



*Bharatanatyam Arangetram*  
of  
*Hritika Malugu*



September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
Wydown Middle School  
Auditorium  
St. Louis, MO

Gururbrhama GururvishNuhu | Gururdevoa maheaShvarah ||  
Guru SsaakshaatPara Brahma | Tasmai Shree Guravenamah ||

*Guruvu (Teacher) is Bhrama. Guru is Vishnu. Guru is the Maheshwarah.  
Guru is the great God himself. We offer our obeisance to you.*



## Guru Prasanna Kasthuri

Guruji Prasanna Kasthuri is a dancer and choreographer from India - South Asia. Prasanna's parents Mr. Raghosutha & Mrs. Padmaje were literary personalities, who supported him in his artistic abilities. He practices Bharathanatyam, Kathak, Carnatic music and Mrudangam.

Guruji Prasanna holds a rank in Vidwath exam (1985) and was the best state dancer (1986) conducted by Karnataka government. He is the only dancer who has created "24-hour-marathon-Bharathanatyam-Dance" in India. Sixteen beautiful dance-drama productions and more than two thousand performances shine high on his career. He traveled across Europe, the USA, and India. His presentations – "Rainbow-2" was based on English poetry for Indian classical dances was collaborated with Grammy awardee Pandit Vishwa Mohan Bhat.

Guruji Prasanna choreographed and presented Jnapeeth awardee poet Kuvempu's "Ekalavya", which was toured in more than 40 cities in USA and India. He lives in Saint Louis, USA, and volunteers as artistic director to nonprofit organization - Soorya Performing Arts, which presented "American Natya Festival" since 2008. His recent publication – "Natya Samhita - I" was very well received by many dance lovers and literary enthusiasts.

In 2022 – Prasanna choreographed the World's premiere show of "SAMARPAN" – a courageous showcase of Indian's freedom struggle against colonialism. This was viewed by 2000 people and presented in the USA and India. He has been curating the American Natya Festivals in Saint Louis, MO USA. He was invited by St. Louis Symphony to present Kathak dance in May 2023. His recent production – "Swamy Ayyappa Charitham" was very well received by hundreds of patrons in June 2023. His presentation of "Defeat of Death" based on Sri Aurobindo's Savithri won laurels and accolades in 15th American Natya Festival.

Prasanna Kasthuri has been awarded many titles. In 2015 he received "Kalayogi" award from Artists and Writers Guild of India in Bengaluru. In 2024, he received prestigious "Living Traditional Sustainer Fellow- 2024" award from Missouri Folk Arts, in 2023 - "Sambharama Puraskara" in India.

Guruji has dedicated his life for Indian classical music and dance in USA and in India. His "American Natya Idol" reached 6 USA cities in spring 2024, hundreds of students took part in this educational competitions.

More details are on his website - Visit [www.prasannakasthuri.com](http://www.prasannakasthuri.com)

Gajananam Bhuta Ganathi Sevitam | Kapittha Jambu Palasara Bhaksitam ||  
Uma Sutam Shoka Vinasha Karanam | Namami Vignesvara Pada Pankajam ||

*The one who is served by all. The one who holds kapitha and jumbo fruits.  
The one who is Parvathi's son and remover of all sorrows.  
To that Vigneshwara, lotus like feet I bow.*



## The Student

**Hritika Malugu** started learning Bharatanatyam under Guru Prasanna Kasthuri at the age of 5. Having embarked on her dance journey at a young age under the guidance of her eminent guru, Hritika has honed her skills over years of rigorous training, embodying the essence of Bharatanatyam through her performances. She has performed in many productions such as Ashtakakshmi, Samarpan, Swamy Ayappa Charitham, and Savithri: Defeat of Death. In 2023, Hritika Malugu achieved notable recognition by securing the 2nd place in the group category of the prestigious Natya Idol competition, showcasing her ability to collaborate seamlessly with a fellow dancer while maintaining individual artistry. Her talent continued to shine in 2024, where she distinguished herself nationally by placing in the 5th position in the solo category of the same competition. Beyond competitions, Hritika remains deeply engaged in her practice, enriching her

understanding of Bharatanatyam's nuances and its timeless significance in the world of performing arts. Hritika is currently a junior at Lafayette High School where she embodies the spirit of community, caring, and commitment. Previously, she has served as the Social Chair on the Future Business Leaders of America Executive Board and is a vital part of the Health Occupations Students of America club at her school. Apart from enjoying dance, she also enjoys learning Carnatic Music and performing at various associations such as Ohmkaram, STLMA, and TAS. Dance holds a profound significance in Hritika's life, transcending mere movement to become a profound expression of her soul. Through Bharatanatyam, she discovers a language that speaks volumes beyond words, a medium through which she connects deeply with her cultural roots and inner emotions. Each rhythmic step and graceful gesture allows Hritika to convey stories, emotions, and spiritual narratives that resonate with both herself and her audience. Dance, to her, is a sacred art form that embodies discipline, dedication, and creativity—a journey of self-discovery and personal growth.



