

PRAYUKTI ARTS
PRESENTS

INTERPLAY ARTS FESTIVAL

an evening of live music & dance

@ Sunnyvale Theatre, CA

JUNE 29 2024

2:30PM 7:00PM

FEATURED PERFORMERS



Nitya Narasimhan

Vinay Srinivasan

Varsha Sankar

Strividhya Srinivasan

Surya Ravi

Neha Venkatesh

Jayashree Seshadri

Sanjana Melkote

Priyanka Raghuraman

Supported by



Avachi Biryani House
experience the real flavors

Program Schedule

Invocation and Welcome Note

Akilandeshwari

Sanjana Melakote and Team

Aadum Paadhanai

Priyanka Raghuraman and Team

Visama Kriti

Jayashree Seshadri and Team

Swathi Thirunaal Padam

Vinay Srinivasan and Team

Margam, an interplay of tradition

Neha Venkatesh and Team

Bhavani Kriti

Surya Ravi and Team

Jaavali and Padam

Shrividhya Srinivasan and Team

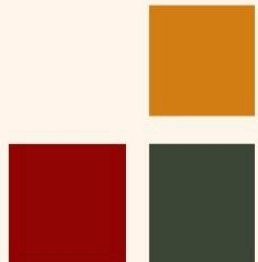
Dhrupad

Varsha Sankar and Team

Kriti, an interplay of conversations

Nitya Narasimhan and Team

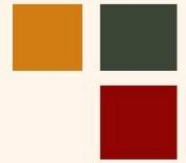
Vote of Thanks





Rlti

an interplay of conversations



Nitya Narasimhan

Nitya trained in Bharatanatyam under Guru Suma Mani, Chennai in her formative years. A graceful, enthusiastic and passionate dancer, Nitya completed her arangetram (debut, solo performance) in the year 2003. She then pursued her training under the guidance of Guru Rukmini Vijayakumar, Raadhika Kalpa Dance Company, Bangalore. She studied with Smt Vithya Arasu (Natyakala Vidhya) in the Marga-Nritta Karanas and is pursuing Nattuvangam training under Dr.G.V.Guru Bharadwaaj. Nitya currently continues her pursuits of Bharatanatyam with Smt Shweta Prachande.

Nitya's interest and passion for movement and dance led her to pursue the Post Diploma program in Movement Arts and Media from the Attakkalari Centre for Movement Arts, where she graduated with honors. She also pursued Art of Teaching at the Iyengar Institute of Yoga, San Francisco.

She firmly believes in upholding the traditional values of Bharatanatyam, while also acknowledging its problematic past, working with its rich present, and being open to its evolving future. Her commitment to the art form extends beyond its technical aspects, encompassing its cultural and historical significance as well. With a deep understanding of the complex dynamics at play, she strives to honor the tradition while also pushing boundaries and exploring new possibilities for its expression. Through her approach, she embodies the spirit of innovation and evolution that is essential for any art form to thrive and remain relevant.

Devi, a dialogue of faith

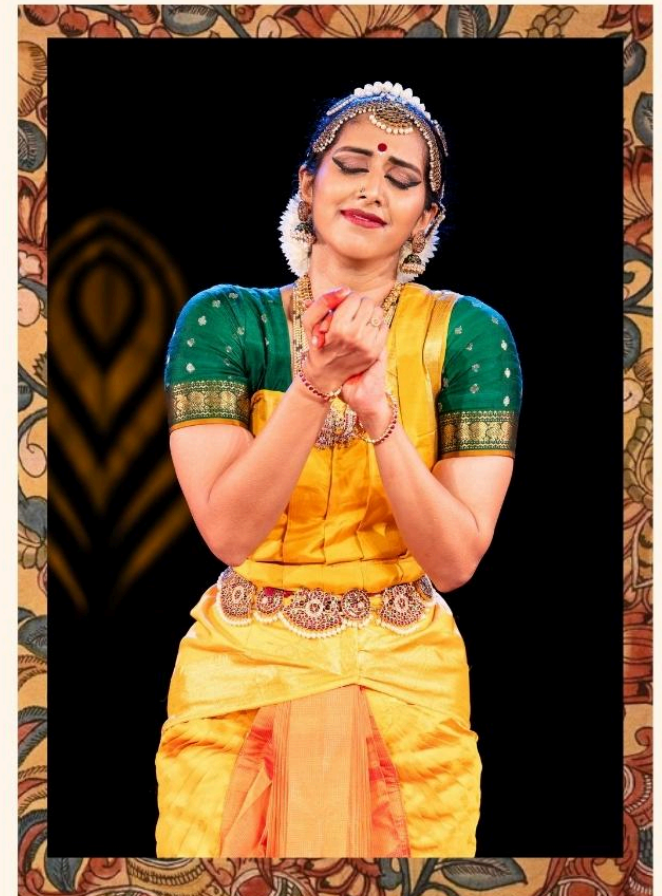
Mohamaginen, sharing vulnerability in friendship

