

PROGRAM by Dansense-Nrtyabodha

October 4, 5:30-6:30 pm

Lifelong Learning Auditorium, Mirabella

In Conjunction with the exhibition *Collecting Devotion: Temples to Jinas*

SPLENDOR OF SHIVA

Purvaranga

Music composition: Dr. Padma Subrahmanyam

Dancers: Srihita, Avantika, Pihu, Nishta, Vijeta, Jivantika, Manasi, Sumana

Honoring the stage and sending greetings to Mother Earth, to all that is greater than us, to our teachers and to all that is human and more-than-human.

Pushpanjali

Traditional

Dancers: Vijeta, Jivantika

Raga Nattai, Tala Adi

Pushpanjali literally means “offering of flowers” and it is a dance to invoke blessings so that the event goes well. This pushpanjali includes a verse in praise of Lord Shiva from the Tamil literary volumes of Thevaram.

*Worshipped three times of the day by the celestials, Showering flowers with love, I keep the ever-sweet Divine Shiva in my heart,
With control over the five senses.*

Bho Shambho

Lyrics: Swami Dayananda Saraswati

Music composition: Dr. Padma Subrahmanyam

Choreography: Sumana

Raga Darbari Kanada, Tala Adi

Dancer: Sumana

The song extols Shiva as the self-born one full of compassion, source of the Ganga river, beyond any known attributes, infinite and absolute bliss. The Lord of Dance, worshipped by sages, clothed by the vast skies, Shiva is the eternal dancer and universal lord.

PROGRAM by Dansense-Nrtyabodha

Shiva Panchakshara Sloka

Lyrics: Adi Shankara

Choreography: Guru Kelucharan Mahapatra

Dancer: Manasi

Raga Malika (Carnatic) or Mishra Bairagi (Odissi), Tala Rupaka (Carnatic) or Khemta (Odissi)

This set of five verses in praise of Shiva, is a form of acrostic in that each verse begins and is dominated by alliteration using each of the 5 syllables of the powerful mantra “na-mah-shi-va-ya.”

Swaramala

Music & Choreography: Dr. Padma Subrahmanyam

Raga Malika, Tala Misrachapu

Dancer: Sumana

This excerpt is exemplary of the Bharata-Nrityam style, focusing on musicality and rhythm within structure but not necessarily following accepted traditions, whether availing of movements that were lost for centuries before being revived by Dr. Padma, choosing to perform a step only on one side rather than both sides, or letting the dance play with the notes. This dance is the joy of movement.

Mangalam

The dancers end with a verse from the ancient treatise on dramatic arts *Natyashastra* wishing fulfillment to all:

May the sweet mothers—Learning, Courage, Intelligence, Humility, Wealth, Grace, Awareness, Intention—be with us and so, bestow fulfilment.

They close with the honoring of the stage and giving thanks to Mother Earth and all around us and prayer for peace from the Vedas.

May All be Happy / May All be Free from Illness / May All See the Good in Everything / May no one Suffer / Om Peace, Peace, Peace.

PROGRAM by Dansense-Nrtyabodha

Dansense-Nrtyabodha is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization and is rooted in the concept of *rasa*—deep engagement—which acknowledges that by their very presence in a space together, every person--artist or audience--contributes to an experience in *that* moment. Dansense aims to foster community, learning and spiritual growth. You can learn more about Dansense at: <https://www.dansense.org/bharata-nrityam.html>

Dancer bios:

Sumana is a Bharata-Nrityam artist and educator. After initial training in Bharata-Natyam in the US, she had the opportunity to study and perform Kagura (Shinto ritual dance) with the Hokkaido Shrine Troupe during her 2 years in Japan. In 1996, she went to study under Dr. Padma Subrahmanyam in Chennai, India, to master her Natyashastra-based pedagogy of Indian classical dance. Sumana is the recipient of the 2024 Kathy Lindholm-Lane Award for Arizona Dance Educator of the Year from the Arizona Dance Education Organization. In her current projects, she uses Bharata-Nrityam to facilitate dialogue and collaborative works around hushed narratives, such as intimate partner violence and menstrual health. Sumana holds an MFA in Dance. She is an ASU Gammage Teaching Artist, Co-Director of the Critical Response Process (CRP) Certification Program, and Director of Dansense-Nrtyabodha. (<https://www.dansense.org/production-history.html>)

