

7th St. Louis Indian Dance and Music Festival



Presented by
Soorya
performing Arts

June 12, 13, 14 - 2015
Clayton High School Auditorium
#1 Mark Twain Circle
St. Louis, MO 63105



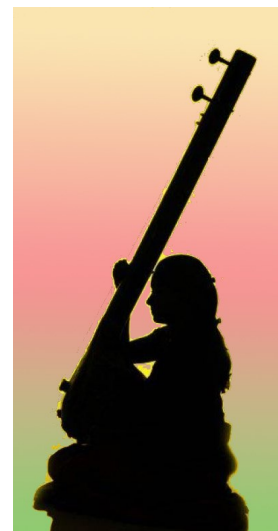
Dancing is just
 discovery, discovery, discovery

Watch it carefully first to acknowledge
 Next to understand;
 Later to enjoy
 and In the end to immerse Yourself in its
 beauty

SOORYA PERFORMING ARTS ARTS FROM EAST TO WEST

SHARING ARTISTIC KNOWLEDGE FOR ENJOYMENT

You hear sound...
 Can you hear music...
 You enjoy sound variations...
 Can you enjoy the music patterns...
 They are all created by the same father...
 As children, if we make an attempt,
 We will relish both... instead of only one



Welcome Note

Dear Friends and Patrons,

Soorya Performing Arts is at its 11th year of existence. We are experiencing the teenage rush already. We are going through a beautiful engagement of minds. We went through some life altering incidents, safely and by god's grace it passed on smoothly; and gave us inspiration, optimism and hope for future.

Our faith in our patrons is huge. They gave their hearts, with a deep love for performing arts. They walked with us side by side holding our hands. Thank you to all those patrons, who supported us and believed us. We are able to do this with the help from like - minded entities — including public bodies such as Missouri Arts Council, Regional Arts Commission; as well as private corporations such as Enterprise Foundation, Bank of America, Monsanto; as well as many hundreds of donors.

But our main core of supporters still reside in our students and their parents—who lead in volunteering. They help us bring these beautiful events to St. Louis Community. Hats off to these people for their tireless work. Because of these parents, well-wishers of Indian art and lots of other sponsors, we all could sit and enjoy a beautiful shows.

Now that a true artistic infrastructure is available for talented youth and experienced elite, we hope this beautiful city of St. Louis will make this as a tradition. We request all of you to be part of this by giving back to the community through us either through volunteering, hosting, raising funds or promoting. If you are busy, you can always donate some funds, where it can be used for artistic services enabling a great platform for artistic venture and innovation.

With this message, we present—7th St. Louis Indian Dance and Music Festival—showcasing the rich, colorful, traditional, classical dances from India symbolizing its civilization and culture, so it can build bridges of understanding and mutual appreciation between East and West.

We thank our gold sponsor—US Wide Financials, who provides an honest mortgage services to many customers. We urge all to support such businesses., so art can grow.

Board of Directors

Soorya Performing Arts—www.sooryadance.com—314-397-5278—info@sooryadance.com

Schedule of events

Timings may be subjected to change based on theatrical needs

Date	Time	Title of the show	Style
Friday	6:00	Inauguration	Soorya Dance and Music School
		Prayer - Namamma Shaarade	Carnatic Music
		Lighting of Festival Lamp	Dr. Ram Cowsik, Indian astrophysicist and the James S. McDonnell Professor of Space Sciences at the
		Vakratunda - Bhara-	
		Gan Ganesha - Kathak	
Friday	6:30	Solo Bharathanatya	Surabhi Bharadwaj (India)
Friday	7:00	Rasa - Gathi - Flow of emotions and rhythms	Guru Prasanna Kasthuri & Group
Friday	7:45		Dinner
Friday	8:15	Dance movie	Dissecting the Blossom - Videodance - 2015 Directed & Performed: Cherie Sampson Shot on location at Blue Heron Orchard, NE MO
Friday	8:25	Violin Concert	Dr. Poorna Prajna (violin) with Shivananda Murthy (Mrudangam)
Saturday	4:00	Invocation and Announcements	Song: Ekadanthaaya Dances: Raag & Roll; Sound of swan
Saturday	4:30	Bharathanatyam - Group performance	Shakti Dance Company
Saturday	5:30	Shivoham	Conceptual performance on God - Shiva in Kuchipudi and Bharathanatyam style by Anjali Center

