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Nitya Nritya Festival

OF INDIAN CLASSICAL DANCE AND MUSIC

SATURDAY, 7 SEPTEMBER 2019
&
SUNDAY, 8 SEPTEMBER 2019



NITYANRITYA.COM

ROSE WAGNER PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
138 W. 300 S., SALT LAKE CITY UT 84101

Nitya Nritya Foundation

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Nitya Nritya Foundation (NNF) is a nonprofit organization based in Salt Lake City dedicated to bringing the best of Indian classical dance and music to Utah from around the world.

NNF presents exciting artists and new productions, and seeks to educate as well as entertain with active audience engagement at every event. NNF also takes the arts to communities with limited access, such as senior living centers, with performances at such centers and by offering discounted tickets to disadvantaged groups. In its biggest effort to date, this year NNF sponsored Dr. Karaikudi S. Subramanian, a world renowned Vainika, composer and educator of Carnatic music in the Karaikudi style, in a summer-long residency that has greatly benefitted dedicated students, performers and teachers of Classical Indian music and dance in the Valley through intensive workshops and demonstrations.

The Foundation has been successful in gaining the support of granting agencies at the City, County and State levels in Utah, as well as generous donors from within the Indian community, acknowledged gratefully on the back cover. In particular, NNF acknowledges the Utah Division of Arts and Museums for its significant grant toward this year's summer residency.

NITYA NRITYA FESTIVAL is an annual 2-day event presented by NNF in the weekend following Labor Day at the Rose Wagner Performing Arts Center.

This is the third year for this vibrant celebration of the Indian classical arts. In previous years, the Festival has featured original dance productions by Nitya Nritya Dance Company including Panchatantra - Fables from India, Perspectives (based on the Rashomon Effect), Tala Bhedam - One Dance Many Rhythms (exploring rhythm and tempo through dance) and a variety of music offerings such as sitar concert by Arjun Verma, Hindustani violin by Anabil Chauduri and percussion collaborations between Afghan and Persian drums with the Indian Mridangam and Tabla.

NNF has also presented events such as Kalaadvaya: an evening of Hindustani music and Bharatanatyam, featuring local exponent Shrinidhi Sundar, and visiting artists like Dr. Karaikudi S. Subramanian on the Veena, Kavita Thirumalai, and Shweta Prachande in a variety of venues in Salt Lake Valley.

Nitya Nritya Dance Company



Nitya Nritya Dance Company (NNDC) is a Salt Lake based professional Bharatanatyam performing and training company. It is led by dancer and choreographer, Jyothsna Sainath. NNDC was first established in 2015 when Jyothsna Sainath moved into the Salt Lake valley.

Bharatanatyam is a dance form rooted in a highly evolved tradition of rhythm, and a sophisticated narrative vocabulary which is ideally suited to story telling. NNDC's goal is to impart and present Bharatanatyam in all its versatility and complexity, ranging from demanding traditional repertoires, exploring the ambit of and reinterpreting traditional repertoires, and the presentation of stories that speak across cultural affiliations in order to cement a deep connection with its immediate cultural milieu. Through all its efforts, NNDC seeks to preserve and nurture, the brilliance of Bharatanatyam technique as a language.

The dance company has been performing widely in the valley since its inception. A small selection of its local invited performances include, annual performances as part of the Krishna Temple of Utah's Diwali celebrations, performance as part of the Persian New Year, Kubhabhishekam of the Sri Ganesh Temple of Utah, Asian Culture Festival of Utah to name a few. A list of NNDC's productions presented as part of the past Nitya Nritya Festivals is listed in the write up pertaining to Nitya Nritya Foundation.



Dr. Karaikudi S. Subramanian

Dr. KARAIKUDI VINAI SAMBASIVA IYER SUBRAMANIAN is a 9th generation even player who trained under his grand uncle and adoptive father, the legendary Karaikudi Vinai Sambasiva Iyer. After a doctorate in Ethnomusicology from Wesleyan University, Dr. Subramanian was Professor of Music in the prestigious Department of Music, Madras University. A recipient of several MacArthur Foundation grants, at his own institution Brhaddhvani, Dr. Subramanian has trained eminent performers in Carnatic music, performers from the world of theater, as well as musicians from as varied traditions as Ireland, Finland and Jazz and Blues. He has developed curricula for schools, and his program to train teachers to implement his curriculum in village schools has to date benefitted about 6000 students, and introduced children who would otherwise have no avenue for arts education to the oldest tradition of Indian music. Dr. Subramanian has also composed music for Finnish orchestra, television series, and dance productions.

BRHADDHVANI, Research and Training Center for Musics of the World: Music training at Brhaddhvani combines the traditional Gurukulam system of students spending time listening to more advanced musicians, practicing across levels, and absorbing music unconsciously, with modern technology to support listening skills and practice. Dr. Subramanian's emphasizes internalizing rhythm and notes through intense early carnatic music exercises, and this rigor is repeated at every stage. Since time and note are a part of every music tradition he uses carnatic foundations to teach every music tradition. Brhaddhvani has successful branches in the UK and in Denmark, as well as a COMET curriculum for children.



