

Bharatanatyam Arangetram

Deepta Jasthi

Student of Suchitra Sairam

Saturday, June 18, 2016

Chautauqua Fine Arts Center  
Mahtomedi, MN

**DEEPTA JASTHI** is 14 years old and will enter ninth grade at Mounds View High School in the Fall 2016. She started learning *Bharatanatyam* under the guidance of Smt. Suchitra Sairam at the age of 6 years. Suchi Akka's encouragement and committed teaching guided Deepta's passion and dedication for the art, which helped her work towards her *Arangetram*. She presented her *Salangai Pooja* performance in March 2015. Deepta has also placed in Twin Cities "Natya Manjari" dance competitions in 2015 and 2016, in solo and group events.

Along with *Bharatanatyam*, Deepta participates in figure skating and is in Freestyle 5 at the White Bear Lake Sports Center. She also has a passion for music, and has been playing piano for the past 7 years. Deepta has been selected four times as the winner of MMTA State Piano Contest. Deepta's music pursuits also led her to play alto saxophone in her school jazz band.

She was selected to participate in the Science Olympiad National Tournament 2016 and is in the University of Minnesota's Talented Youth Math Program. Outside of her academic and artistic pursuits, Deepta enjoys being a part of Girl Scouts and spending time with friends and family.



**SUCHITRA SAIRAM** is a highly committed *Bharatanatyam* artist with 30 years in the field, and received formative training from Smt. Padmini Chari, director of the Nritya School of Bharatanatyam in Houston, TX. Suchitra has pursued advanced training under the internationally acclaimed couple The Dhananjayans for over 25 years, as well as the renowned couple Sri M.V. Narasimhachari (late) and Smt. M. Vasanthalakshmi. All of these artists are important guides and inspirations to her as an artist, teacher, and presenter. Suchitra's work as a performing artist, choreographer and teacher is noted for its adherence to her *gurus'* exacting standards, creativity and depth. She is additionally a skilled *nattuvangam* artist.

Suchitra founded Kala Vandanam in 2002 committed to education, performances and outreach, with the vision of creating and presenting *Bharatanatyam* works that celebrate the tradition while embracing the aesthetics of our changing world. Through Kala Vandanam, she teaches a small group of committed students, and is an emerging Indian arts presenter in the Twin Cities. She is a 2015 recipient of a Knight Arts Challenge grant to support the creation of an original production, "Ritu – The Seasons." Suchitra has been named a 2016 State and Regional Ambassador for IndianRaga, a Boston-based company promoting Indian classical arts online.

Suchitra holds a bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering from MIT, and an MBA from the University of Texas-Dallas.

### Orchestra Members from Sri Krishnaa Vadya Vrindam

**RAJYALAKSHMI MADABHUSHANI** was initiated into the art by her grandfather, Sri Kidambi Kodandapani, and later pursued advanced training under eminent musicians Sri D. Raghvachary and Sri D. Seshachary, popularly known as Hyderabad Brothers, and the legendary Sangeetha Kalanidhi Sri Nedanuri Krishnamurthy. Rajyalakshmi is a sought after vocalist for Bharatanatyam and Kuchipudi performances, and has had the privilege of accompanying excellent artists such as Shobha Naidu, Raja and Radha Reddy, Rajeshwari Sainath and Hemamalini. Rajyalakshmi is the recipient of several awards from cultural institutions around India. She founded a music institution dedicated to her grandfather called Sri Kodandapani Sangeetha Vidya Samstha. Rajyalakshmi has shared her intimate knowledge of great composers Annamayya and Ramadasu through national level workshops, and is a talented composer for dance productions. Rajyalakshmi holds a diploma in music from the Telugu University and a graduate degree in Carnatic vocal music from Gandharva Vidyalaya. She is a B high grade artist of All India Radio and Indian national TV Doordarshan.

Born in a family of musicians, **B.V. GANESH RAO** had his initial training in Mridangam from Guru Kumbakonam Sreenivasan. He rapidly climbed the ladder of success at a very young age and has accompanied many leading Bharathanatyam and Kuchipudi dancers, including Dr. Vempati Chinna Satyam, The Dhananjayans, Narasimhachari and Vasanthalakshmi, Dr. Saraswathi, Manju Bhargavi, Shobhana, Prathibha Prahalad, and M. V. N. Murthy. He performed in prestigious venues and festivals in India and throughout the world.