Schedule of events

Timings may be subjected to change based on theatrical needs

Date	Time	Title of the show	Style
Saturday	6:30	Award Ceremony	Felicitation to Guru Viji Prakash, Special Guest Gurus - Ratna Kumar, Prachi Dixit, Sujata Vinjamuri, Prasanna Kasthuri, Smita Rajan, Lakshmi Sanjay, Dr. Rajam Ramamurthy, Dr. Malati Koli,
Saturday	7:00		Dinner
Saturday	7:30	Dance movie	Dissecting the Blossom - Directed & Performed: Cherie Sampson
Saturday	7:40	Andal	Soorya Dance Company, LA
Saturday	8:15	Trio Performance	Nupur Academy
Sunday	2:00	Ganapati	Kathak performance
Sunday	2:15		Arathi School of Indian Dances
Sunday	3:00	The journey through Bible	Chicago Soorya Dance Company
Sunday	3:45	Dashavathara	STL Soorya Dance Company
Tea Break	4:45		
Sunday	5:15	Blue Chakra Band	Seema Kasthuri (Vocals), Frank Heyer(Guitar), Owen Nicholas McKinley(Drums) and Prasanna Kasthuri (Keyboard, vocals)
Sunday	6:00	Bharathanatyam	Malavika Venkatsubbaiah
Sunday	6:45	Folk, light and Fusion Dances	
		Gujarati dances	Neelima Bhavsar
		Raag & Roll and Sound of Swan	St. Louis Children dance group
		Dandiya	Students of St. Louis University
		Mahashakti - The	Ohio dance Group

7th St. Louis Indian Dance and Music Festival Friday

Inauguration: Lighting of lamps—By Gurus and Board of directors of Soorya Performing Arts. This is followed by inaugural prayer by Samanvita Kasthuri and Divya Minnaganti.

Program 1 - Inaugural dances by Soorya dance company

Vakratunda—in Bharathanatyam style

This is the beginning of 7th St. Louis Indian dance and music festival. We have a tradition of entire dance school performing this dance number and seeking the help of deity of “remover of obstacles”. This is a short dance performed by all the students of Soorya dance school.

Gam gam Ganapati—in Kathak style

An offering to lord ganesh in Kathak style. This dance specially created by Guru Prasanna Kasthuri for this event. This is performed by the Kathak students of Soorya Dance Company.



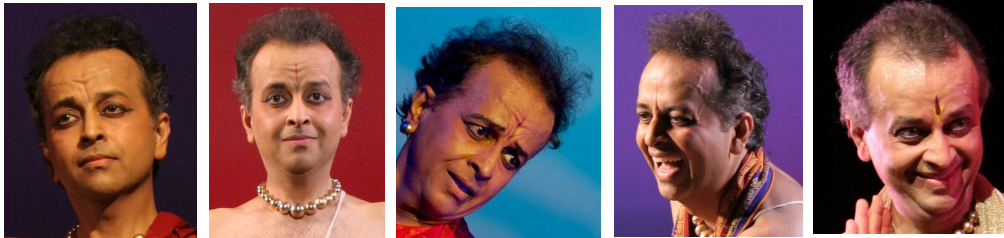
Program 2 Bharathanatyam Solo by Surabhi Bharadwaj - Surabhi Bharadwaj is a seasoned Bharatanatyam artist whose versatility and uniqueness has wowed audiences and won her many plaudits across the globe!

