



Presents

Nruthyarchana
by
AMEYA KING



December 4, 2022 | Sri Amrutha Sai Temple

About today's presentation

Kuchipudi dance derives its name after its village of birth in Andhra Pradesh, India. Kuchipudi evolved from a drama tradition, and its solo repertoire features two strands of embodied history. Daruvus, excerpts from the dance-dramas historically presented by male dancers who played both male and female roles to enact stories, have entered the Kuchipudi solo repertoire as standalone pieces. Kuchipudi also shares repertoire with the hereditary women dancers of the region, as well as with Bharatanatyam's solo tradition – *jatīswarams*, *śabdams*, *varṇams*, *padams*, *jāvalīs*, *sankīrtanas*, and *tillānas* are performed in the distinctive kuluku of Kuchipudi, characterized by its scintillating rhythm, quicksilver movements, and eloquent sensitive expressions.



It is an honor to present this offering to the Kuchipudi solo repertoire, inspired by composers from the 20th century. Smt. Sarada Jammi's choreographies that are being presented today all feature works by her father and Ameya's grandfather, Sri Tumuluri Satyagopal. For her foray into the world of choreography, Ameya has chosen compositions by the legendary Carnatic doyens Dr. Mangalampalli Balamuralikrishna and Sri Lalgudi Jayaraman, selecting compositions in her mother tongue of Telugu. As they bring these bring these songs to life through the language of Kuchipudi, the choreographies use *nāṭya* (dramatic expression), *nṛtta* (abstract dance), and *nṛtya* (lyrical interpretation).

Sri Tumuluri Satyagopal is a musicologist, composer, and music educator who has taught in India, Singapore, and the United States. Trained as a mridangist under the late Sri Mahadevu Radha Krishna Raju garu, and as a vocalist from the late Sri Vankamamidi Veera Raghavaiahgaru, he has expanded the bounds of Carnatic music through his research and compositions on derived ragas, blend ragas, and tri-sruti ragas, as well as his work extending the foundations of musical pedagogy. His research has been presented at the Madras Music Academy, as well as published. Sri Tumuluri's keen rhythmic sense, lyrical wordplay, and melodic flourishes make his compositions particular suitable for South Indian classical dance forms, as is highlighted in today's performance.



About Sri Sai Dance Academy

Sri Sai Dance Academy is an institution dedicated to learning, understanding and fostering interest in the classical art form of Kuchipudi. It was founded by Smt. J. Sarada, a patient and dedicated teacher with over two decades of teaching experience. Sarada focuses on developing technical perfection, theoretical understanding and, most importantly, passion for the art form. The dynamic class environment allows for both individual attention and learning in groups. Additionally, the class's informal mentorship system encourages students to hone their own skills and learn from each other, as well as forge strong relationships. As a SAMPADA - affiliated institution, it prepares students to earn their certificates, diplomas, and other higher studies in Kuchipudi, as well as to develop their artistic presence. Several SSDA students have been recognized for completing their SAMPADA certificates with distinction.

Sarada's students have performed not only in the Richmond area, but also in India with Kuchipudi Kalakshetra's troupe. They have also toured across major cities in the United States as part of Sri Hari Rama Murthy's dance drama Mohini Bhasmasura. Two students have taught basics of Kuchipudi and choreographed for theater courses at the College of William and Mary.

About Smt. Sarada Jammi

Smt. Sarada Jammi, founder of Sri Sai Dance Academy, began her Kuchipudi dance training at the Kuchipudi Art Academy, Chennai, under Padmabhushan Dr. Vempati Chinna Satyam. She has also trained at Kuchipudi Kalakshetra, Visakhapatnam. Sarada has performed widely in Singapore, India and the United States.

Sarada has taught in Richmond since 2002, formally founding Sri Sai Dance Academy in 2013. During the nineties, Sarada taught at the Nrithyalaya Aesthetics Society and worked for the Singaporean Ministry of Education, teaching at the Si Ling, North View, and Yishun primary schools.

Sarada is a prolific choreographer whose works are characterized by rhythmic interplay and evocative imagery. She uses the language of Kuchipudi to explore philosophical themes, as well as to introduce young dancers to stories from Hindu mythology.

As a founding member of ICAPS Richmond, she organizes intimate concerts to encourage young students of Indian classical arts and to invite experienced performers to share their art with the Richmond community. She also serves as the chairperson of Sri Sai Narayana Organization.





About Smt. Ameya King

Ameya King is a Kuchipudi dancer, dance educator, writer, and podcaster based in Richmond, Va. She began learning Kuchipudi at the Kuchipudi Kalakshetra in 2000. Since then, she has been under the tutelage of her mother, Smt. J. Sarada, as well as Sri Hari Rama Murthy and Smt. N. N. V. Satyabhanu. Ameya earned her Masters in Kuchipudi Dance at the University of Silicon Andhra in 2020.