Yato hasta stato drishti | Yato drishti stato manah ||  
Yato manah stato bhava | Yato bhava stato rasaha ||

*Where the hand is, eyes should follow there.  
Where the eyes is, the mind should be there.  
Where the mind is, there goes the expression.  
And where there is expression, there arises emotion.*

## Program

**Nritya Ârambha** – Nritya Ârambha is the beginning dance, which has four parts.

**Pushpanjali** - The dance offering flowers to Lord of Nataraja is Pushpanjali. Dancer will prostrate to Guru and musicians. This provides a preface to entire dance performance. This is set in Râgas such as Nata, Neelambari, Anandabhairavi, Chakravakam and set in Adi Tâlam, composed by Guru Prasanna Kasthuri.

**Sabha Vandanam** is a dance which showcases the respect to the audience using 11th century poetic verse from Nandikeshwara's Abhinaya Darpana. This describes audience as a huge Kalpa vruksah (wishing tree), whose branches are four Vedas (Holy Books), whose branches are shastras (sciences), and where the scholars come like bees to enjoy the nectar of Knowledge. This is in Râga - Begade

**Dundi Vinayaka** – A Kruti praising Bhagwan Vinayaka, who removes all obstacles. He lies in the infinite radiance of universe, with million imaginations, has an irregular face, yet destroys evil forces. His four hands hold – powerful axe, peaceful chant beads, a powerful weapon called Shakti and life-giving nectar. This is in Râga – Mukhari; Taalam Adi and composed by Sri Garimella Balakrishna Prasad

**Alaripu** – Alaripu introduces the pure dance structures of Bharatanatyam. It showcases the traditional moves with graceful postures of the dance style with varying tempo. This Alaripu is in Khanda Jathi Triputa Taalam (9 beat cycle).

**Jatiswara** – Jati is a rhythmical pattern which has moves based on simple mathematics. It makes the dancers move to different musical patterns of a melody. Dancer shows her expertise in both movements, musicality, and rhythm. This is in Mohana Râga and set to Mishra Châpu tâla. This is a composition of Mrudangam virtuoso T V Gopalkrishna.

**Varnam** – In Sanskrit varna refers to color. This dance number demonstrates different aspects of Bharatanatyam. Varnam has complicated Jatis, direct expressions for the lyric, expansive story telling methods called Sanchâri bhâvâs. Roopamu jöchi is a divinely romantic dance piece, which adheres to devotion of great Hindu saints with their beloved Godheads. This Varnam's main deity is Shiva. Dancer enacts as a love-lorn heroine seeking a philosophical union with pure love towards him. The Nâyika tells her beloved, she came to him looking at his eternal beauty. Please do not get angry. You remove all miseries of life.



Aangikam Bhuvanam Yasya | Vachikam Sarva Vaanmayam ||  
Ahaaryam Chandra Taaradi | Tam Vande Sattwikam Shivam ||

*We bow to the Lord Shiva. Whose body is the whole Universe,  
Whose speech is the entire languages  
And whose ornaments are the moon stars...*

O Shiva, Tyagaraja swamy why are you not heeding to my prayer? I always praised your valor, greatness with love and pride all the time. You are more beautiful than the god of love himself. You are the abode of all great qualities of universe. I am pained by this separation, come quickly, and lift from my misery. This Varnam is in rāga Tódî and in âdi tâla, This is originally composed by Ramaswamy Dikshitar as a Tâna varnâm later recomposed by Tiger Varadâchârî for dance.

### INTERVAL

#### Ardha Naarishwara

Ardha Narishwaram is a Sanskrit composition choreographed into dance because of its subject of union of Shiva and Parvati fused as one body. Shiva gave his half body to his wife Parvati respecting rights. Ardhanarishwara symbolizes equality of women. The lyrics describes Ardhanârishwara is respected and worshipped by all great saints like Athri, Bhrgu, Vasishta and others. A shlôkâm - Chaapeya Gowrardha sharirakaya describing physical beauty of Shiva will be presented.