Ganesh is also a successful tabla artist, with his initial training from Guru Lakshmana Rao and later under the tabla maestro late Ustad Keramatulla Khan. He has accompanied on the tabla to the leading musicians in the Hindustani and Carnatic music fields, including legendary artists Dr. M. Balamuralikrishna, Sri T.V. Gopalakrishnan, Sri Lalgudi Jayaraman and Sri T.N.Seshagopalan. In addition, he has played many concerts with stalwarts Sri Karaikudi R. Mani, Sri Umayalapuram K. Sivaraman, Sri T.H. Vinayakaraman and Sri Haridwara Mangalam A.K.Palanivel. He has also contributed to a number of film and audio recordings with the leading music Directors, and is a B high graded from All India Radio, Chennai.

**S.P. ANANTHAPADMANABHA** hails from a family of musicians. He started learning Carnatic vocal music from his parents Smt. C.K. Shanthakumari and Sri C.R. Poorvachar. Along with vocal music he trained in violin from several outstanding artists, including legendary violinists Kalaimamani A. Kanyakumari and Delhi Sri Sunderrajan. Ananthapadmanabha has accompanied many leading musicians including Sri P.S. Narayanaswamy, Bombay Sisters Smt. C. Lalitha and Smt. C. Saroja, Sri T.V. Sankaranarayanan, Dr. N. Ramani, Sri O.S. Thygarajan, Sri T.V. Gopalakrishnan, Rudrapatnam Brothers, Mambalam Sisters, Smt. Vijayalakshmi, Rajani-Gayathri, and Smt. Suguna Purushothaman. He has performed extensively in India, and has traveled to the United States and throughout Europe on concert tours. Ananthapadmanabha has received prestigious awards from leading cultural institutions in Chennai, including The Madras Music Academy, Indian Fine Arts Society, Narada Gana Sabha and Parthasarathy Swamy Sabha.

**C.V. SUDHAKAR** hails from a family of musicians, and his ancestors were court musicians in the royal Tanjore Court of Tamil Nadu. Sudhakar had his initial flute training at the tender age of 7 from his grandfather Chittoor Gopalakrishnan, and well known a grade artist of All India Radio. Later, he had intense training from his father Sri Chittoor Venkatesan, a flute virtuoso and top ranking artist of All India Radio. Sudhakar is an accomplished solo artiste in his own right, and is a highly sought after accompanist for Bharatanatyam, Kuchipudi and Mohini Attam concerts as well. His skillful technique, dexterity and understanding of the deeper nuances have brought him laurels, including Venu Vadan Visharada, Yuva Pradeepa, and Yuva Sevak Award from prestigious organizations in India. He was also the recipient of prestigious Center for Cultural Resources Scholarship, and is B High Grade artist for All India Radio and Doordarshan. Sudhakar has been featured on many television programs, commercial recordings and light music shows, and has worked with prominent film music directors like Kunnakkudi Vaidyanathan, L. Krishnan and Rajkumar Bharati. His performance tours include travels to the United States, Singapore and throughout India. Sudhakar also holds a masters degree in Commerce from Annamalai University.



 **Kala Vandanam**  
Dance Company



## About Bharatanatyam

*Bharatanatyam* is the most popular and widely practiced classical dance style of India, with sculptural evidence dating back nearly 3000 years. A highly spiritual and dedicatory dance form, *Bharatanatyam's* roots go back to the Hindu temples of Tamil Nadu, in South India. The dance moved from temples to theaters over time, but has retained its characteristic devotional component, expression of human emotions, and stylized storytelling. The flexibility of the *Bharatanatyam* framework lends itself well to both traditional themes as well as modern day subjects. Originally performed only by female soloists, *Bharatanatyam* is now performed by male and female soloists as well as ensembles all over the world. In its present form, *Bharatanatyam* is approximately 200 years old, and continues to evolve as a "living" performance art.

*Bharatanatyam* is comprised of three main aspects – *nritta*, or technical dance, with a sophisticated base vocabulary used to build intricate combinations and rhythmic patterns that do not convey any specific meaning; *nritya*, or expressional dance, using highly stylized gestures, postures and body language to convey any mood; and *natya*, or dramatic storytelling. All of these aspects are codified in the *Natya Shastra*, the ancient Indian treatise on dance and theater arts, and are used in harmony to uplift the audience and the dancer to a higher level of contentment and spiritual consciousness.

## About Arangetram

*Arangetram* means, "to ascend the stage" in the South Indian language of Tamil. Traditionally, it is the first time a teacher presents a student in public in a full-length solo concert, and is conducted only when a teacher feels the student can perform as a qualified solo artist. The *Arangetram* tests the skill of both the student and teacher, and is typically attended, and judged, by both connoisseurs of the art and well-wishers of the student and teacher. The repertoire performed in the *Arangetram* and in all traditional *Bharatanatyam* concerts is called a *maargam*, a "path" of compositions leading the dancer through different levels of complexity and subtlety, showcasing the dancer's proficiency in *nritta*, *nritya* and *natya*.

