music, and rhythm. This piece is composed by Sri Lalgudi Jayaraman.

NIYATHI JAGAN, SAHANA BALU, SURABHI MYLAR, AADYA NAYAK & BHAVAANI NAYAK 7.

### srlman nArAyaNa

rAgam: bhauli | tAlam: Adi

This is an Annamacharya composition in which the devotee surrenders at the feet of Sriman nArAyaNA, who resides on the Thiruvenkata hills.

ADHYA MASUR, ADITI MANDAYAM, HARSHINI BHARADWAJ, MITHRA PAJANOR, NIHARIKA JAKA & MAYA BANTVAL



### kanjadaLAyatAkshi

rAgam: kamalA manOhari | tAlam: Adi

A poetic composition by Sri Muthuswamy Dikshithar, honoring Goddess kAmAkSi of kAnchi. The devotee addresses the Goddess as the one with compassionate and beautiful eyes shaped like 'kanja daLa' or lotus petals, and admires Her great qualities.

SWETA GOPAL, AATHMIKA RADHACHANDRAN, LAKSITA NANDHAKUMAR & DURGA MEKKOTH



## idathu padam thooki

rAgam: kamAs | tAlam: Adi

This pApanASam Sivan composition glorifies the magnificence of Lord natarAjA's cosmic dance known as the Tandava. The devotees rejoice at the sight of Shiva's divine dance, his raised left foot and humbly bow down with adoration.

ANWITA BANDARU, HARINI AKURATHI, MRINALINI SENGUPTA, SAANVI KOWDA, SONIA DINGANKAR & VIDHYA PATEL



## WHO IS KRISHNA?

A Nrithya Roopaka (Dance Drama) Production highlighting the path of love and devotion through the lens of several ardent seekers of Krishna who have been immortalized in history. Throughout his childhood days, young krishna captivated all of Brindavanam with His spellbinding presence, His naughty pranks, His enchanting flute, and His divine miracles. For the balagopas, he was an affectionate friend who filled their hearts with joy and excitement, Mother yaSodA was always filled with 'vAtsalya premA' or unconditional love towards her beloved krSnA. He frustrated the gopikA women with his mischief, but also served as their savior during calamities. Radha and the gopikas were always immersed in deep and steadfast love for their beloved rasavilola. Meerabai was perpetually in krSnA consciousness as she completely immersed herself in his glory, while Janabai playfully interacted with her Vittal, whom she regarded as her Mother and her helper. To Arjuna and His devotees, Krishna was the teacher who showed the path of right action and detachment. krSnA is a guiding light that shines in myriad ways to dispel darkness and enlighten the heart, the mind, and the soul! Whether krSnA is personified or simply experienced, he is known to fill one with Ananda or immense bliss. This is because ultimately, krSnA is premA, or pure love. This premA can be savored only through humility, compassion, and service. Let us witness the wonderful leelAs of krSnA and transport ourselves to this world of this mystical enigma.



