

Program

Puja

1. Poorva Rangam: This is an invocatory item in Raagamalika, set to Adi thalam (8 beats), where the dancer invokes the blessings of Lord Shiva, Creator of Dance, Guru, and the audience. She seeks the blessings of scholars as well as patrons of the art.

2. Koluvaithiva Ranga Sai: Set to Adi thalam and Raagam Ramapriya, this is an excerpt from Devulla Palli Krishna Sastry's Ballet Vipranarayana. In the item, the dancer describes the beauty of Ranganatha, saying that even a thousand eyes cannot perceive all his brilliance.

3. Brindavana Nilaye: The dancer describes Krishna's eternal lover, Radha, who lives in the Brindavan. The dancer goes onto describe her as a bee attracted to the lotus face of Krishna who dances on Kalinda, the snake who terrorized everyone in the Yamuna River near Brindavan. This item is set to Adi thalam and is in Raagam Reethigowla.

4. Thillana: Thillana is the grand finale, full of energy and vigor. It is a pure dance or "nritta" item in which the dancer portrays her excellence to "jaathi bedhas" (metric nuance). The lyrics describe Siddhendra Yogi, father of Kuchipudi, as dearest to Kuchipudi dancers. It is in Raagam Hindolam, set to Adi thalam.

Mangalam

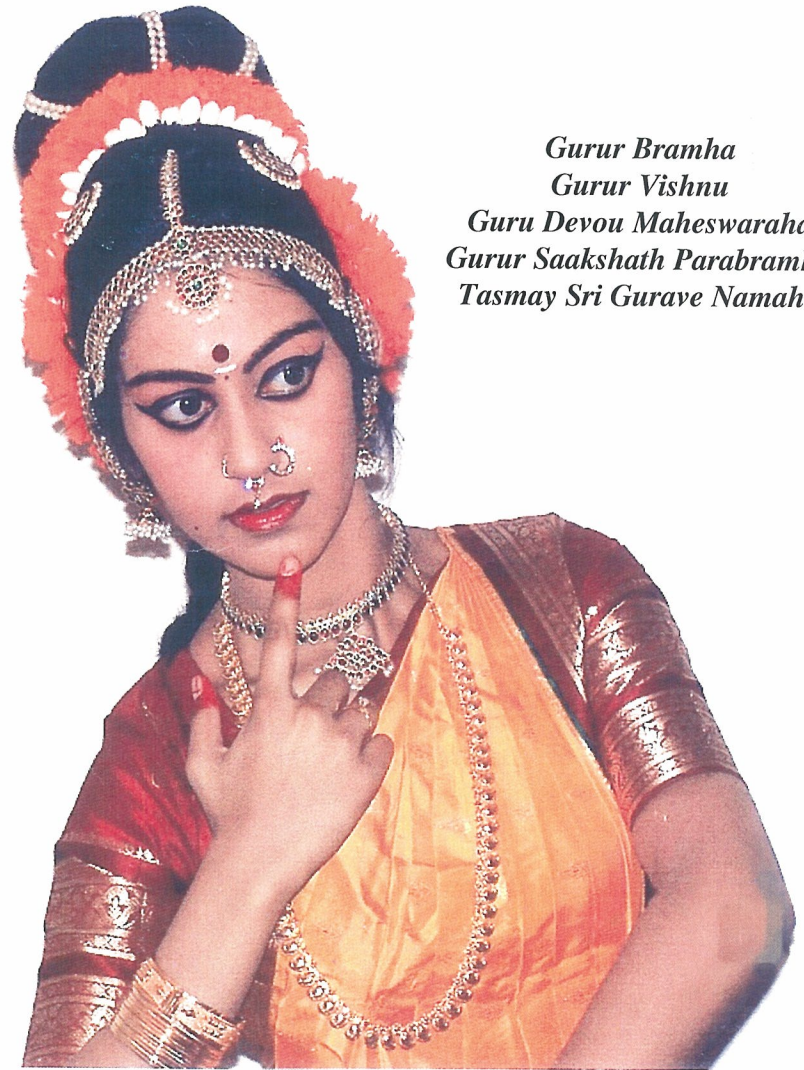


Nritya School of Kuchipudi Dance Presents

Suravi Sircar



Gurur Bramha
Gurur Vishnu
Guru Devou Maheswaraha
Gurur Saakshath Parabramha
Tasmay Sri Gurave Namaha