Jyothsna Sainath

Jyothsna Sainath is a student of renowned Gurus, late Guru Padmini Ramachandran, Guru Radha Sridhar and the late Guru Narmada. She has also learnt the Karanas from late Guru Sundari Santhanam.

Jyothsna has been a recipient of Government of India scholarships throughout the course of her dancing education.

She has an MA in Performing Arts from Bangalore University, India. Jyothsna is an auditioned 'A' Grade solo artiste for Doordarshan National Network, the television channel of the Government of India.

Since moving to the US, Jyothsna has performed widely within the US and in prestigious venues in India. Committed to arts education, she has conducted Bharatanatyam workshops and Master classes in various academic settings and for dance companies alike.

Jyothsna is the artistic director of the Nitya Nritya Dance Company, a dance performing and training company based in Salt Lake City, and the President of the Nitya Nritya Foundation.

Dr. David Nelson



David Nelson, has been performing and teaching South Indian drumming since 1975. From his principal teacher, the renowned T. Ranganathan, he learned to accompany a wide range of styles, including Bharata Natyam, South India's classical dance. He has a Ph.D. in Ethnomusicology from Wesleyan University, where he is Adjunct Assistant Professor in South Indian drumming.

He has accompanied well-known artists throughout the United States, Europe, India, and China. He has also written extensively on South Indian drumming, including a major article in the *Garland Encyclopedia of World Music*. His latest book, *Solkattu Manual: an Introduction to the Rhythmic Language of South Indian Music*, was published by Wesleyan University Press in 2008. In 2013 he was awarded the title *Kala Seva Mani* at the Cleveland Thyagaraja Festival.

Hamsa Raghuvir

Hamsa Raghuvir is a prodigious and versatile vocalist well groomed by the legendary violinist Padma Bhushan Sri. Lalgudi G. Jayaraman.

As the daughter of Dr. Karaikudi S. Subramanian (founder of Brhaddhvani – brhaddhvani.org), she has imbibed a structured approach to music education.

Hamsa has performed Carnatic concerts widely and winner of music competitions in top TV channels. She has also had myriad opportunities to learn and interact with Western composers and Jazz musicians.



Purnaprajna Bangere



Purnaprajna comes from the Parur school of violin players in India. He has had rigorous training in Carnatic music under the well known south Indian violinist and Guru Sri. HKN Murthy, who is himself a student of the legendary violinist Sri. M. S. Gopalakrishnan. Purnaprajna, is a quintessential representative of the Parur style, which is characterized by its emphasis on technical virtuosity and musicianship.

Purnaprajna is a well known presence in many reputed musical venues, he has been invited to give solo recitals in prestigious music festivals such as the Learnquest music festival in Boston, the Cleveland Music festival and the Toronto Music festival. Purnaprajna is a professor of Mathematics and Music at the University of Kansas in Lawrence. He draws on his expertise in mathematics to use Algebraic Geometric structures to compose music. This effort has led to the birth of the Purna Lokha quartet, a collaboration with Grammy awardee David Balakrishnan, Jeff Harshbarger, and Amit Kavthekar. Most recently, Purna Lokha was featured in a concert at the Asian Museum of Art at San Francisco and the Lied Center of Kansas.

Amit Kavthekar

Amit Kavthekar, has been a student of the Tabla under the guidance of the great maestro Ustad Allarakha from an early age of 6. Since 1991, he has been fortunate to be taught intricacies of Tabla by the world famous virtuoso Ustad Zakir Hussain.



Amit has accompanied some of India's greatest musicians such as Pt. Jasraj, Ustad Shahid Parvez, Ustad Ashish Khan, Pt. Buddhadev Dasgupta, and Pt. Kushal Das. Presently, Amit teaches in New England School of Music, and is based in Boston, MA.

Technical Credits

Sound

Joey Alonzo

Lights

Rachael Harned

Stage Manager

Deeptha Vasudevan

Videography & Photography

Sudipta Maity and team.

Kitturu Rani Chennamma

Music composition

Mridangam Vidwan Sri Gampalahally Gurumurthy

Sound Recording Studio

Prabhath Sound Systems

Stage Design

Nimmy Jammulapati

Concept, Script & Choreography

Jyothsna Sainath

Grateful thanks to mentoring by Indira Kadambi

Poetry

Kajanada Gudinda (authored by G. N. T. Harini)

Kitturu Rani Chennamma

A BRIEF HISTORY AND HER LIFE

Chennamma (1778-1829) was born in Belagavi district of the present day Indian state of Karnataka. She was trained as a child in archery, sword-fighting and cavalry arts, unusual for a girl in that era, and was married to Mallasarja Desai, the ruler of Kitturu, as his second wife. Kitturu was a small, prosperous kingdom in the present day border district of Belgaum.