# VeNu gopAlA The enchanting cowherd

LITTLE KRISHNA: DAKSHITHAA NARAYANAN

#### **GOPABALAS**

GIRLS: ADHYA MASUR, ADITI MANDAYAM, MAYA BANTVAL, NIHARIKA JAKA, PRANATHI SRIRAM, & SANMAYU NANDIPATI

BOYS: HAASINI AKURATHI, HARSHINI BHARADWAJ, KAUSHIKA NAYAK, MITHRA SHANTIMENA PAJANOR, PAVISHYA RAMESH, & VANI CAROLLO

#### cows

ANAKHA MENON, ANIKA SASTRY, & SHRIYA VARUN

#### **PEACOCKS**

AADYA SHINDIKAR, INDIRA BALU, SHIVANI LOTLIKAR, SRISHTI SRINATH & SIRI MOORTHY

#### DEER

AISHWARYA ARULSELVAN, AKSHARA MUSTYALA, DHRUTHI MALLU, RICHA VENKATESH & SHRESTA VINJAMOORI

## SCENE

2

## Citta ChorA

The stealer of hearts

YASHODA: MEENA NANDHAKUMAR KRISHNA: DAKSHITHAA NARAYANAN

#### **GOPABALAS**

HARSHINI BHARADWAJ, HAASINI AKURATHI, KAUSHIKA NAYAK, & MITRA PAJANOR

#### **OLDER GOPIKAS**

ANWITA BANDARU, HARINI AKURATHI, MRINALINI SENGUPTA, SAANVI KOWBA, SONIA DINGANKAR, VIDHYA PATEL

## SCENE

3

# KAlinga narthanam The daring dance of krSnA on the evil serpent, kAlingA

KALINGA NARTHANA KRISHNA: NIYATHI JAGAN
KALINGA: LAKSITA NANDHAKUMAR
DANCERS: ANWITA BANDARU, HARINI AKURATHI, MRINALINI
SENGUPTA, SAANVI KOWDA, SONIA DINGANKAR &
VIDHYA PATEL

SCENE

4

gopikA priyA
The beloved of the gopis
RADHA: SWETA GOPAL

**GOPIKAS** 

AATHMIKA RADHACHANDRAN, ANANYA NARAYANAN, BHAVAANI NAYAK, DURGA MEKKOTH, & SURABHI MYLAR

SCENE

5

## rAsavilolA The enchanting dance of joy

YOUTH KRISHNA: SAHANA BALU RASALII A KRISHNAS

AADYA NAYAK, ANAGHA KAMATH, ANGELI SUNDAR, LAKSITA NANDHAKUMAR, NIYATHI JAGAN, & SAHANA BALU RADHA & GOPIKAS

SWETA GOPAL, AATHMIKA RADHACHANDRAN, ANANYA NARAYANAN, BHAVAANI NAYAK, DURGA MEKKOTH & SURABHI MYLAR

## SCENE

6

#### mIrA Ke Giridhar

mIrAbai blissfully sings and dances in praise of her one and only giridhar gopAla.

MEERABAI: NIVEDITA RETHNAKAR

#### **DEVOTEES**

AATHMIKA RADHACHANDRAN, ANANYA NARAYANAN, DURGA MEKKOTH, SWETA GOPAL

SCENE

7

### janAbai Cha Vitthal

janAbai's sweet and innocent interactions with her motherly vitthalA.

JANABAI: BHAVAANI NAYAK VITTHAL: AADYA NAYAK

#### **ABHANG DANCERS**

ANWITA BANDARU, HARINI AKURATHI, MRINALINI SENGUPTA, SAANVI KOWDA, SONIA DINGANKAR, VIDHYA PATEL



## bhagavad gITA The path of right action

BHAGAVAD GITA KRISHNA: SAHANA BALU ARJUNA: ANAGHA KAMATH

SCENE

9

krSnA is PremA

Pure Love

MANGALAM WITH ALL STUDENTS

Please remain seated for closing remarks and artist recognition. Group photos will be taken at the end. Flip the page for more information on the artists!

## **CREDITS**

ARTISTIC DIRECTION & CHOREOGRAPHY
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SMT. SUMAN NAYAK

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JATI COMPOSITIONS & KALINGA NARTHANAM MUSIC SRI NAGAI P. SRIRAM

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MIRABAI SONGS, MAITHRIM BHAJATHA M.S. SUBBULAKSHMI RECORDINGS

JANABAI SOURCE SANT JANABAI, SUMEET MUSIC

SHYAMA TORI ADAPTED FROM CHOREOGRAPHY OF DR. SESHADRI IYENGAR

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DR. KESHAV NAYAK FOR SCRIPT REVIEW

# GURU SMT. SUMAN NAYAK

Suman Keshav Nayak is the artistic director of the Natesha School of Bharatanatyam based in San Diego, California. Suman is a talented Bharatanatyam artist and an accomplished teacher with 20 years of teaching experience. Through her childhood years, Suman Nayak trained in dance and music at Kadri Nritya Vidya Nilaya, Mangalore, under the tutelage of Gurus late Sri U.S. Krishna Rao, Vidwan Sri U.K. Praveen and Smt. Usha Praveen. She successfully completed the Vidwath exam conducted by the Karnataka Education Board. For the past 13 years, Suman has continued to hone her skills in the art of Abhinaya with Guru Smt. Ramya Harishankar in Irvine, CA. Suman and her students have also been mentored by Guru Smt. Anitha Guha and her senior disciple Sathvikaa Shankar. She receives guidance in nattuvangam from Mridangam Vidwan Sri Nagai P. Sriram.