She took her formative steps under guru Natyashree K M Raman, later continued under veteran Gurus Radha Sridhar & Bhanumati of Bangalore. Surabhi completed her Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A) under Dr. Padma Subrahmanyam at Sastra University, Thanjavur in 2014. She also holds a Bachelor's Degree in Biotechnology and an Advanced Diploma in Genetic Engineering. Surabhi is the Founder- Artistic Director of Sree Vidya Institute of Performing Arts, established with an aim of encouraging young minds to take up classical art. Surabhi is one of the principle dancers of Punyah Dance Company, which has earned laurels from worldwide. She was also one of the main performers in Radha Kalpa Dance Company. She was part of “NAYANI” and “PRABHAVATI”, Raadha Kalpa productions, which toured 10 cities across the USA in 2012 and 2013 respectively. Prabhavati was also showcased in Dubai in 2013. HONORS:Pujyasri Swami Dayananda Saraswati has conferred Surabhi with title “Arsha Kala Chudamini” for her contribution through dance. She has won "Kishora Prathibe" competition organized by Kannada and Culture Department in 2006. Surabhi has played a role in a short film - 'Maafinama'; Lead role in 'Hyundai Eon TVC', Lead role in music video - 'Tishnagi', Modeling for print advertisements



Program 3:

Rasa—Gathi, a dance Ode of Sentiments and Rhythms by Guru Prasanna Kasthuri



Rasa Gathi: "Rasa" means sentiment and "Gathi" means timing or tempo. In Indian performing arts, both these constitute major chunk, apart from little bit of abstraction themes. Historically, concept of Rasa or sentiments has been studied by multiple scholars and social scientists for several centuries. It has been concluded that every human being will go through 8 main sentiments. Shantha rasa is the 9th one. There many interpretation and exposition of these topics by many great legends. Guru Prasanna Kasthuri has opened one of his older works – Rasa-gathi (choreographed in 1997) in a short version here to enjoy the beauty of 8 + 1(peace or shanthi) sentiments. He will be covering interesting episodes from Mahabharatha, Ramayana and Sanskrit dramas such as Kumarasambhava while interpreting these sentiments. Guru Prasanna Kasthuri will be showcasing Shrungara (love) – with an episode of romance of Parvati and Shiva; Veera (valor) for emperor Bali – who gave up courageously everything to almighty Narayana; Adhbhuta (Astonishment) when the whole court yard trembled to the sound of breaking of bow by the hands of prince Rama, Shantham (peace) when Shiva grants re-birth to cupid, disgust when cannibals eat out human flesh, laughter (haasya) – when Raavana dreams of touching Seetha despite his curse, roudra (anger) when Raama destroyed Raavana in the war and many more. The performance ends with a Tillana in a pallavi style presentation with gati bheda (variation of basic tempo).

Guru Prasanna Kasthuri is the founder member of Soorya Performing arts. He danced 24 hours nonstop (1986) and holds a rank in Bharathanatyam proficiency. He has a deep knowledge of dance music and theory. He has performed more than 1000 places in the past several decades across India, USA, Europe. His recent production a master piece called—"Chittara" - a dance, drama—musical with 40 artists, actors, dancers—was very well received in the 7th Kannada Sahitya Ranga—Sahitya Sammelana. He humbly offers all his success to his parents—Raghusutha and Padmaje and thanks his family for a successful career in dancing.

Dinner Break after Prasanna's performance —Enjoy Indian Food and Be Back to Watch on

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Friday



Program 4: Violin Concert by Guru Purnaprajna

Purnaprajna Bangere comes from a school of violin playing in India that is known for producing high powered violinists who are great virtuosos and great musicians as well. Purna's teacher H. K. Narasimhamurthy (HKN), a top ranked violinist by All India Radio, is also a teacher of great repute who has produced several first rate violinists. Purna is the first disciple, in a long line of disciples, of his teacher. He has been studying music with HKN since he was 12 years old. HKN's teacher is the legendary violinist M. S. Gopalakrishnan (MSG), who has been hailed as one of India's greatest musicians. The style of playing that Purna closely adheres to was discovered by the musical genius

Parur Sundaram Iyer, MSG's father, and is famously known as the Parur style in Indian musical circles. Poorna's style incorporates some of the best aspects of Indian music harmoniously synthesizing both the north and south Indian styles of music. The style explores at depth some of the innate strengths of the instrument and possible virtuoso techniques. Purna was featured in the prestigious Learnquest Music conference in Boston in 2013. He has given concerts in India, US and France to much acclaim. Today Poorna will be accompanied on Mrudangam by Shivananda Murthy from Kansa city.