August 1, 2004
Douglas Freeman High School, Richmond, VA

Kuchipudi

A vibrant and fast-paced dance form with fluid movements and captivating grace, Kuchipudi grew out of a tiny village in Andhra Pradesh under the same name. Originally a male-dominated folk art under the drama family, Kuchipudi underwent many transformations before becoming a classical dance form, as we see it today. Padmabushan Dr. Vempati Chinna Satyam, a man whose name is synonymous to Kuchipudi, helped standardize this art form, through years of dedication and perseverance. Under his tutelage, thousands of students have reached great heights. Many of them learnt this art form while living under his roof.

Following the rules of Bharata's Natyashastra, Kuchipudi is a perfect blend of grace and vigor. Abhinaya, expression, plays a major in this art form but is balanced by intricate footwork set to a complex rhythm.

Nritya School of Kuchipudi Dance

With the goal of passing on her enthusiasm for dance, Sudha Vadlamani, a student of Dr. Vempati Chinna Satyam, started the Nritya School of Kuchipudi Dance in January 1999 with her Master's blessings. Striving towards perfection, she trained each of her students hard to bring out the best in them. In 2002, her childhood friend and senior, Sarada Jammi, joined her. Putting aside any ego or individual pride, they both teamed up to work meticulously for the art they had strived so hard to learn. Suravi Sircar, one of the three original students, will be the first to graduate from the school today.

Suravi Sircar

Suravi was born in Lansing, Michigan in February 1986. She has lived in Richmond since the age of eight, when she began learning Bharatanatyam from Mrs. Uma Ettigi. Suravi later switched to the Kuchipudi style of dance and is a current disciple of Mrs. Sarada Jammi and Mrs. Sudha Vadlamani. Suravi recently graduated from Godwin High School in the Math, Science, and Technology Specialty Center. During her high school days Suravi won various prestigious awards including being named a National Semifinalist for both the Siemens Westinghouse and Intel Science Talent Search competitions. She was also a finalist in the International BioGenius Challenge 2004. This fall Suravi will attend Cornell University in Ithaca, New York as a Presidential Research Scholar.

Suravi's Dance Gurus



SARADA JAMMI was first introduced to dance by Smt. Santha Balagopalan who, with her parents, nurtured her love for dance. In 1985, Sarada was introduced to Kuchipudi by Dr. Vempati Chinna Sathyam. She learned the art living in *Gurukulam* style, in his home. Having cherished this art for the past twenty years, Sarada wants to teach the dance so children regard it as a lifestyle, not just a combination of footwork, expression and hand gestures.



SUDHA VADLAMANI learned the classical elements of dance from Kuchipudi Kalakshetra in Vizag, India. Sudha feels fortunate not only in India, but also in the US tour of the Kuchipudi Art Academy. After obtaining blessings from her Guru, she started teaching dance to interested students and feels greatly responsible and privileged to promote this art form.



UMA ETTIGI has been pursuing music and dance from a very young age. She learnt Bharatanatyam from many Gurus, including Dhananjayans and Narmada. Uma Ettigi also plays the veena, which she trained under R. K. Srinivasa, Murthy, and Doraiswamy Iyengar and vocal music, which she trained under Gana Kokile Chennamma and Hameed Hussain. She established the Ettigi Fine Arts Academy in 1989 and conducts music, dance, and Art of Living classes.

Orchestra

Nattuvangam
Sarada Jammi

Vocal
Indu Iyer
Sowmya Sivakumar

Veena
Sastry Vedam

Mrindangam
Satya Gopal Tumuluri