Shloka will be sung in Gowri Manôhari râgâm. This Shloka is taken by Ardha naarishwara stotram written by 8th century saint – Shri Âdi Shankarâchârya. Ardhanariswhara kriti is in Râga - Kumuda kriya and set in roopaka taala (3 beat cycle) – This written by Muthuswamy Deekshitar

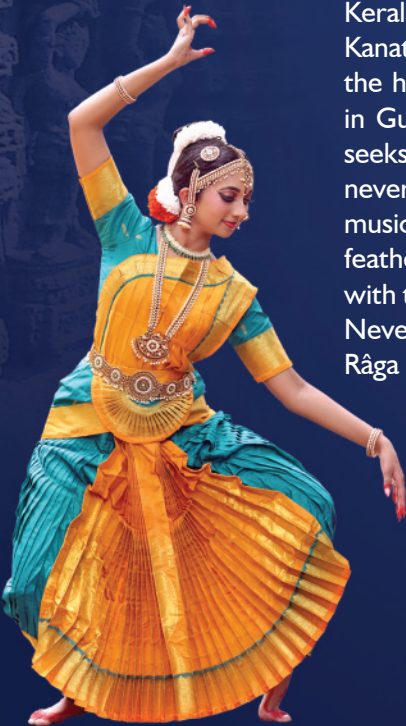


#### Malayalam Poem

Kerala's revered poet - Chowalloor Krishnan Kutty's "Oru Neramenkilum Kanathe Vayyente" is an excellent melody which stirs devotion deep down the heart. This song is dedicated to deity Guru vayurappan, who resides in Guruvâyuru as a main deity. He is another form Vishnu. The devotee seeks Lord Guruvayurappa's blessings. He says - Oh Guruvayurappa! It is never possible for me to remain without listening to the sweet melody of music that flows from your divine instrument of flute. Wherever I see a feather of peacock, I instantly remember your beautiful image. Your vision with thick locks of hair adorned, shine before me for a while and disappear. Never for a moment can I remain without seeing your form. This is in Râga – Dwijâvanti and set in âdi tâla.

#### Maadu Meikum Kanne

Maadu Meikum Kanne (Mother and Son Dialogue) – is song showcasing a dialogue between Lord Krishna as a kid and his mother Yashoda. Krishna wants to go out to play and rear the cattle while Yashoda tries to stop him giving reasons like Krishna might be attacked by wild animals and thieves. This is a very lively question and answer between a persistent mother and determined son. This is in Râga – Senchuriti and set in Tishra nadai Âdi tâl.



## Tillana

Bharathanatyam repertoire ends with a Tillana. This presents beautiful poses and great foot work combination called Gettu. Also contains a short verse on lord Krishna. This is in Râga- Behag – Vilamba Adi tâla and Composer is Guru Prasanna Kasthuri.

## Solo Dance Drama - Anupama Annamayya

This dance drama is based on the life of Saint Annamacharya, from Andhra Pradesh. He was a rich person, who gave up his life in service of Lord Venkateshwara of Tirupati. The dance begins with a Shloka on Annamayya - Shree Mat Dwiteeya in râgam Bhoulî. This is followed by the depiction of early life of Annamayya, who marries two beautiful girls. He starts a great romantic life. But gets interrupted by a divine dream. He keeps singing “Kalaganti Kalaganti” and leaves everything and walks to Tirupati. He meets sage Nârada and receives holy musical instrument. He travels to Tirumala and see the 7 hills – he sings “Adivo Alladivo Sri Hari Vâsamu.” He rushes into the Balaji temple and gets glimpses of deity. He prays him saying – “Podagantivayya Purushottama.” After several years – Vijayanagara King Sâlva Narasimha enters the scene. He listens to beautiful Love- Devotion song – “Emuko Chigurata Adaramu”. King now wishes Annamayya to sing on love interaction of King and Queen. Saint refuses to sing King’s Love affairs. King gets offended and puts the Saint into prison. In deep despair, Annamayya calls for help from Narasimha. He chants “Phala Netrala Prabala”. His prayers to Narasimha makes him free of any bonds. King sees this miracle and apologizes. Annamayya preaches equality with all humanity through “Brahma Okkate - Parabrahma Okkate”. Thus spreads the words of love and joy. This is in raagamaalika and Taala Malika. All the songs are originally written Saint Annamacharya.

**Mangalam** – A ritualistic song which seeks peace and tranquility over the world.

## Credits

### Musicians:

Nattuvangam	: Guru Prasanna Kasthuri
Co-Nattuvangam	: Samanvita Kasthuri
Vocals	: Guru Seema Kasthuri
Mrudangam	: Srinivas Magarajarao Venupuri
Violin	: Kalpana Prasad
Flute	: Sai Kishore Ravisankar



*Thank you very much for your gracious presence and blessing Hritika on this wonderful occasion!*