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Saturday

Program 1: Invocation by Students of Soorya Dance and Soorya Music, St Louis



Program 2 Bharathanatyam Group Dances by Shakti Dance Company— Shakti School of Bharata Natyam, founded in 1977, and having completed 30 glorious years of providing instruction to over two thousand students is one of oldest and the premier institutions of Bharata Natyam in Southern California. Shakti dance company presents their strong hold Bharathanatyam performances which they are very well known.

Program 3 Sivoham—Kuchipudi and Bharathanatyam Dance Drama by Guru Rathna



Kumar and Group, Houston, TX— Guru Rathna Kumar is an internationally renowned dancer, teacher, choreographer and arts educator and the Founder-Director of the first Indian dance institute in Texas - the Anjali Center for Performing Arts. An exponent of Bharatanatyam and Kuchipudi, Rathna has the distinction of being the first student of Kalaimamani Smt. K. J. Sarasa, and one of the senior most disciples of Padma Bhushan Dr. Vempati Chinna Satyam, and in 1968 she became his first student to receive a

Government of India scholarship for Kuchipudi.

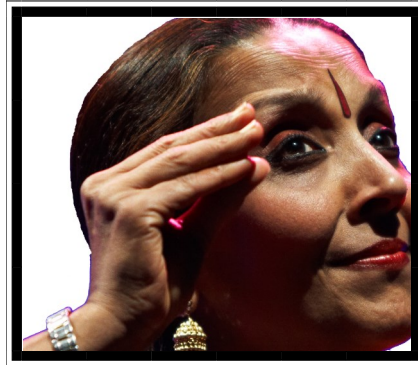


A true cultural ambassador, Rathna has been called the “Jewel in the crown of Houston arts” by the Houston Press magazine. She has published two innovative illustrated books on the fundamental techniques of both Bharatanatyam and Kuchipudi. She has received numerous titles and awards. Among these are - Honorary Doctorate in Performing Arts (Potti Sreeramulu Telugu University, Hyderabad), Congressional Recognition, Certificates for Volunteerism (from former President George W. Bush and former Texas Governor Rick Perry), Nomination to the Texas Women’s Hall of Fame, Lifetime

Achievement Award (Asian Pacific American Heritage Association), ‘Outstanding Contribution’ awards and many more.

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Life Time Achievement Award- 2015



Guru Viji Prakash has been a pioneer in popularizing the performance and presentation of Bharata Natyam in the USA since 1976. A virtuoso herself in this ancient classical dance form, Viji Prakash is an internationally acclaimed dancer, choreographer, and teacher of Bharata Natyam. When Viji moved to Los Angeles in 1976, she brought with her the intense, disciplined, meticulous training that was imparted to her from age 4, by the grand masters of the Tanjavur tradition of Bharata Natyam, her gurus **Guru Kalyanasundaram** and late **Guru Mahalingam Pillai**, of the **Sri Raja Rajeshwari Bharata Natya Kala Mandir, Bombay**.

Today in 2013, Viji Prakash the dancer/visionary of the 1970's, is the successful founder & director of the Shakti School of Bharata Natyam. Over the past 32 years she has nurtured, trained and developed hundreds of young children into elegant dancers and provided them with opportunities to perform at various venues both at national and international stage. Being a consummate artist, Viji's disciples were inspired to continue the tradition of this art form by being both professional dancers and teachers in United States after performing their Arangetrams (solo dance debut).