Suman Nayak and her students perform regularly at major cultural events and dance festivals held in Southern California. Suman actively volunteers to organize events on behalf of the Indian Fine Arts Academy San Diego (IFAASD) and the San Diego Indian American Society. She has conducted lecture demonstrations on Indian culture and dance at schools and universities.

Suman has earned several recognitions including the title 'Natya Vidhushi' by the State of Karnataka in 2000, Sri Sathya Sai Balavikas excellence award for dance in 2019, and the '2021 Woman of the Year' award by the Telangana Association of San Diego.



# SRI AKSHAY PADMANABHAN



Akshay Padmanabhan started learning Carnatic music at a very early age of 5 years, guided by experienced musicians like Shrimati Parvati, Vidushi Suguna Purushotham, and Shri K.V. Ananth, and Sri S. Rajam. He received advanced training from Late "Padma Bhushan" Vid Sri P. S.Narayanaswamy and is now learning from Vid Shri A. S. Murali. He completed his graduation in M.Com, AIR Chennai, and also has a Masters in music from the University of madras. An A grade All India Radio artist, Akshay has had a successful music career since the year 2000 with performances at numerous prestigious venues in India and around the world. He has been a regular performer at the Cleveland Thyagaraja Aradhana since 2017. He also has many awards and accolades to his credit, including 'D.K. Pattamal Awards of excellence'- Kartik Fine arts, 'Maharajapuram Santhanam award'- Narada Ganaasabha, 'The most promising vocalist of the Year Award'-Brahma Gana sabha.

## SRI VINOTHKUMAR SOUNDAR RAJAN

Vinothkumar comes from a family of musicians. He started his musical journey at age 8 by learning the Nadaswaram, a South Indian traditional instrument. He trained with his Father Mr. S. Soundar Rajan, and Mother, Mrs. S. Santhana Lakshmi, who are well known artists in Perambalur, Trichy. Later he learned the flute under the tutelage of Vidwan Sri. Thiruvarur Swaminathan. He is a graduate in music from the Annamalai University, Chidambaram, Tamil Nadu.

For the past 10 years he has been performing as a solo artist and also accompanying many leading dancers. Vinothkumar has won many awards and accolades, performed at major events all over India, and is an All India Radio graded Flute artist. Outside of India, he regularly travels to the United States, Singapore and Thailand for concerts.

# SRI. B. ANANTHA RAMAN

An accomplished violinist, Anantha Raman hails from a family of reputed musicians. He is the grandson of the Renowned Violin Vidwan Late V. K. Venkata Ramanuja lyengar. Anantharam received his training from his father and Guru, Professor V. Balaji, who is a reputed hindustani violinist.

A graded Artist from A.I.R.
Varanasi, he has performed all over India and also got several awards for his performances.
He is also a member of the reputed band 'Oxygen - the world music'. Anantha Raman regularly accompanies and performs with reputed classical dancers in India.

## NATESHA RECITAL 2023 CREDITS

LIGHTING

**GANESH BHAT** 

**AUDIO** 

SAI SHANKAR

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**VIDEOGRAPHY** 

RAVI SOORDELU

COSTUMES

SRI MANJUNATH, BANGALORE PRABHATH KALAVIDARU, BANGALORE KR DRESSERS, CHENNAI

BROCHURE/FLYER

**ARTHI SELVARAI** 

DRAMA PROPS

MEENA NANDAKUMAR

**EVENT CO-ORDINATORS** 

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