Ashtapadi, a heartfelt plea among lovers

Ninda Stuti, a friendly banter with god

Kanna, a conversation with the audience

Kantamam, from sound to silence

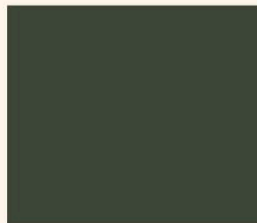




Binu Venugopal

Sri. Binu Venugopal is an accomplished and highly qualified vocalist. He began learning Carnatic vocal at the age of 5 under the tutelage of his grandfather, Sri Malabar Sukumaran Bhagavathar,, a well-known Carnatic vocalist from Kerala. He went on to complete his M.A. in Music, receiving first rank from Calicut University. Binu was the winner of YUVA LAYAM conducted by Tirumala Tirupathi Devasthanam in 2012. He travels extensively to the United States, the Middle East, and other countries for various performances. His professional associations with eminent artists such as the Dhananjayans, Priyadarshini Govind, Urmila Sathyanarayanan, Mythili Prakash, and Shijith Nambiar have won him many accolades.

Orchestra



Sri. Easwar Ramakrishnan is a much sought-after violinist, vocalist, and composer from Chennai, India. A disciple of his father, Professor P.P. Ramakrishnan, and Padmabhushan Awardee Professor T.N. Krishnan, Easwar is a graduate of the prestigious Kalakshetra Foundation. He was awarded the Best Outgoing Student of the Year 2007 from Kalakshetra Foundation and is a recipient of both the Junior and Senior scholarships awarded by the Government of India. A graded artist of All India Radio, Easwar has worked with many stalwarts in the field of Indian classical arts, including Adyar Lakshmanan, CV Chandrasekhar, The Dhananjayans, Alarmel Valli, Priyadarshini Govind, etc. He has traveled widely across the US, Europe, Australia, Africa, the Middle East, and the Far East, and performed at prestigious venues such as the Kennedy Center, Sadlers Wells, and The Esplanade. He is also the Artistic Director of Kshetra Academy For Fine Arts, Chennai



Eashwar Ramakrishnan

Archana Raja is a Kuchipudi & Bharatanatyam artist, teacher & choreographer based in the United States. Her foundational training in Bharatanatyam training was under the eminent Guru Sheela Unnikrishnan at Sridevi Nrithyalaya. She studies Kuchipudi under Kasi Aysola and receives advanced training in Bharatanatyam with Renjith Babu & Vijnna Vasudevan. Archana has traveled extensively to perform in major dance festivals. She comes from decades of experience as a soloist and her prowess in technique and presentation has given her the opportunity to work with choreographers like Dr. Anita Ratnam and Padmashri Shobana.



Siva Prasad

Sri. P. K. Sivaprasad was initiated into the basics of mridangam by his father, Sri. Sivadas Chemanchery, at the tender age of six. Following this, he received further training from Vidwan Sri Pudukode Krishna Iyer. He went on to pursue a Bachelor of Arts in Mridangam and graduated from Kerala Kalamandalam. He is currently under the able guidance of Vidwan Sri. Trichur C. Narendran. He has accompanied many of India's leading dancers and has extensively traveled all over India and abroad. Sivaprasad is also a graded artist of All India Radio, Calicut.



Archana Raja

Margam

an interplay of tradition

A margam is the traditional format and essence of a Bharatanatyam program. It is a structured format, but it can be seen as a journey, a way to explore different aspects of ourselves. It often begins with humble invocations, a dancer's offering to the divine and the audience. Through progressively complex pieces, the margam showcases a dancer's technical mastery, evolving into a nuanced exploration of the self.



Om Sharavana Bhava, Invocation

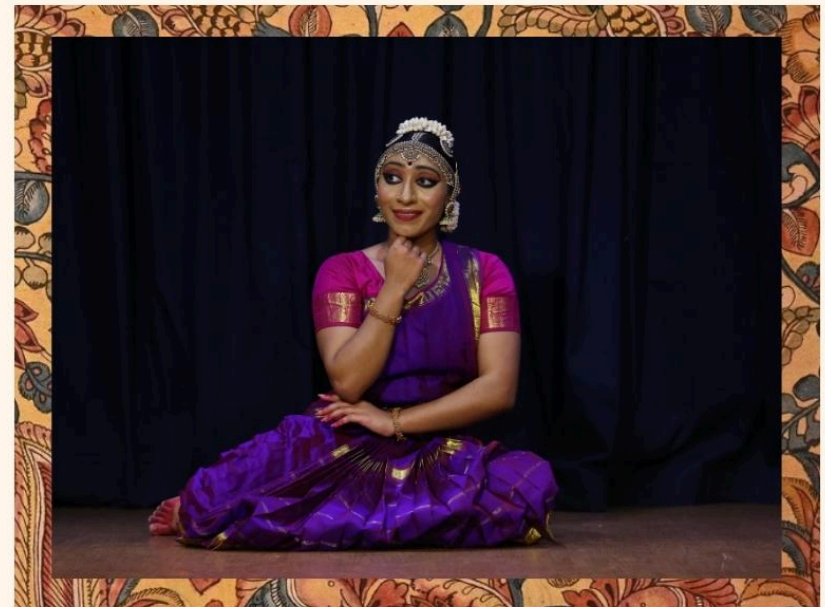
Maathe, Varnam

Rusili Radha, Abhinaya

Behag, Thillana

Neha Venkatesh

Neha Venkatesh is a Bharatanatyam dancer and disciple of Smt. Shweta Prachande. She is a National Young Arts 2022 Award winner and has performed at several local and international venues, including Brahma Gana Sabha, Kartik Fine Arts, Anusham Arts Academy, and at the Cleveland Thyagaraja Aradhanai in April 2023 where she was a first place awardee in the Varnam category and third place awardee in the Performance category. Neha is currently a second-year at the University of Washington in Seattle majoring in Human-Computer Interaction and minoring in Dance.