Through her world acclaimed **SHAKTI DANCE COMPANY** that Viji established in 1985 as the performing platform of the School, Viji has presented innumerable solo and group choreographic works including the Los Angeles Festival's **Sons of Kunti** at the Wadsworth Theater 1990, the musical **Purandharadasa** and **Meera** at the Terrace Theater, Long Beach Convention Center, 1990 **Manifestations of Shakti** at the Japan American Theater, 1986, **Dance of the Immortals** at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion 1985 and the National and International tours 1997 to 2007 of the epic productions **Shyama**, **Bhagavad Gita**, **Prince to Buddha - a journey to enlightenment**, **Shiva-Shakti**, **Sant Meera** and **Tulsi Ramayan**. Viji received the "Best Guru" award from the Madras Music Academy, Chennai, India in 2001. A two time recipient of the Brody Choreographic fellowship, the California Arts council award and the Excellence in Arts Award of the Torrance Cultural Arts Commission, Viji has been an Adjunct Assistant Professor of Bharata Natyam at World Arts & Culture, UCLA, since 1999.

Saturday

Dinner Break

Program 5: Bharathanatyam Dance ANDAL by Guru Sushma Kasthuri and Group, LA, CA



"Andal" - A dance presentation based on the "Tiruppavai", a collection of verses written by Sri.Andal, a saint poetess who lived in South India during the 8th century. Andal imagined herself as a cow-girl at the time of Sri Krishna, collecting all girls at dawn during the Margali month (December-January) and inviting them to worship Krishna. This production will feature stories of Bali, Putana and praise Krishna as the one who came to earth in various avataara, the one who killed Ravana, one who lifted the Govardhana mountain, one who killed the demon shakata and the one who is reborn again and again to protect people.

Program 6: Kathak Trio by Guru Prachi Dixit and Group, Los Angeles, CA

Guru Prachi Dixit is a teacher, performer, and choreographer of Kathak dance. She her training at the tender age of four and started performing at seven years old. Prachi teaches and performs in the traditional Jaipur Gharana style of Kathak dance. Her achievements in this style are accredited to her first renowned guru, the Late Shri Kanhiya Lal, a worthy



disciple of Nrityacharya Guru Late Shri Narayan Prasad. She is currently a disciple of [Guru Smt. Shoba Koser](#). Prachi also received training in vocal music from the renowned guru of Agra Gharana Shri Akheel Ahmad Khan. She holds a BA Degree in Indian Classical Music, Prabhakar Degree in Dance, Bachelor's of Education, and an MA in English from Agra University.

Prachi's passion and excellence of dance has been shown on many stages in India and the United States. Her 2004 performance in "Nrityodaya" presented at the James Armstrong Theater, in Torrance California was received by thunderous applause and acclamation by dignitaries and audience. In 2005, Prachi was invited to perform in the Taj Mahotsav, Agra. Also in 2005 she performed at the Triveni Kala Sangam, New Delhi.

Call for Bharathanatyam classes—314-397-5278 / info@sooryadance.com



Program 1: Invocation by Students of Dance and Music Schools, St Louis

Program 2: Stepping Out to step Up by Arathi School of Indian Dances (TX)

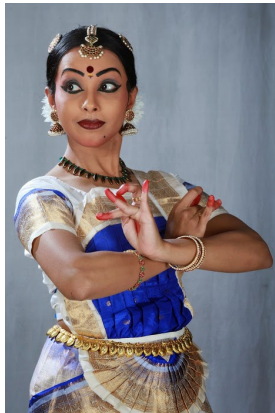
In art more than in any other endeavor stepping out of the conventional boundaries has



opened vistas; for the artist abundant possibilities and for the audience scintillating anticipation. Come, journey with Arathi dancers as they explore new idioms in music and movement while striving to hold the precious ancient wisdom of

Natya. The show begins with a Mallari with refreshing choreography that sets the stage for presenting 'The Caged Bird' a segment from the production 'Kavitha' the San Antonio Version of the master piece 'Rainbow' by Guru. Prasanna Kasturi. Next we explore a Thillana that explodes out of boundaries choreographed by Guru. Sheshadri Iyengar. We finish with a refreshing Raas

Program 3: The Journey Through Bible by Jinoo Vargheese & Group, Chicago, IL



Soorya Dance School Chicago presents 'Journey through Bible', a classical Bharatanatyam presentation which is different from the normal classical items which usually depicts Hindu mythology.

