

Dancers' Introduction

Neela Moorthy



Neela Moorthy is a graduate student at the University of Michigan finishing her Masters in Business Administration and Masters in Health Services Administration this April. Neela is a disciple of Smt. Viji Prakash, director of the Shakti School of Bharata Natyam in Los Angeles, California. Because Neela was raised in Utah, Neela's mother would drive her 8 hours each-way to continue training under Smt. Viji Prakash. Neela has been a member of the Shakti Dance Company since 1989 and toured in major productions across the US, Canada, and India. She has played key roles in the ballets *Shyama*, *Meera*, and the *Bhagavad Gita*. Neela performed her Arangetram (solo debut) in 1999 in Palo Alto, California. Since then, she has continued to present Bharata Natyam, as a window into Indian culture and tradition, in the US and Europe.

Sudha Natarajan



Sudha Natarajan is a second year PhD student in Pathology Department here at U of M. Sudha began her training in Kuchipudi under Smt. Sasikala Penumarthi, a senior disciple of Padmabhushan Dr. Vempati Chinna Satyam, in 1991. During the summer of 1998 she participated in "Kuchipudi Prathidwani", a tour of the US by Dr. Vempati Chinna Satyam and his troupe. She also underwent training at the Kuchipudi Art Academy, Chennai, India during the fall of 1999. Sudha is currently continuing her training under Smt. Sandhyasree Athmakuri, Rochester, MI.

Sailaja Pullela



Ms. Sailaja Pullela is an exponent in the leading dance traditions of South India- Kuchipudi. Born in a family of ardent lovers of classical arts, music and dance have always been part of Sailaja's life. She was initiated into dance at very early age and was trained under Guru Chinta Adinarayan Sarma and had her Rangapravesam (debut) in 1982. She then joined Dr. Vempati Chinna Satyam, under the auspices of Kuchipudi Art Academy, Chennai and was awarded "Natya Visharadha" in 2002. Sailaja has also received diploma in Kuchipudi from Telugu University, Hyderabad India in 1995. She has presented over 300 performances in various parts of India and USA. Academically Sailaja is a Science graduate and works at the Biological Chemistry Dept at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. She resides in Canton, MI, sharing her skills and talents with aspirants in the field of dance.



The Indian Classical Music and Dance Group
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Presents

Natyaanjali

*An evening of
Indian Classical Dance*

Saturday, March 26th, 2005
6 pm–8pm

Kuenzel Room
Michigan Union
Ann Arbor, MI 48109

The Indian Classical Music and Dance Group, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

The Indian Classical Music and Dance Group - is a registered non-profit student organization at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. The group aims to enrich the Indian classical music and dance talent in the community, and to draw interest from a wide spectrum of audiences in Indian classical art forms. The group also intends to raise funds for charitable causes by using Indian art forms as a medium.

ICMD was formed in March 2003 by a small group of classical music and dance enthusiasts at the University of Michigan. We have over 25 active participants and we organize one concert every semester on campus.

Our members come from diverse backgrounds in terms of culture, training and education. Practice sessions are informal, usually in our homes and the environment is conducive to learning and camaraderie. We have performed at concerts organized by the EPA, Pampa Kannada Koota, Tamil Sangam, Great Lakes Aradhana Committee, PROVIDES, Persian Students Association and other groups in the Ann Arbor and Detroit area.

Please visit <http://www.umich.edu/~icmd> for information about our group and our performances. To get in touch with us, email us at icmd.contact@umich.edu.

We would greatly appreciate any monetary support, as this would help us in the purchase and upkeep of our instruments, and in organizing events. Speak with us after the event or email us.

Indian Classical Dance

Indian Classical dance is one of the oldest arts of India and has been through a steady development for nearly two thousand years. This art form finds its origin in the Hindu temples where it was used to illustrate mythological stories. It was performed in temples by *Devadasis*, female dancers who dedicated themselves to temples to serve the deity as dancers and musicians forming part of the elaborate rituals. With the passage of time, this classical tradition has evolved from purely a form of worship to a respected cultural art and dance.

The major classical dance styles in India, besides the folk and tribal dances, are: Kathak, Manipuri, Odissi, Bharat Natyam, Kuchipudi, Kathakali, and Mohiniattam of which today we present two styles- Bharathanatyam and Kuchipudi.

Bharata Natyam

Bharata Natyam, it is said, is the embodiment of music in visual form, a ceremony, and an act of devotion. It originated in the temples of Tamil Nadu. Bharata Natyam has three distinct elements to it: Nritya (rhythmic movements of pure aesthetic value), Abhinaya (movements in which expression is emphasized), and Natya (dance with a dramatic aspect). Today, Bharata Natyam recitals and ballets are performed in theaters by soloists and troupes and enjoyed by audiences around the world.

Kuchipudi

Kuchipudi finds its geographic origins in the southern Indian state of Andhra Pradesh. Historically, it has been performed by men as a part of group drama, with men donning female costumes to play female roles. Recently, however, the male dominance of Kuchipudi has declined and, today, Kuchipudi retains its drama-based traditions, but has also incorporated the element of solo performance.

Today's Program

Gajavadana by Sudha ~ 10 min

Ragam: Hamsadvani, Talam: Adi

Choreography: Dr. Vempati Chinna Satyam

Parashakti Janani by Neela ~ 6 min

Ragam: Hamsadvani, Talam: Adi

Choreography: Smt. Viji Prakash

Sivasthuthi by Sailaja ~ 10min

Ragam: Raagamalika, Talam: Adi

Choreography: Dr. Vempati Chinna Satyam

Marakatha Manimaya Chela by Sudha

~ 15min

Ragam: Shankarabharanam/Arabhi, Talam: Adi

Choreography: Dr. Vempati Chinna Satyam

Ananda Thandavam by Neela ~ 10 min

Ragam: Mohana, Talam: Adi

Choreography: Smt. Viji Prakash

Dashaavatharam by Sailaja ~ 10min

Ragam: Raagamalika, Talam: Mishrachapu

Choreography: Dr. Vempati Chinna Satyam

Thillana by Neela ~ 10 min

Ragam: Kuntalavarali, Tala: Adi

Choreography: Smt. Viji Prakash

Mangalam by Sailaja, Sudha, Neela

~ 4 min