Sanjana Melakote



Sanjana Melkote is a passionate young Bharatanatyam dancer and Carnatic vocalist based in the Bay Area. She completed her formative dance training under Smt. Suganda Sreenath and is presently mentored by Smt. Shruti Gopal at Upadhye School of Dance, Bangalore. She enjoys choreographing and dancing in ensembles and co-founded Fuchsia Dance, a platform for dancers to collaborate and innovate. She graduated from UC Berkeley with degrees in Computer Science and Journalism, where she was a senior captain for Natya at Berkeley. She has a deep passion for music and has been learning Carnatic Vocal from her guru, Smt. Jayashree Varadarajan for the past 15 years.

Akhilandeshwari

the goddess who protects the entire world, does so by weaving herself into every part of nature. She blesses her devotees, from the bees who pollinate flowers to the humans who pray at her feet, with the knowledge that she can be found everywhere in nature. As long as we let nature grow, Goddess Akhilandeswari will be with us.

Ragam: Dwijavanthi

Talam : Aadi

Composer: Sri Muthuswamy Dikshitar

Choreography: Sanjana Melkote, under the guidance of Smt. Shruti Gopal

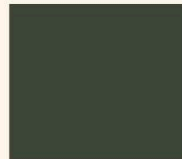
Dancer: Sanjana Melkote

Vocal : Kesav Viswanadha

Mridangam : Rishi Kodungallur

Violin: Aparna Ganapathi Basavapatna

Flute: Sumanth Ganapathi Basavapatna



Priyanka Raghuraman is a multidisciplinary performing artist who constantly strives to push creative boundaries. She is the founder and artistic director of Priyada Arts located in the Bay Area, SF, USA, which is an inclusive community for all aspirants of Bharatanatyam to learn, grow and belong. She has received honors from arts organizations including 'The Meritorious Performer Award' from Sri Parthasarathy Swami Sabha, 'Yuva Kala Kovida' from Kala Sangha, USA, and the 'Periya Sharadha Endowment' award from Sri Krishna Gana Sabha for her solo performances, and was featured as a promising artist of her generation in The Hindu, an acclaimed Indian newspaper.

Priyanka Raghuraman



Aadum Paadhanai (The One with the Dancing Feet)

This piece is a soulful composition of renowned poetess, Smt. Ambujam Krishna. It talks about the dancing Lord Shiva, more specifically about him as Nataraja at Chidambaram.

Ragam: Lathangi

Talam: Adi

Composer: Smt. Ambujam Krishna

Dancer: Priyanka Raghuraman

Vocal : Veena Velury

Nattuvangam: Varsha Sankar

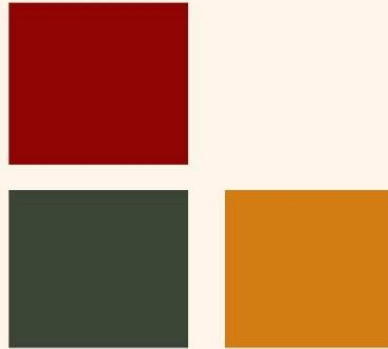
Mridangam : Vidarth Anbu

Violin : Sasi Madugala

Jayashree Seshadri

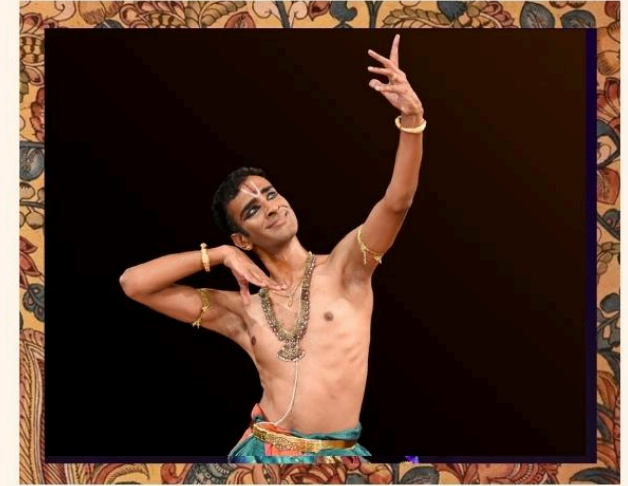


Jayashree, residing in the vibrant Bay Area, is a practitioner of the classical arts of Bharatanatyam and Nattuvangam. Her journey includes captivating solo recitals and performances with prestigious US dance companies. She cherishes both the solo challenge and the camaraderie of group choreography, and also contributes as a Nattuvangam accompanist. With over 25 years of learning and 12 years of training under Sweta Ravisankar, Jayashree has gathered a wealth of knowledge in traditional and contemporary pieces. As a teacher at Sarada Kala Nilayam since 2021, she passionately passes on this legacy to future generations. Jayashree is thrilled to showcase her artistry at the Interplay Arts Festival, where creativity is allowed to flourish on stage.