There are 2 parts, in the 1st part we are presenting Pushpanjali, which is in praise of Jesus Christ, Pushpanjali set in Ragam - Lathangi, Adi - Talam. The 2nd part we are presenting Keerthanam 'Ajapala Kula Jatha Deepam', here we are exploring 4 divine aspects of Jesus Christ. The 1st is a miracle of transforming water into wine at the wedding of Cana. The 2nd is Jesus's divine forgiveness shown through Mary Magdalene begging for repentance and forgiveness as she was filled with sorrow and guilt. The 3rd is Jesus's miraculous power over nature as he calms the turbulent sea and walks over it. Finally the greatest sacrifice.

Keerthanam is set in Ragam - Ragamalika, Adi - Talam.



Program 4: Dashvathara by the students of Soorya Dance Company

Dashavatharam

यदा यदा हि धर्मस्य ग्लानिर्भवति भारत।
अभ्युत्थानमधर्मस्य तदात्मानं सृजाम्यहम्॥

परित्राणाय साधूनां विनाशाय च दुष्कृताम्।
धर्मं संस्थापनार्थाय संभवामि युगे युगे॥

Whenever and wherever
there is a decline in righteousness
at that time I descend Myself
to uphold the righteousness (Dharma)
by destroying evil and protect the pious

A depiction of 10 incarnation of deity
Vishnu
in Bharathanatyam dance style
Presented by Soorya Performing Arts

Dashavatara refers to the ten avatars of Vishnu, the Hindu god of preservation. Vishnu is said to descend in form of an avatar to restore cosmic order. Dashavatara order interpreted logical life creation, which was later supported by Darwin's evolution in 18th century.

1. Matsya, the fish, from the Satya Yuga: Vishnu takes the form of a fish to save Manu from the deluge, after which he takes his boat to the new world along with one of every species of plant and animal, gathered in a massive cyclone.
2. Kurma, the tortoise, from the Satya Yuga: When the devas and asuras were churning the Ocean of milk in order to get amrita, the nectar of immortality, the mount Mandara they were using as the churning staff started to sink and Vishnu took the form of a tortoise to bear the weight of the mountain.
3. Varaha, the boar, from the Satya Yuga: He defeats Hiranyaksha, a demon who had taken the Earth, or Prithvi, and carried it to the bottom of the cosmic ocean. The battle between

Varaha and Hiranyaksha lasted for a thousand years, which the former finally won. Varaha carried the Earth out of the ocean between his tusks and restored it to its place in the universe.

4. Narasimha, the half-man/half-lion, from the Satya Yuga: The rakshasa (An evil person) Hiranyakashipu, the elder brother of Hiranyaksha, was granted a powerful boon from Brahma, not allowing him to be killed by man or animal, inside or out, day or night, on earth or the stars, with a weapon either living or inanimate. Vishnu descended as an anthropomorphic incarnation, with the body of a man and head and claws of a lion. He then disembowels the rakshasa at the courtyard threshold of his house, at dusk, with his claws, while he lay on his thighs.

5. Vamana, the dwarf, from the Treta Yuga: The fourth descendant of Hiranyakashya, Bali, with devotion and penance was able to defeat Indra, the god of firmament. This humbled the other deities and extended his authority over the three worlds. The gods appealed to Vishnu for protection and he descended as the dwarf Vamana. During a yajna of the king, Vamana approached him and Bali promised him for whatever he asked. Vamana asked for three paces of land. Bali agreed, and the dwarf then changed his size to that of a giant. He stepped over heaven in his first stride, and the netherworld with the second. Bali realized that Vamana was Vishnu incarnate. In deference, the king offered his head as the third place for Vamana to place his foot. The avatar did so and thus granted Bali immortality. Then in appreciation to Bali and his grandfather Prahlada, Vamana made him ruler of Pathala, the netherworld.