Following the untimely death of Mallasarja in the wake of his capture by the powerful Peshwa of the Maratha kingdom, Rani Chennamma takes over the reins of Kitturu and installs Mallasarja's Senior Queen's son, Shiva Linga Rudra Sarja, as the ruler. Soon thereafter, Rani Chennamma's own son dies in the 3rd Anglo-Maratha War of 1818. The childless Shiva Linga Rudra Sarja succumbs to tuberculosis after discretely adopting a son.

The British contest the validity of the adoption, and lock the treasury of Kitturu in a move to eventually take over control of Kitturu. Chennamma defiantly breaks the treasury, paving the way for the first battle of Kitturu against the British in October 1924. The British forces suffer a humiliating defeat, and Chennamma negotiates a treaty in return for release of two captured British officers. In a second battle in December, a combination of much larger British army and treachery by some of Kitturu's lieutenants results in the Kitturu fort being breached. Rani Chennamma is captured and held captive in nearby Bailahongala fort until her death in 1829.

The story of Rani Chennamma is that of an early assertion of pride and independence by a ruler in the Indian sub-continent against the spread of British hegemony in the region in the face of great personal tragedies.

Glossary:

Chennagowri : Mallasarja's nickname for Chennamma

Rani : Queen

Rani-Sarkar : Respectful address to a queen (as a ruler)

Avva : Mother

Maga : Son

Marathas : a powerful kingdom to the north of Belgaum district.
At its peak, it covered most of present day state of

Maharashtra.

Peshwa : A clan of hereditary Prime Ministers of the Maratha kingdom, they were de facto rulers of the Maratha kingdom from the mid-1700s.

SATURDAY, 7 SEPTEMBER 2019

LEONA WAGNER BLACKBOX THEATRE

7:00 - 7:30 pm
Little Sparks

Junior Music & Dance Ensemble

LITTLE SPARKS IS AN ENSEMBLE OF YOUNG DANCE AND MUSIC TALENT, PREDOMINANTLY FROM THE SALT LAKE VALLEY.

THE ENSEMBLE IS DIRECTED BY
DR. KARAIKUDI S. SUBRAMANIAN
WORLD RENOWNED VEENA GURU AND EDUCATOR
BRHADDHVANI, INDIA
SUPPORTED BY BAVANITHA THARMARATNAM

DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY IS BY
JYOTHSNA SAINATH
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, NITYA NRITYA DANCE COMPANY

7:40 - 9:30 pm
Carnatic Violin Concert

PURNAPRAJNA BANGERE
ON VIOLIN
AMIT KAVTHEKAR
ON TABLA

SUNDAY, 8 SEPTEMBER 2019

JEANNE WAGNER THEATRE

2:00 - 2:45 pm
Samāgama

Music & Dance Ensemble

SAMĀGAMA OR CONFLUENCE IS A COLLABORATIVE ENSEMBLE UNDER DIRECTION OF **DR. K. S. SUBRAMANIAN**, BRHADDHVANI, INDIA

WITH

NITYA NRITYA DANCE COMPANY DANCERS,
SALT LAKE VALLEY BASED MUSICIANS,
VISITING VOCALIST FROM THE BAY AREA, **HAMSA RAGHUVIR** AND
DR. DAVID NELSON FROM CONNECTICUT ON MRIDANGAM

3:00 - 4:30 pm
Time, Tone & Tune
A Lecture Demonstration

BY WORLD RENOWNED VEENA GURU, PERFORMER, COMPOSER, AND EDUCATOR

DR. KARAIKUDI S. SUBRAMANIAN
ON VEENA & VOCAL
AND MRIDANGAM MAESTRO AND EDUCATOR
DR. DAVID NELSON
ON MRIDANGAM

WITH A CAMEO PERFORMANCE BY
VEENA STUDENTS OF **DR. SUBRAMANIAN**, THENUGA THEVAPALAN,
MATHURIGA THEVAPALAN AND **SRIRAM N. SRINIVAS**

5:00 - 6:15 pm
Kitturu Rani Chennamma

BY **JYOTHSNA SAINATH**
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, NITYA NRITYA DANCE COMPANY AND
PRESIDENT, NITYA NRITYA FOUNDATION

A SOLO BHARATANATYAM PREMIER OF AN ORIGINAL DANCE PRODUCTION, ON THE EARLY 19TH CENTURY QUEEN OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF KITTURU, SITUATED IN THE MODERN INDIAN STATE OF KARNATAKA. QUEEN CHENNAMMA LED ONE OF THE EARLIEST ARMED RESISTANCES TO BRITISH COLONIAL GROWTH IN INDIA IN THE FACE OF GREAT PERSONAL LOSS AND TRAGEDY. THIS WILL BE PRECEDED BY A PRE-SHOW TALK BY **DR. GANGA SRINIVAS**.