Vinay Srinivasan has studied Bharathanatyam under Smt. Hema & Krithika Rajagopalan for the past 25 years. Having completed his Arangetram in August 2007, Vinay continues to perform as both a solo artist & with the acclaimed Natya Dance Theatre at various prestigious venues. His training in Carnatic music, further enhances his involvement with dance movement to form a deeper emotional connection with the work being presented. Vinay is also a studio artist and enjoys studying symbolism in ancient Dravidian art and architecture — He finds it interesting to connect these experiences (be it dance, music, or art) at a philosophical level to ultimately guide his spiritual growth. Alongside being an artist, Vinay balances his day job as UX Designer at a software company in the Bay Area.

Vinay Srinivasan



Panimathi

the moon that gives both pleasure and tears, is a padam, which brings out the powerful emotions that arise from a state of mental turmoil caused by the deception of a lover. The nayika is forced to expose her vulnerability to her friend and pours out her feelings of extreme sorrow and hopelessness, with no sign of relief.

Ragam: Ahirai

Talam : Misrachapu

Composer: Maharaja Swati Thirunal

Choreography: Guru Smt. Hema Rajagopalan

Dancer : Vinay Srinivasan

Nattuvangam: Aishwarya Chandrashekar

Vocal : Kavitha Ramaswamy

Mridangam : Shiva R Iyer

Violin: Sasi Madugula

Vi-sama Kriti, Sivagaama Sundari

with verses from Abhirami Anthathi is a Papanasam Sivan kriti in praise of Goddess Abhirami, consort of Shiva and mother of all beings.

Ragam: Mukhari

Talam : Aadi

Composer: Papanasam Sivam

Choreography: Jayashree Seshadri & Sweta Ravisankar

Jathi Composition: S. Ravisankar

Dancer : Jayashree Seshadri

Nattuvangam: Aishwarya Chandrashekar

Vocal : Varushini Ramesh

Mridangam : Aditya Kota

Violin: Vishaka Ashok

Surya Ravi



Surya Ravi has been practicing Bharatanatam for 22 years, she received her initial training in Bharatanatyam under Smt. Vidya Krishnan and Smt. Radhika Ganesh in Dallas and is currently pursuing further training with Dr. Apoorva Jayaraman. She is also training in Karanas with Smt. Ashwini Srivatsan. Since creating video productions in the 2016 IndianRaga Fellowship, Surya has continued exploring choreography with her colleagues in their dance company. As a Doctor of Physical Therapy, Surya is passionate about promoting dancer health and wellness.

Bhavani

Goddess Bhavani, fierce yet compassionate, captivates us with her grace and power. In her divine presence, we discover the courage to conquer our fears and the wisdom to navigate life's journeys.

Ragam: Durga with Ragamalika sloka

Talam : Aadi

Composer: Hariprasad sir, Vivek Ramanan

Choreography: Dr. Apoorva Jayaraman

Jathi Composition: Vivek Ramanan

Dancer: Surya Ravi

Nattuvangam: Vivek Ramanan

Vocal : Janani Aiyer

Mridangam : Aditya Kota

Veena: Priyanka Chary



Shrividhya Srinivasan has been learning Bharatanatyam from Smt Vidhya Subramanian for the last 20 years. Prior to that, she trained and performed her arangetram under the guidance of Smt. Komala Varadan in Delhi.. She is currently pursuing a Masters degree in Bharatanatyam from the University of Silicon Andhra in California. Shrividhya is also actively involved in outreach activities to raise awareness on the Indian art forms through Kala Vedika, a forum for arts. Shrividhya holds a doctoral degree in Molecular, Cell and Developmental biology.

Srividhya Srinivasan



Padam and Javali

Abhinaya compositions describe various aspects of relationships and emotions associated with the Srngara rasa. This section explores the juxtaposition of a Javali and padam, the approach of two different Nayikas, the heroines, to get what they want - which is to be with the Nayaka!

Javali - Era ra ra

Ragam: Khamas

Thalam: Adi

Composer: Dharmapuri Subbrayar

Padam - neTrandi nErattile

Ragam: Huseni

Thalam: Roopakam

Dance choreography by Smt. Vidhya Subramanian.