6. Parashurama, warrior with the axe, from the Treta Yuga: He is son of Jamadagni and Renuka and received an axe after a penance to Shiva. He is the first Brahmin-Kshatriya in Hinduism, or warrior-saint, with duties between a Brahmana and a Kshatriya). King Kartavirya Arjuna and his army visited the father of Parashurama at his ashram, and the saint was able to feed them with the divine cow Kamadhenu. The king demanded the animal, Jamadagni refused, and the king took it by force and destroyed the ashram. Parashurama then killed the king at his palace and destroyed his army. In revenge, the sons of Kartavirya killed Jamadagni. Parashurama took a vow to kill every Kshatriya on earth twenty-one times over, and filled five lakes with their blood. Ultimately, his grandfather, rishi Rucheeka, appeared and made him halt.

7. Rama, the prince and king of Ayodhya, from the Treta Yuga: He is a commonly worshiped avatar in Hinduism, and is thought of as the ideal heroic man. His story is recounted in one of the most widely read scriptures of Hinduism, the Ramayana. While in exile from his own kingdom with his brother Lakshman and the monkey God Hanuman, his wife Sita was abducted by the demon king of Lanka, Ravana. He travelled to Ashoka Vatika in Lanka, killed the demon king and saved Sita.

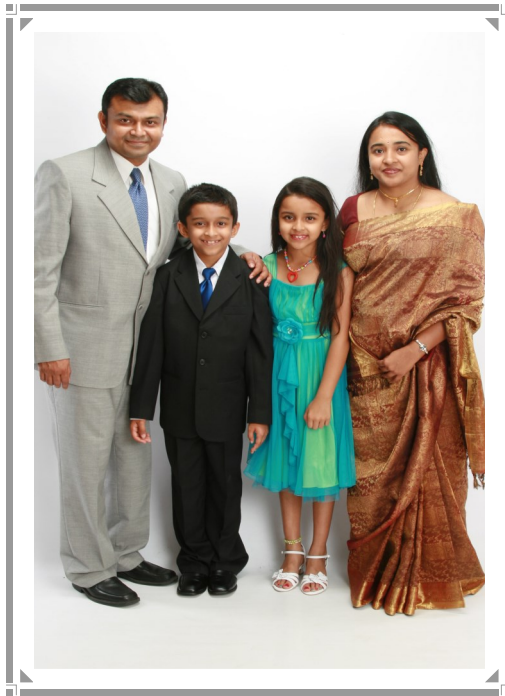
8. Krishna was the eighth son of Devaki and Vasudev, from the Dwapara Yuga. Krishna was born as the son of Devaki and Vasudeva. He was moved to Gokula to save him from Kansa. Later, he kills Kansa and assists virtuous Pandavas in great Mahabharatha war. He preaches "Geetha" , the highest philosophical work of Hinduism in the middle of war ground to Arjuna.

9. Buddha: Gautama Buddha, the founder of Buddhism, is generally included as an avatar of Vishnu in Hinduism. Buddha may be depicted in Hindu scriptures as a preacher who deludes and leads demons and heretics away from the path of the Vedic scriptures. Another view praises him as a compassionate teacher who preached the path of ahimsa (non-violence).

10. Kalki ("Eternity", or "White Horse", or "Destroyer of Filth"), will be the final incarnation of Vishnu, foretold to appear at the end of Kali Yuga, our present epoch. He will be atop a white horse and his sword will be drawn, blazing like a comet. He is the harbinger of end time in Hindu eschatology, and will destroy all unrighteousness and evil at the end of Kali Yuga.

