

NIVEDIN | The Offering

Fresh faces in classical music and dance

An exhilarating evening of classical Bharatanatyam and Carnatic music presented by Swati Seshadri and an ensemble of young musicians.

Programme

Invocation

Ragamalika | **Talam:** Ekam
Composer: Sundaresha Sarma
Language: Sanskrit

A Mallari, a piece traditionally played in temples when the presiding deity is taken on procession, is woven with a kriti, 'Uccista Ganapate'.

“Oh mighty Ganapati, worshipped by the rishis, protect me. The one who holds a blue lotus, the tusk that was transformed into a pen and a rosary; the one whose splendour is dark like that of the beautiful clouds; the one whose face is that of the elephants! Oh giver of desired things, protect me.”

This is followed by Tisra Alarippu, a traditional composition reworked within a 3 beat cycle.

Varnam

Ragam: Charukesi | **Talam:** Adi
Composer: Lalgudi Jayaraman
Language: Tamil

In this varnam the dancer questions her lover, Lord Krishna, on his apathy towards her. She pleads with him to remember the sweet moments they've shared in the past and coaxes him to come to her. The narrative is punctuated by jatis (pure dance sequences).

Ardanarisvaram

Ragam: Kumudakriya | **Talam:** Rupakam
Composers: Adi Shankaracharya & Muthuswamy Dikshitar | **Language:** Sanskrit

This piece describes the form of the divine that encompasses both the feminine and masculine. Shiva is described as the one with the matted locks, a body smeared with ashes and ankles adorned with snakes. Shakti is described as the one with whose body resembles molten gold and whose tresses are adorned with jewels.

“Shiva Tvam. Shakti Tvam.
You are Shiva. You are Shakti.”

Javali – Apaduruku

Ragam: Kamas | **Talam:** Madhyadi
Composer: Pattabhiramayya
Language: Telugu

In this Javali, the protagonist is a young, naïve, somewhat silly girl who is thoroughly dismayed at finding herself the subject of social censure and gossip in a puritanical society.

Thillana

Ragam: Sumanesa Rajani
Talam: Kanda Chapu
Composer: Anoor Ananthakrishna Sharma
Language: Kannada

Joyous, vivacious and uplifting, this Thillana explores the 5-beat rhythmic cycle. It ends with a short verse dedicated to the Lord of Dance, Nataraja.

Credits

Swati Seshadri, dancer

Since completing her dance arangetram in 2005 with Guru Vasanthakumare, where the late Padmasri Adyar Lakshman graced the occasion, Swati has pursued further training and dedicated practice. She currently trains with Seeta Patel and is venturing into choreography and teaching. She is an able vocalist – both a soloist and an accompanist for dance, currently training with OS Arun.

Madhusoodanan, flautist

Madhusoodanan, a London based flautist, specialises in Indian Classical and film music. He is the first student of “Venuganamani” P. Gnanavarathan and has learnt from S. Shashank and “Sikkil” Mala Chandrashekar. He has accompanied singers such as KS Chithra, Vijayaprakash, Srinivas and “Malgudi” Shuba. He is also a committed teacher.

Abhiram Sahathevan, mridangam artist

Abhiram learns Mridangam under the tutelage of Sri M Balachandar. He has established himself as one of the most captivating percussionists among classical dancers and musicians. He was awarded the title of “Kalalayaratnapooshan” by the late Padmasri Adyar Lakshman for the best Mridangist at the dance music festival in Chennai.

Vibha Selvaratnam, nattuvangam artist

Vibha began her Bharatanatyam training with her mother Kiran Ratna. As she develops her dance career, she performs throughout the UK, most notably with her solo shows which include her own choreographies. She is also leading regular classes in Exeter and Plymouth through the ISTD syllabus.

Srutti Suresan, vocalist

Srutti completed her arangetram in Carnatic vocals under her mother Smt. Sumathy Suresan. She is now training with Dr. Rajkumar Bharathi. As a vocalist and a lapsteel guitarist, she is a member of the UK's national ensemble for Indian music, Tarang. Srutti is studying at Barts and the London School of Medicine, on a music scholarship in Western violin.

Aditya Venugopal, violinist

Aditya, a young violinist, is a disciple of Guru Sri Balu Raguraman. He has performed as a solo artist and has accompanied his Guru on many platforms in the UK, Europe and India. He is a 2nd year Aerospace Engineering student at the University of Surrey.

Seeta Patel, choreographer

Seeta began training in 1990 and has since worked with a range of Bharatanatyam and contemporary dance professionals. She has received numerous awards and bursaries for both solo and collaborative work, and screen dance. Her work has been shown at ROH2, Sadler's Wells and Southbank Centre. She is a committed mentor to young dancers.

Acknowledgements and Staff

Producer | Nina Head

Lighting Designer | Jai Morjaria

Photographer | Thackshila Udage



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Akademi is a bold and distinctive producer, celebrating South Asian dance in all its forms.

Akademi Team | Mira Kaushik OBE, Helen Jeffreys, Antareepa Thakur, Christina Christou, Sydney Rae, Joe West, Claire Farmer, Pia Zicchi, Rohanne Udall, Hannah Titterton and Catherine Ibbotson.

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