

About the Program

Murugan Krithi

Raaga: *Rasikapriya*

Tala: *Adi*

The great Tamil composer Sri Koteeswara Iyer composed 72 melakarta kritis in praise of Lord Murugan. This particular kriti, "Arul Seiyya Vendum Ayya" in the last melakarta raga, pleads Lord Murugan to mercifully free the artist from disillusioning worldly attachments. This item is a choreography of Smt. J. Sarada.

Dasavathara Sabdam

Raaga: *Ragamalika*

Tala: *Misrachaapu*

This sabdam dramatically portrays the story of the ten avatars, incarnations, of Lord Vishnu with dramatic flourishes separated by precise rhythmic interludes. The song was written by Sri Siddhabhotla Ranga Dasu and composed by Sri Yeleswarapu Narayanappa. The item was choreographed by Padmabhushan Dr. Vempati Chinna Satyam.

Thillana

Raaga: *Dwijavanti*

Tala: *Adi*

This thillana, composed by Sri Lalgudi Jayaraman, mellifluously invokes a young Krishna on the banks of the river Yamuna. Smt. Sarada Jammi's choreography reflects the grace and power of the mighty river, through syncopated rhythms and sculpturesque movements that are at times languid and graceful, and at times rapid and thundering.

Mangalam



Presents
the Rangapravesam of

VISHAKA SANTOSH

Alice Jepson Theatre

June 16th, 2018

Yatho hasthas thatho drishtih

Yatho dristhis thatho manaha

Yatho manas thatho bhavaha

Yatho bhavas thatho rasaha

Where the hands are, there the eyes go
Where the eyes are, there the mind goes
Where the mind is, there the feeling goes
Where there is feeling, expression is evoked.
— Sage Bharata Muni's *Natyashastra*



About Kuchipudi

Kuchipudi derives its name after its village of birth in Andhra Pradesh, India. Sri Siddhendra Yogi, the father of Kuchipudi, is believed to have developed the style in the 14th century. He is credited for *Bhamakalapam*, a ballet on the mythological story of Queen Satyabhama and Lord Krishna, which was performed over nine days.

Kuchipudi evolved from yakshagana, a drama tradition practiced by male dancers who played both male and female roles to enact stories. As the patronage changed through each generation, this art form grew and evolved.

In the early part of the 20th century, Sri Vendantam Lakshmi Narayana Sastry revolutionized Kuchipudi by introducing solos to the drama tradition. He also encouraged women into the art form. His disciple Padmabhushan Dr. Vempati Chinna Satyam continued his work and brought Kuchipudi world-wide recognition through his solo items and dance dramas.

The foundations of Kuchipudi follow the principles within the *Natya Shastra*, a treatise on dance, music, and drama. This art form is characterized by its scintillating rhythm, quicksilver movements, geometric precision, eloquent and sensitive expressions, and beauty in its technique of presentation.

More than that, Kuchipudi is a lifestyle to live, a discipline to follow that makes one a better person.



About the Program

Prayer

Vinayaka Kouthvam

Raaga: *Ragamalika*

Tala: *Adi*

This item praises Lord Ganesha, the remover of obstacles. The sloka describes Ganesha, while the composition, by Dr. Bala Murali Krishna, pays obeisance to the elephant-headed god. This item was choreographed by Padmabhushan Dr. Vempati Chinna Satyam.

Siva Stuthi

Raaga: *Ragamalika*

Tala: *Adi*

Nataraja, Lord of Dance, is described with painstaking detail in the slokam. The song, by Sri C. Narayana Reddy, portrays an enthralling dance by Shiva and his consort Parvati as they are supported by a celestial orchestra. This item was choreographed by Padmabhushan Dr. Vempati Chinna Satyam.

Siddhendra Stuthi

Raaga: *Aarabhi*

Tala: *Adi Tala*

Sri Satyagopal Tumuluri's composition exalts Sri Siddhendra Yogi, the Father of Kuchipudi, and pays homage to him. Smt. Sarada Jammi's magnum opus highlights each of the characteristics of this divine art form—rasa, bhava, abhinaya, intricate jathis, and quicksilver movements that embody both grace and power. The item culminates with a sequence danced on a brass plate.

Lakshmi Pravesam

Raaga: *Ragamalika*

Tala: *Adi*

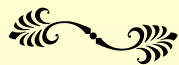
This item, written by Sri Devulapalli Krishna Sastry, is an excerpt from the dance ballet *Ksheera Sagara Madanam*. Goddess Lakshmi is introduced after she is born in the center of a hundred-petaled lotus from the churning of the Milky Ocean. This item was choreographed by Padmabhushan Dr. Vempati Chinna Satyam.



About the Orchestra



concerts and dance arangetrams. She holds a Bachelors degree in Music from the University of Madras. She is teaching vocal and veena in person and through Skype. She has mentored participants from USA and Canada for the 2018 Cleveland Aradhana for Epic Choir, Eppo Varuvaro, and Rakthi Raga Presentation programs.