Manasi Tripathy is an Odissi dancer, trained under her neighbor and legendary guru Kelucharan Mohapatra, as well as Ratikanta Mohapatra and Sujata Mohapatra, from childhood. She performed at major festivals with her guru. From 2005-2010, she joined Nrityagram, Bengaluru, and performed globally with the company under the direction of Surupa Sen and Bijayini Satpathy. Manasi's artistry in dance extends to being a makeup artist and costume designer, as well as holding a Master's degree in Odiya Literature, the language of Odissi. She has taught workshops around the world and explored movement practices such as Kandyan dance and the Hula. Manasi teaches and practices in Phoenix, AZ. Her work is influenced not only by the traditions of Odissi, but also by her lived experiences as an immigrant, single mother and survivor. In 2022, the AZ Coalition to End Sexual & Domestic Violence honored her with the Three Heart Award for survivors for promoting healing through dance.

Jivantika has been learning dance for over 6 years at Dansense. She is a 7th grader at Basis-Chandler. When not studying, she enjoys crafting and running with her Dad.

Vijeta has been learning dance since the age of 5 at Dansense. She is a 6th grader at Basis-Scottsdale. She enjoys painting and gymnastics outside of her studies.

PROGRAM by Dansense-Nrtyabodha

The Music Ensemble travel to the US from Chennai, India, annually to support dance teachers and their students across the country. They have played a vital role in Dansense's productions over the last decade. Dansense-Nrtyabodha is blessed with this long-term association.

Gajendran Ganesan is a versatile Indian Percussionist, primarily adept in the *mridangam*. Although he began with vocal training, he soon found a special interest in percussion and took up mridangam. He is a senior disciple of Guru Shri Hanumanthapuram R.J. Bhuvaragan. With 20 years of experience in the field of music and dance, Ganesan is a sought-after accompanist for dancers. He also holds a scholarship from the Government of India-Department of Culture and Tourism and is the recipient of numerous awards. He imparts his knowledge through traditional classes and provides expert accompaniment to dance students for their stage debuts, thus demonstrating his great capacity for educating and encouraging aspiring artists, as well.

Sai Sabapathy is a versatile vocalist. Having trained under Guru, Shri K.V. Ananthan, disciple of prominent master, Vidwan Palghat K.V. Narayanaswamy, Sai has over a decade of experience as a vocal performance artist. His performances cover the spectrum from the Chennai sabhas to the ancient temple *festivals*, both as a concert vocalist and an accompanist to dancers. His music has carried him to performances in Europe, the Middle East and the US. Sai is a graded All-India Radio artist, an avid nature photographer and holds a Master's in Computer Applications.

Kadapa Raghavendran is a *flutist* who hails from a musical family and has been performing for over 30 years. He began learning vocal music at 13 and then took up flute training under Guru Sri R. Thyagarajan and Smt. Bhagyalakshmi. He has performed extensively for various dance forms such as Bharatanatyam, Kuchipudi and Mohiniattam and for numerous eminent dancers, while also performing for musical concerts. He is a visiting professor at the Tamil Nadu Government Music College in Chennai and has received several awards. He and his wife Dr. P. Lakshmi, a veena artist and professor, continue to pass on the traditions of Carnatic music to younger generations.

R. Selvaprasad is a *violinist* who hails from Kumbakonam. He learnt from Guru Kumbakonam Deviprasad for 12 years, Guru Melakaveri Thyagarajan for 3 years, and now continues his tutelage under Guru R. Rahul from Tiruchirapalli for 8 years. Selvaprasad is also trained in the art of performing percussion syllables vocally in Carnatic music, known as konnakol. With over 20 years' experience in performing for leading Carnatic musicians and Bharatanatyam dancers around the world, Selvaprasad is lauded for his versatility. He has received several awards and is an All India Radio graded artist.