Dancer: Shrividhya Srinivasan

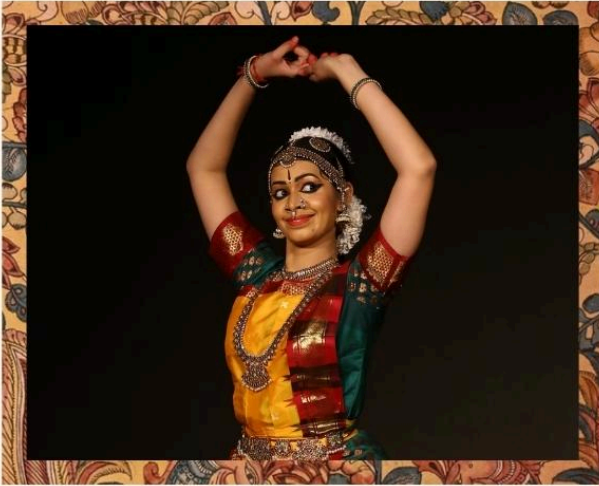
Nattuvangam: Chethana Sastry

Vocal : Nandita Sriram

Mridangam : Maanav Balan

Veena: Priyanka Chary

Varsha Sankar



Dhrupad

is a primarily rhythmic composition, which has been creatively choreographed with an amalgam of the graceful movements of Karanas and intricate footwork.

Ragam: Poorvi

Thalam: Rupakam

Composer: Thirugokarnam Vaidyanatha Bhagavathar

Choreography: Dr. Padma Subrahmanyam

Dancer: Varsha Sankar

Nattuvangam: Aishwarya Chandrashekar

Vocal: Varushini Ramesh

Mridangam: Shiva R Iyer

Violin: Sahana Srinivasan

Varsha Sankar is a Bharatanrityam dancer and a disciple of Padma Vibhushan Dr. Padma Subrahmanyam and Dr. Sujatha Mohan from India. She has been learning and performing this art form for 20+ years and is proficient in the teachings of Natyasastra and the practice of the 108 Karanas as researched and reconstructed by her Guru. Varsha has performed at several leading Sabhas in India and abroad, primarily as a soloist and as a part of group productions of her Guru. She has received several awards and honors in India, including the "Best Performer" award from Sri Parthasarathy Swami Sabha in 2023, "Natya Chudar" award from Kartik Fine Arts in 2020, "Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Endowment prize" from Sri Krishna Gana Sabha in 2016, and was adjudged best dancer in the youth series conducted by the Indian Fine Arts Society in 2014. She is a recipient of the prestigious CCRT scholarship from the Government of India and is a graded artist of "Doordarshan", the Indian national television channel. Varsha was fortunate to learn advanced rhythmic concepts from her grand uncle, Mridangam maestro Guru Kaaraikkudi Mani and performs nattuvangam as well. Besides dancing, Varsha is a Data Scientist and works on cutting-edge AI applications after completing her master's from Stanford University.



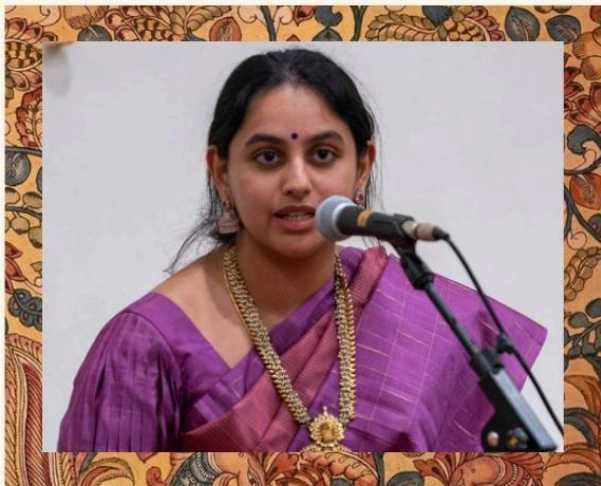


Varushini Ramesh

Vocalists



Janani Aiyer



Varushini Ramesh, a dedicated student and seasoned vocalist of Carnatic music, has honed her craft under the expert guidance of Vidushis Smt. Ranjani & Smt. Gayatri for the past three years, and the esteemed tutelage under Smt. Padma Chandilyan (a disciple of Shri K.V. Narayanaswamy) and Sri Shrimushnam V. Raja Rao for the past 18 years.. Varushini has had the honor of performing at prestigious sabhas and organizations in Chennai, India, such as All India Radio (AIR), Naradha Gana Sabha, Vani Mahal, and Bharat Kalachar. She also actively performs at various temples and organizations in the US. Her performances have been well received, earning her several awards and accolades.. Beyond her performances, Varushini mentors and nurtures aspiring musicians, sharing her passion for Carnatic music.

Kesav Viswanadha has been learning Carnatic vocal music since the age of 4 from Sri Ashok Subramaniam. In recent years, he has also received additional training from Smt. Ananya Ashok. He regularly performs in the Bay Area, and has performed in the Margazhi music season in 2018 and 2019. As a college student at UC Berkeley, he was heavily involved in Laya, an organization promoting and performing South Asian classical music. He currently works as a software engineer in the Bay Area.