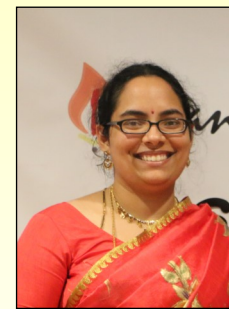
Sri Bhargava Ramji, mridangist, is a leading percussionist from Hyderabad, India. He was initiated into Mridangam by Sri Sudershana Chary at the tender age of four. As a child artiste, he won several competitions and performed in All India Radio and Television. He is under the advanced guidance of Sri D. S. R. Murthy. He holds a masters degree in computer application. Along with Mridangam, he also plays ghatam and kanjeera. Sri Bhargava has accompanied several senior artistes of repute like the Malladi Brothers, Hyderabad Sisters, Veena D. Srinivas, Whistle K. Sivaprasad, Hyderabad Brothers, and Jayaprada Rammurthy. He is a graded artiste of All India Radio and Television. Bhargava has performed over a thousand concerts, and is also the brother of Kuchipudi performer and guru Smt. Mallika Ramprasad.

About the Gurus



Smt. J. Sarada was introduced to dance by Smt. Shantha Balagopalan in Dhanbad, India. In 1985, she began learning Kuchipudi under Padmabhushan Dr. Vempati Chinna Satyam at the Kuchipudi Art Academy in the true *gurukulam* style, living in his home. In 1987, she moved to Kuchipudi Kalakshetra, Visakhapatnam, a branch of the Academy. In 2000, she spent a whole year honing her proficiency in expressions, choreography, and theory at Kuchipudi Kalakshetra. Smt. Sarada has performed and given lecture demonstrations in the United States, Singapore and India. A prolific choreographer, Smt. Sarada has choreographed Kuchipudi dance items that feature complex rhythms and nuanced expressions and explore philosophical themes in Hinduism.

Smt. Sarada is the founder and director of Sri Sai Dance Academy. She began teaching in Richmond in 2002. During the nineties, Sarada taught Kuchipudi at the Nrithyalaya Aesthetics Society and taught dance under the Singapore Ministry of Education. From 2000 to 2001, she taught Kuchipudi in Visakhapatnam as part of Kuchipudi Kalakshetra's outreach.



Smt. Ameya Jammi began learning Kuchipudi at the Kuchipudi Kalakshetra in 2000. Since then, Smt. Ameya has been under the tutelage of her mother, Smt. J. Sarada, as well as Sri Hari Rama Murthy and Smt. N. N. V. Satyabhanu. Smt. Ameya has performed in India and throughout the United States as part of Sri Hari Rama Murthy's troupe, including in the role of Sage Narada in his dance drama *Mohini Bhaskarasura*.

Smt. Ameya has trained numerous students as part of Sri Sai Dance Academy, and served as a teaching assistant for the South and South East Asian performing arts courses under Professor Francis Tanglao-Aguas at the College of William & Mary. She is a founding member of the Indian Classical Arts Performance Series (ICAPS). Smt. Ameya is currently pursuing her Masters in Kuchipudi at the University of Silicon Andhra.

About the School

Sri Sai Dance Academy was established by Smt. J. Sarada, a patient and dedicated teacher with over two decades of teaching experience. Based in Henrico, Va., this institution is dedicated to learning, understanding, and fostering interest in the classical art form of Kuchipudi. Classes are also offered for nattuvangam and abhinaya. Smt. Sarada focuses on developing technical perfection, theoretical understanding and, most importantly, passion for dance.

The dynamic class environment allows for both individual attention and learning in groups. The class's informal mentorship system allows students to hone their own skills, learn from each other, and forge strong relationships. Students are also prepared to earn their certificate and diplomas in the art form.

Rangapravesam, which means "ascending the stage" in Sanskrit, is a full-length solo dance performance. It marks the transition of the artist from a student to a blossoming dancer. Accompanied by a live orchestra, this performance demands that the dancer exhibit an understanding of the many aspects of Kuchipudi, from sensitive expressions to intricate rhythm, blending grace and vigor.

About the Artiste

Kum. Vishaka Santosh has learned Kuchipudi under Smt. J. Sarada for over seven years. Vishaka has performed at various cultural events in the Richmond area, including the ICAPS series, Sangeetha Natya Mahotsavam, and the Gandhi Event, as well as at Richmond Tamil Sangam events. Prior to her initiation into Kuchipudi, Vishaka studied ballet for ten years, starting at the age of seven. Vishaka is completing her PhD in Physiology and Biophysics at Virginia Commonwealth University.



About the Orchestra

Smt. J. Sarada and *Smt. Ameya Jammie* will be conducting nattuvangam, leading the orchestra.



Sri Vignesh Nurani Subramanian, vocalist, had his initial 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. Sundaesan, a disciple of Sangeetha Kalanidhi Sri D. K. Jayaraman.

Currently residing in Germantown, MD, Sri Vignesh has performed in Chennai as well as in and around NJ, MD, and VA. Besides concerts, he has provided vocal support for his Guru Sri V. Sundaesan and has participated in several performances featuring Tyagaraja's Pancharatnas and Muthuswamy Dikshitar's Navavarna and Navagraha Krithis.



Dr. Saritha Gomadam, violinist, has been a Carnatic music student for many years. As a child, she was introduced to the violin by her parents, who continue to be a strong source of encouragement and inspiration to learning the beautiful instrument. She has had the opportunity to learn from several gurus in the past and currently learns from Smt. Rajarajeshwari Srinivasan, an incredibly talented musician based in India. Apart from music, she practices medicine, specializing in infectious diseases.



Smt. Villianur G. Lalitha, veena artist, is an All India Radio artist from Pondicherry. She is the recipient of Veena Dhanammal Memorial Award given by Music Academy, Chennai. Most recently, she performed during the 2017 December Music Season at various sabhas and festivals in Chennai and Coimbatore. Smt. Lalitha has accompanied in Veena for vocal