


**Dansense-Nrtyabodha**  
presents  
**A Collaboration in Music & Dance**

Sunday, November 6, 2022  
ASU Kerr Cultural Center  
6110 N Scottsdale Rd, Scottsdale  
5-7 pm

Tickets: \$25, \$15  
For student/other discount, info:  
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## Rangapravesh

We begin with Rangapravesh or the stage entrance; we were inspired by the idea of the purvaranga or set of rituals that precede a stage performance as described in the Natyashastra. This includes the introduction of the musicians and dancers and the invocation to deities such as Ganesha to make the performance successful. The verse we have chosen is perhaps familiar to many of you:

Vakra-Tunndda Maha-Kaaya Suurya-Kotti Samaprabha |  
Nirvighnam Kuru Me Deva Sarva-Kaaryessu Sarvadaa ||  
Salutations to Ganesha with bent trunk and large body, whose splendor is like a million  
suns. O Lord, please allow me to fulfill my endeavors by clearing away any obstacles.

This piece has been composed collaboratively by the artists for today. It is based in the raga yaman (as it is known in Hindustani or northern Indian music) or raga kalyani (as it is known in Carnatic or southern Indian music).

## Music Renderings

The instrumental musicians will carry the program forward with 2 performances of Hindustani and Carnatic music.

## Anand Desh Pallavi

Kaberi will take us on a journey with an Odissi pallavi. This is a nritta piece, or a piece in which there is no story, but in which a raga is elaborated through eye movements, body postures and intricate footwork to bring out the beauty of the dance and the music. This pallavi in desh raga is a composition of Anjan Saha and is choreographed by Kaberi.

## Gambhiranattai Varnam

Sumana will perform the uttaranga or 2<sup>nd</sup> half of a well-known varnam composed by Dr. Balamuralikrishna and choreographed by N. Srikanth. This varnam extolls the mother goddess as the embodiment of AUM—represented by the 3 goddesses, Saraswati (wisdom), Lakshmi (wealth) and Devi (power). The dance opens with the story of the poet Kalidasa who was cutting a branch sitting on its end. Some passers by noticed this folly and decided to use him to teach a lesson to the princess Vidyottama who had belittled them in public debate. They trick

her into marrying Kalidasa and when she finds out that he is just a simpleton, she is devastated. Kalidasa is lost and goes to Mother Kali and prays for knowledge. She is pleased and blesses him. The subsequent verses beg for her blessings and assert that she brings happiness through music. They go on to ask for guidance in this journey from she who is worshipped by all.

### Thanks

While we reassemble our artists for the finale, Dansense would like to offer our thanks to the many who have made this possible today.

First the artists...for bringing their knowledge and their joy to the research, rehearsal and to today. Next, Dansense volunteers, who have worked tirelessly in production, coordination, publicity and a general holding of hands. We are grateful to the AZ Commission on the Arts for their support through the research & development grant and to our donors for their unconditional support. Thanks to the ASU Kerr Cultural Center Staff for working with us to make the event look so good in this beautiful space. Thanks to our students whose enthusiasm and love of learning are catching and their parents for being there. I would like to invite Naini to say a few words.

### Mangalam

We conclude with a mangalam or a piece that can be found at the beginning or end of a performance, whose purpose is to invoke the good and center the auspicious. This piece is based on an original composition by Poornima and Sumana in raga charukeshi. It has found new meaning in this collaborative process. Its inspiration is in the intersections of the Madhumati Suktam from the Rg Veda and the "Words that come before all else" of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy of Indigenous Nations. Dansense Students will share these greetings of love and respect to begin the closing for today.

### Response & Closing

We invite you, our co-enjoyers into a response process to be led by Sai Pratyusha and students of Dansense.