Kesav Vishwanadha

Janani Aiyer is a Carnatic vocalist who began her training in Chennai from eminent musicians as Smt. Sankari Krishnan and Smt. Prarthana Sai Narasimhan. She currently learns from Smt. Charumathi Ramachandran, senior most disciple of Padma Bhushan ML Vasanthakumari. Janani has performed in the Chennai December Music Season as well as venues within the Bay Area, including a concert at the Prayukti Arts Studio! She is also a Bharatanatyam dancer and has performed at multiple venues in Chennai under the training of Guru Shri. A Lakshmanaswamy. Janani is now pursuing her passion for dance with Smt Nitya Narasimhan. Janani currently works as a Clinical Scientist at Abbott Laboratories.



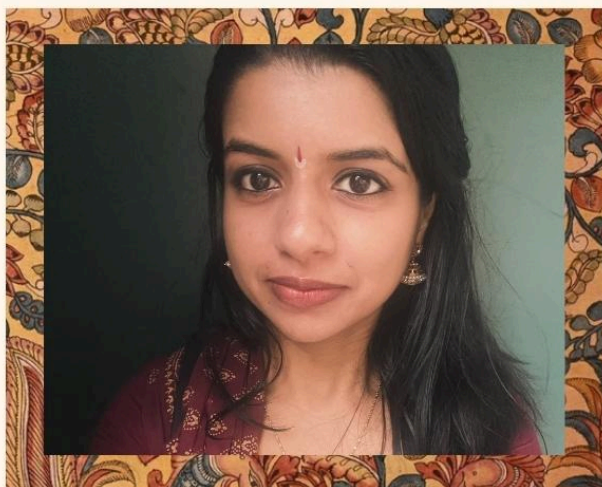
Nandita Sriram

Nandita Sriram received her formative training in Carnatic vocal music from Smt. Jayashree Varadarajan and continues to further her musical education under Sri Silkil Gurucharan. She has performed under the auspices of SIFA, LOTUS, Hamsadhwani in Los Angeles, Chinmaya Naadabindu in Pune, as well as many local temples. Nandita has also trained in Bharatanatyam under Smt. Vidhya Subramanian. She currently works as a physician in the Bay Area.

Vocalists



Kavitha Ramasamy



Veena Velury is a Carnatic vocalist and has undergone training under various teachers including Smt. Latha Sriram and Smt. Vijaya Cherukupally. She is currently undergoing training under accomplished Carnatic Guru Smt. Snigdha Venkataramani. Veena is also a Kuchipudi dancer, trained under Smt. Sunita Pendekanti. She currently a Speech-Language Pathologist, working with children with varying speech, language, and feeding difficulties. Veena hopes to open an inclusive Kuchipudi dance school one day, merging her passions of dance, music, and working with children with varying needs.



Veena Velury

Kavitha Ramasamy is a trained Bharatanatyam dancer and vocalist. Guided by Smt. Sripriya Sridhar, a senior disciple of the Dhananjayans, Kavitha continues her advanced Bharatanatyam and Nattuvangam training under Bharatakalanjali. Kavitha also trained in Carnatic music under Smt. Usha Sivakumar and Smt. Saraswathy Sankaranarayanan, vocalists for the Balasaraswati Institute of Performing Arts. Inspired by her gurus, she developed an interest in singing for dance performances. Kavitha has performed both as a Bharatanatyam artist and vocalist at leading fine arts institutions and temples in Mumbai, Chennai, and Chidambaram.. She is currently being mentored by Smt. Lalitha Ramachandran in the Lalgudi bāni, and hopes to enhance her skills as a capable vocalist for Bharatanatyam dancers.



Vidharth Anbu

Vidharth Anbu, for the past seven years, has been learning mridangam from Sri. Srinath Bala. In addition, he learns vocal music from Smt. Savita Rao. His expertise in music extends beyond Carnatic music; he plays the French horn in the Evergreen High School Wind ensemble band and studies piano under Ms. Olga Makarenko. He has performed and competed at various events, including Lotus, CCC, Papanasam Sivan, and OSAT. He is currently a rising junior at Evergreen Valley High School.



Rishi Kodungallur

Rishi Kodungallur is a disciple of Vid. Ravindrabharathy Sridharan of Nadhopasana Academy of Fine Arts, Cupertino, California. Rishi has been learning mridangam for 10 years. In Aug 2022 he had his arangetram accompanying esteemed Guru and Vainika Vid. Srikanth Chary and Vid. Hrishikesh Chary. Rishi is a rising junior at Dublin High School.



Maanav Balan

Maanav Balan began his mridangam tutelage under the guidance of Vidwan Dr. Ramesh Srinivasan at the age of 7 for seven years. In 2023, he started learning mridangam under the guidance of Vidwan Sri Patri Satish Kumar. He also learns Carnatic vocal music under the guidance of Sri Hari Devanath of Sri Paduka Academy for the past 8 years. Maanav has performed around the Bay Area, consistently playing concerts for both vocal and violin artists. He has also performed in the Cleveland Thyagaraja Aradhana, LOTUS, SRFA, and more. In his spare time, he plays tennis and enjoys reading.

Shiva Iyer



Shiva is a mridangam artist and teacher based in Sunnyvale CA. He was a student of three gurus – Prof. Sri N Govindarajan in Chennai, Dr. Sri V. V. Ramanamurthy in Visakhapatnam and Dr. Sri Patri Satish Kumar in Chennai. He has been performing since 2004. Apart from traditional carnatic recitals, he is experienced in accompanying for namasankeertanams and bharatanatyam as well. He moved to the Bay area last year after completing his PhD in New York. He is currently a research scientist at Intel.