As a dance educator, Ameya uses a meticulous and analytical approach to hone the technical skills of dance students. Ameya brings together her love of dance, keen interest in research, and a touch of humor to delve into Indian classical dance forms as part of An Off the Beat Dance Podcast with Ameya and Kiran.

Ameya has also had her academic papers on Kuchipudi presented at University of Silicon Andhra and Andhra University. She is a founding member of the Indian Classical Arts Performance Series at Sri Sai Narayana Organization and serves on the Board of Directors for IDEA.

About the Orchestra



Nattuvangam: Smt. Sarada Jammi

Vocal: Sri Vignesh Nurani Subramaniam had is initial vocal training under the guidance of Smt. Geetha Venugopalan, Sri. Meenakshi Sundaram and his school teachers Smt. Bhavani Ganesan and Smt. Seetha Kannan. Following this, he pursued his advanced training in Chennai from Sri V. Sundaresan, a disciple of Sangeetha Kalanidhi Sri D.K. Jayaraman.

Currently residing in Germantown, MD, Vignesh has performed in Chennai and has also performed at several places in and around NJ, MD and VA. Besides concerts, he has provided vocal support for his Guru Sri V.Sundaresan and has participated in several performances of Tyagaraja's Pancharatnas and Mudduswamy Dikshithar's Navaavarna and Navagraha Krithis, as well as provided vocal support for various dance institutions through the mid-Atlantic area.

Mridangam: Sri Vijay Ganesh, a seasoned mridangist, learnt this divine art from the age of 6. He had his tutelage under great and illustrious master, Vidwan Late Sri. Kumbakonam Rajappa Iyer. Vijay Ganesh has performed extensively in India and United States accompanying many eminent Carnatic musicians. He has also played with outstanding musicians of the Hindustani stream. He is an AIR, Chennai graded artist. He has won several awards including:

- Best Mridangist award from Music Academy
- Best Mridangist award in Gokulashtami festival from Sri Krishna Gana Sabha-
- Awardees of Government of India Cultural Scholarship
- "Youth excellence" for Mridangam from Sri Maharajapuram VishwanathaIyer trust

Violin: Dr. Saritha Gomadam is a Carnatic violinist in Richmond, Virginia. She is training under the guidance of Smt. Rajarajeshwari Srinivasan, faculty of Vidhya Subramaniam Academy. She has played violin for several Bharatnatyam dance arangetrams in the Richmond area and Kuchipudi dance performances. She is also a Kuchipudi disciple of Smt. Sarada Jammi at the Sai Dance Academy. Dr. Gomadam is a practicing physician in Infectious Diseases and also serves as the Medical Director for Infectious Disease for the Richmond market, Bon Secours Mercy Health.



Program

Prayer

A traditional prayer invoking Goddess Bālātripurasundari, the presiding deity of Kuchipudi village and seeking her blessings for a successful performance.

Vināyaka Varṇam

Rāgam: Ābhogi | Tālam: Ādi

Composer: Sri Tumuluri Satyagopal

Choreographer: Smt. Sarada Jammi

While Ganeṣa, the remover of obstacles, is not typically the subject of varṇams, this composition invokes the majestic elephant-headed god and describes his many facets.

Mīnākṣi Pancaratnam | Jaya Jaya

Rāgamālīka | Lavangi

Tālamālīka | Ekādaśa

Composer: Smt. Sweta Prasad | Sri Tumuluri Satyagopal

Choreographer: Smt. Sarada Jammi

This unique piece in honor of the Divine Mother begins with Adi Sankaracharya's Mīnākṣi Pancaratnam (as set to music by Smt. Sweta Prasad), which beautifully brings Devi's many qualities to life. The ślokams are highlighted by jatis set to various tālas. The choreography closes with a song venerating the Mother Goddess.



Siddhendra Stuti

Rāgamālīka | Tālam: Ādi

Composer: Sri Tumuluri Satyagopal

Choreographer: Smt. Sarada Jammi

The main piece for the evening exalts Sri Siddhendra Yogi, the legendary father of Kuchipudi, who is considered inseparable from the iconic dance drama Bhāmā Kalāpam. This choreography highlights both the dramatic and rhythmic aspects of Kuchipudi, including while balancing on the rims of a brass plate.



Jāvali

Rāgam: Cencurutti | Tālam: Miśracāpu

Composer: Dr. M. Balamuralikrishna

Choreographer: Smt. Ameya King

This charming piece follows a young abhisārika nayika in love as she musters the courage to share her feelings.



Tillāna

Rāgam: Rāgeṣṛī | Tālam: Ādi

Composer: Sri Lalgudi Jayaraman

Choreographer: Smt. Ameya King

This tillāna brings the evening to a buoyant close, exalting Naṭarāja, the Lord of Dance.

Mangalam



Credits

Brochure : **Hari Venkatesan**
Lasting Impressions

Videography &
Live Streaming : **Hari Venkatesan**
Lasting Impressions

Photography : **Stephen Salpukas**

Costumes : **Renuka Tailors**

Compering : **Anusha Chaluvadi**