## Program

### Invocation Song

#### Prasanna Vadana Stuti

The program begins on an auspicious note with salutation to Lord Ganesha, wishing for universal peace and prosperity. (7 min)

**Ragam** – Nattai

**Talam** – Adi

**Language** – Sanskrit

**Lyrics** – Traditional

**Music** – M.V. Narasimhachari

**Choreography** – M.V. Narasimhachari and M. Vasanthalakshmi (Kala Samarpana)

#### Alarippu

The body "blossoms" through Alarippu, featuring the signature stances and movement vocabulary of Bharatanatyam. (3 min)

**Talam** – Misra Chapu

**Choreography** – Traditional

#### Jathiswaram

Jathiswaram unites the musical notes (*swaram*) of the melodic scale (*ragam*) with increasingly complex patterns of technical dance (*jathi*), conveying the delight of rhythm and movement. (9 min)

**Ragam** – Bhairavi

**Talam** – Rupakam

**Music** – Tanjore Quartet

**Choreography** – Rukmini Devi Arundale (Kalakshetra)

#### Shabdham – Thandai Muzhanga

Shabdham introduces the storytelling aspect of *Bharatanatyam*; this song brings the stories of valorous Muruga, to the stage. (11 min)

**Ragamalika**

**Talam** – Misra Chapu

**Language** – Tamil

**Lyrics** – Semmponnar Kovil Shanmugham

**Music** – Madurai T. Sethuraman

**Choreography** – V.P. and Shanta Dhananjayan (Bharata Kalanjali)

#### Nrithyopahaaram – Ninne Ne Nera

All aspects of *Bharatanatyam* merge in this *piece de resistance*, drawing upon the dancer's full proficiency and physical stamina. This composition elaborates on the devotee's praise of Lord Krishna, extolling his many wondrous deeds. (26 min)

**Ragam** – Atana

**Talam** – Adi

**Language** – Telugu

**Lyrics and Music** – Turaiyur Rajagopala Sharma

**Choreography** – V.P. and Shanta Dhananjayan (Bharata Kalanjali)

### Introduction of the Musicians

#### Keertanam – Adbhuta Natanam

Lord Nataraja's cosmic dance inspires awe and appreciation in all beings, divine and mortal. (12 min)

**Ragam** – Pantuvarali

**Talam** – Misra Chapu

**Language** – Telugu

**Lyrics and Music** – Pallavi Duraiswamy Iyer

**Choreography** – Suchitra Sairam

#### Keertanam – Brochevarevarura

A devotee calls upon Lord Rama to shower compassion upon his soul. "Who apart from you will save me? Can't you hear my pleas? I firmly hold onto your lotus feet, and ask that dispel all my sins." (10 min)

**Ragam** – Kamas

**Talam** – Adi

**Language** – Telugu

**Lyrics and Music** – Mysore Vasudevachar

**Choreography** – Suchitra Sairam

#### Thillana

The dancer revels in intricate footwork and sculptural poses, as exciting melody and complex rhythm interweave and rise into a glorious celebration. (11 min)

**Ragam** – Brindavana Saranga

**Talam** – Adi

**Language** – Sanskrit

**Lyrics and Music** – Madurai N. Krishnan

**Choreography** – Adyar K. Lakshman (Bharata Choodamani)

#### Mangalam – Marali Marali Jaya Mangalamu

Mangalam is a closing prayer, bringing the concert to an auspicious conclusion. This message for universal prosperity is highlighted through beautiful relationship between Lord Vishnu and his divine consort Alarmelmanga. (4 min)

**Ragamalika**

**Talam** – Adi

**Language** – Telugu

**Lyrics** – Annamacharya

**Music** – Kadayanallur Venkataraman

**Choreography** – Suchitra Sairam

*Sarveshaam svastir bhavatu | Sarveshaam shāntir bhavatu*  
*Sarveshaam pūnam bhavatu | Sarveshaam mangalam bhavatu*

"May there be happiness in all | May there be peace in all"  
"May there be completeness in all | May there be success in all"

## Credits

Nattuvangam

Vocal

Mridangam

Violin

Flute

Mistresses of Ceremonies

Costume Design

Costume Execution

Makeup

Lighting & Sound

Graphic Design

Photography

Videography

**Suchitra Sairam**

**Rajyalakshmi Madabhushani**

**B.V. Ganesh Rao**

**S.P. Ananthapadmanabha**

**C.V. Sudhakar**

**Archana Murali and Aarthi Vijayakumar**

**Suchitra Sairam**

**K.R. Dressers, Chennai, India**

**Suchitra Sairam and Ambika Natarajan**

**Chatauqua Fine Arts Center Staff**

**yourwebster.com**

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