Aditya Kota



Aditya Kota is a rising junior in high school, and has been a mridangam student of Guru Srinath Bala since 2019. With his Guru's encouragement Aditya has played mridangam accompaniment for Carnatic music students, at a variety of music events across the Bay Area. In his music school Vaadhya Vidhyalam's percussion ensemble performances, Aditya has also enjoyed playing the ghatam and kanjira. His other interests include robotics and table tennis.



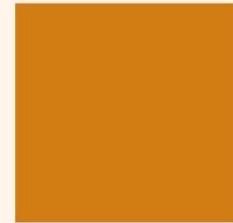
Mridangists



Aparna Basavapatna

Aparna Ganapathi Basavapatna has been learning violin for the past fourteen years and has been under the tutelage of Vid. Sandhya Srinath for the last seven years. She has performed as an accompanist across the Bay Area, and completed her Arangetram last year with her brother. She is a sophomore at UC Davis. She enjoys reading and classical artwork.

Violinists



Vishaka Ashok

Vishaka Ashok is a rising senior at Evergreen Valley High School in San Jose, California. Vishaka has been a devoted student of Carnatic Music almost all of her life, learning vocal from Smt. Vasudha Ravi since she was four years old and learning violin since the age of five, currently under the tutelage of Smt. Lalgudi Vijayalakshmi. Vishaka has won in both vocal and violin categories across many organizations like Cleveland, Saptami, Papanasam Sivan, etc., in addition to being a violin accompanist for several schools across the Bay Area. In her spare time, Vishaka devotes herself to other forms of art, like painting and Tanjore crafts, in addition to being an avid reader.

Mr Narasimhan learnt violin from Sri H.K. Venkatram in Shimoga for about a year and later on from Sri H.K. Narasimha Murthy for about 6-7 years in Mysore. He has played for many concerts in the bay area. He also teaches violin in the Bay area and has produced good students who are now playing for concerts in the Bay area. He has composed many Pallavis on Lord Raghavendra Swamy and runs a Melakartha Pallavi Concert Series. He has also given lecture demonstrations on California Arts Association Television on violin playing. He has composed many Thillanas ,Pallavis , Jathiswarams and Varnams. He has also developed new ragas like KarunaPriya, PADMA , etc . He has a Ph.D in Mechanical Engineering and works as a Lead Thermal Engineer for Nvidia.



Sasi Madugula

Sasidhar Madugula started his Carnatic violin training at the age of 8 under Sri Dinesh Narayan. He has been undergoing advanced training since 2006 from Kalaimamani Sri Vittal Ramamurthy of Chennai, a disciple of Sri Lalgudi Jayaraman. He has won recognition from several organizations, including the Chicago Thyagaraja Utsavam, the Sivan Fine Arts Academy, SAPNA, and Bharati Theertha. He regularly gives solo concerts, and accompanies many local and leading artists. Sasidhar is currently studying medicine at Stanford University

Susheela Narasimhan





Chethana Sastry

Classical music and dance have consistently been an integral part of **Chethana's** life. Chethana has learnt Bharathanatyam from eminent gurus, Smt. Bhanumathi, Smt Radha Sridhar from Bangalore and Smt Vidhya Subramanian in the Bay area. She is also a trained classical musician and is a sought after Nattuvanaar. Chethana is the founder/director of her very own passionately formed dance school "Samskrithi Vidyalaya".

Aishwarya Chandrashekar



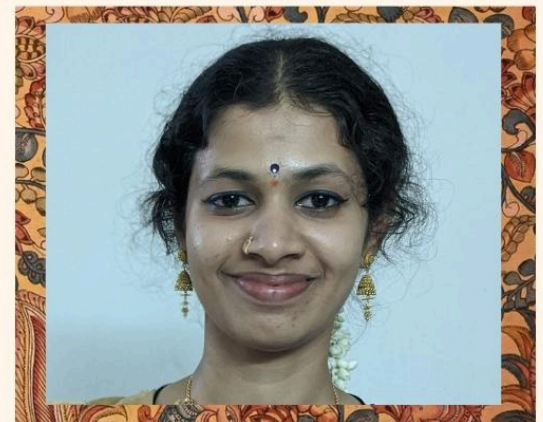
Vivek Ramanan is a multifaceted and dynamic artist of Bharatanatyam dance, konnakol, and mridangam. Vivek is an experienced solo performer and choreographer, has created multiple video productions for social media, and co-created stage productions on new thematic ideas using the Bharatanatyam grammar. With his formative training under Smt. Madhusri Sethuraman and Smt. Vidhya Subramanian in Bharatanatyam and Sri. Ramesh Srinivasan in mridangam, he currently is under the mentorship of Dr. Apoorva Jayaraman and continues to perform, choreograph, and create music for dance.