Performed by : Ananya Sharma, Annika Renganathan, Anushka Ramgounda, Arna Gowda, Hansika Sakshi, Jahnvi Vishnubhotla, Niharika Sanjeeva, Nithya Raman, Nivedita Sabarintan, Priya Patel, Rajendra Upadhyaya, Roshni Ramesh Kumar, Sadhana Matheswaran, Samhita Prabhakar, Sanjana Prabhakar, Sansita Palakollu, Sapthaka Upadhyaya, Shree Govani, Samanvita Kasthuri, Sri Lakshmi Suryaprakash

Direction: Guru Prasanna Kasthuri

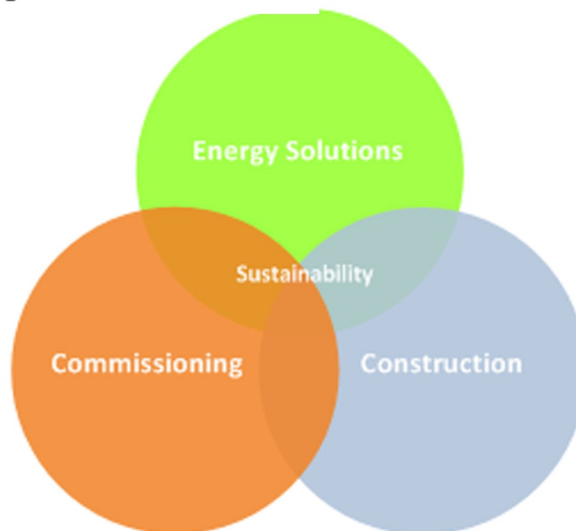


* * * * *
 * Great job Soorya Performing *
 * Arts and volunteer families for *
 * bringing 7th St. Louis Indian *
 * dance and Music Festival to all *
 * of us. *
 * **Best wishes** *
 * **From** *
 * **Naveen and Lak-** *
 * **shmi** *
 * * * * *

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Blue Chakra Band

A chakra, symbolic representation of unending music of east mixed together with a creative, sensuous music of Blues of west in a friendly and harmonious way to yield a new production of trendy and catchy music through the new band – BLUE CHAKRA. Seema Kasthuri, the lead singer is a trained Indian classical musician tries the musical phrases with accomplished guitarist – Frank Heyer, who is also very accomplished in many genres of western and middle-eastern music himself. This group is performing officially for the first time in St.Louis in the 7th St. Louis Indian Dance and Music Festival. Four creative Musicians of Indian and American musical backgrounds have come together to share their love for Music and demonstrate that Music is beyond languages and cultural barriers. The band promotes the traditional music of India with a Contemporary touch. Frank Heyer, the lead Guitarist is an Innovative composer of contemporary, classical, electronic, experimental new age, Jazz concepts with over 30 years of musical experience. Owen Nicholas McKinley is a young and energetic heavy metal session drummer who has recorded drums to artistes all over the US. Prasanna Kasthuri, a dancer/musician will support the band on keyboard and rhythmical vocalization. Band will play genuine pieces such as ganesh, Dorian – Kaharharapriya; popular movie song - piece do dil – a song from pardes hindi movie and a creative piece of music on Sanskrit shloka – asatoma sadgamaya in revati raga – distorted pentatonic scale.

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Malavika Venkatasubbaiah

Malavika Venkatasubbaiah is a professional dancer, choreographer and teacher specializing in the southern Indian dance form, bhara-thanatya. She is also well versed in folk dances from India and has also created works in the genre of Indian contemporary dance. Malavika moved to Edmonton in 2003 and later established the Natyam Dance Academy with the vision of presenting locally created, high calibre south-Asian dance.

She has recently toured her solo works at Chennai, Visakhapatnam and Bangalore as a non-resident overseas Indian artist, and won the title 'Natya Sarathi' at the NRI festival in Visakhapatnam. In an effort to promote her art form in the Edmonton arts community, Malavika created the Natyam ensemble and has entered works at the salon series organized by Mile Zero Dance, Feats Festival of Dance, Expanse Movements Arts Festival, the Edmonton Heritage Festival and Capital Ex. In the coming years she envisions to develop her ensemble into a professional dance company. She will present 'Bhaavika' - A celebration of the myriad emotions that fill a woman's mind, a celebration of its path towards ultimate surrender!



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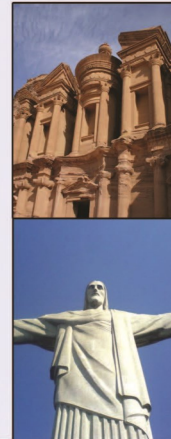
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