Vivek Ramanan

Varsha Sankar is a Bharatanrityam dancer and a disciple of Padma Vibhushan Dr. Padma Subrahmanyam and Dr. Sujatha Mohan from India. She has been learning and performing this art form for 20+ years and is proficient in the teachings of Natyasastra and the practice of the 108 Karanas as researched and reconstructed by her Guru.. Varsha was fortunate to learn advanced rhythmic concepts from her grand uncle, Mridangam maestro Guru Kaaraikkudi Mani and performs nattuvangam as well. Varsha pursued formal academic degree programs in both Bharatanatyam and Engineering simultaneously and finished at the top of her batch in both disciplines. Besides dancing, Varsha is a Data Scientist and works on cutting-edge AI applications after completing her master's from Stanford University.

Varsha Sankar



Nattuvanars

Aishwarya received her initial training under the guidance of Smt. Mythili Raghavan, a postgraduate from Kalakshetra and a direct disciple of Smt. Rukmini Devi Arundale. She is currently advancing her training under Shri Sheejith Krishna. Embracing a holistic approach to dance, Aishwarya is also training in Carnatic vocals with Smt. J. B. Keerthana and in Nattuvangam with Mridangam Vidwan Mayavaram Shri J. Shankar, specializing in the Vazhuvoor and Kalakshetra styles of Jathi recitation and Nattuvangam. She has provided Nattuvangam support for solo performances, dance drama productions, and has been invited to perform Nattuvangam for Arangetrams. Most recently, Aishwarya choreographed and staged a solo thematic Margam, titled "Ramanai Thudhi Maname " with original lyrics and music by her husband Srivathsa Pasumarthi.



Priyanka Chary

Priyanka Chary started learning the veena at the age of six from her father, Sri Srikanth Chary, a disciple of the late music maestro, Sri Lalgudi G. Jayaraman. Priyanka has performed on television, and given performances widely through the United States and Canada, and in Chennai. She has won awards in music competitions for krithi, alapana, kalpana swarams and pallavi rendition. In 2015, Priyanka was selected as a Fellow by Indian Raga, and was awarded a music fellowship. Priyanka has also recorded music for a new age music album, "Anubhav". Priyanka has also undergone training in vocal music from Smt. Hema Sista, a disciple of Dr. M. L. Vasanthakumari. In addition to pursuing music, Priyanka learns bharatanatyam from Smt. Nirupama Vaidhyathan. She completed her arangetram in 2013 and has also presented a full-length solo margam in Chennai. Priyanka has a Bachelor's degree in Molecular Biology from UC Santa Cruz and a Master's degree in bioinformatics from Boston University and is working at UCSF as a bioinformatics programmer.

Vainika



Flautist

Sumanth Basavapatna



Sumanth Ganapathi Basavapatna is a rising sophomore at UC Berkeley, and plans to study Data Science. He has been a student of Carnatic Music for the past 13 years, and has learnt from Vid. Kanchana Shriranjani, Shri Shreyas Bharadwaj, and is currently a student of Vid. Sandhya Srinath. He is also fond of Sanskrit language and literature, and has also been a visual arts student for several years.



Credits

Event Coordinators	Nitya Narasimhan, Suman Chandra, Uttara Sankar
Lighting	Ganesh Vasudeva, Kanaka Sriram, Banu Muthukumar
Master of Ceremony	Navya Maitri Konda
Photography	Prakash Gopan
Videography	Ravi Shekar
Sound	Vishwesh Keerthivasan
Logo design	Harini Sekar
Flyer design	Bhavani Sitaraman
Brochure design	Suman Chandra
Printing	Chinmayi, Madhumathi
Artist Hospitality	Suman Chandra, Kavi Nagaraj, Vyjayanthi

Special Thanks

Shweta Prachande, Padma Ravikumar

Volunteers

Sarvesh, Vishwesh, Navya, Alagu, Nisha, Nrithya, Shalini, Sreeja, Padma, Kanaka, Banu, Vyjayanthi, Vani, Shravanthi, Raksha, Sanjana.

Sponsors



Natya Rehab & Wellness is a physical therapy program founded by Dr. Divya Raghavan to offer injury management, pain prevention and conditioning to Indian classical dancers. For more information, please visit www.natyapt.com



Catering Partner



10251 S de Anza Blvd, Cupertino, CA 95014



PRAYUKTI ARTS

Prayukti Arts was founded in 2017 by Nitya Narasimhan, who serves as our artistic director. Named for a sanskrit concept meaning “motive” or “consequence”, Prayukti was created to nurture a community for the arts across the Bay Area through Indian classical dance classes, performances, and movement-based community events.

OUR VALUES

- ◆ EMPATHY
- ◆ HOLISTIC WELLNESS
- ◆ CONTINUOUS LEARNING

We are always in conversation with each other and our art. We also understand and respect the responsibility that comes with being stewards of ancient South Asian art forms and do not take this role lightly. We believe there is never an end to learning. In that spirit, rather than making objective mastery of the classical repertoire our goal, we ask questions to discover the ever-expanding terrain of our artistry and our art forms. We honor the rich history and traditions of the past by thoughtfully bringing them into the present, in order to collectively imagine and create a better future.

