



RHYTHM OF THE NIGHT

Nishagandhi  Festival
20 - 27 JANUARY 2016
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
KANAKAKKUNNU



PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

JANUARY 20

6.30 PM
INAUGURAL CEREMONY
SPECIAL CHOREOGRAPHY

7.30 PM
CLASSICAL CONCERT
ANOUSHKA SHANKAR

JANUARY 21

6.30 PM
**CARNATIC HINDUSTANI
JUGALBANDHI**
SREERANJINI KODAMPALLY
& GAYATRI ASOKAN

8.00 PM
KUCHIPUDI
VYJAYANTHI KASHI &
PRATEEKSHA KASHI

JANUARY 22

6.30 PM
BHARATHANATYAM
SMITHA MADHAV

8.00 PM
CARNATIC VOCAL
T.V. SANKARANARAYANAN

JANUARY 23

6.30 PM
MOHINIYATTAM
PARVATHY SREEVALLABHAN
& SANDRA PISHARODY

7.30 PM
INSTRUMENTAL FUSION
DR. LALITHA & NANDINI

JANUARY 24

6.30 PM
KUCHIPUDI
ARATHY SUDHAKARAN

7.30 PM
SATTRIYA DANCE
RAMAKRISHNA TALUKDAR
& KRISHNAKSHI KASHYAP

8.30 PM
KATHAK
MARAMI MEDHI &
MEGHARANJINI MEDHI

JANUARY 25

6.30 PM
MANDOLIN
PANDIT SUGATO BHADURI

8.00 PM
ODISSI
ILEANA CITARISTI

JANUARY 26

7.00 PM
DANCE
HEMA MALINI & GROUP

JANUARY 27

6.30 PM
CARNATIC VOCAL
ARJUN B. KRISHNA

8.00 PM
JUGALBANDHI
USTAD ZAKIR HUSSAIN,
SHASHANK SUBRAMANYAM
& RAKESH CHAURASIA



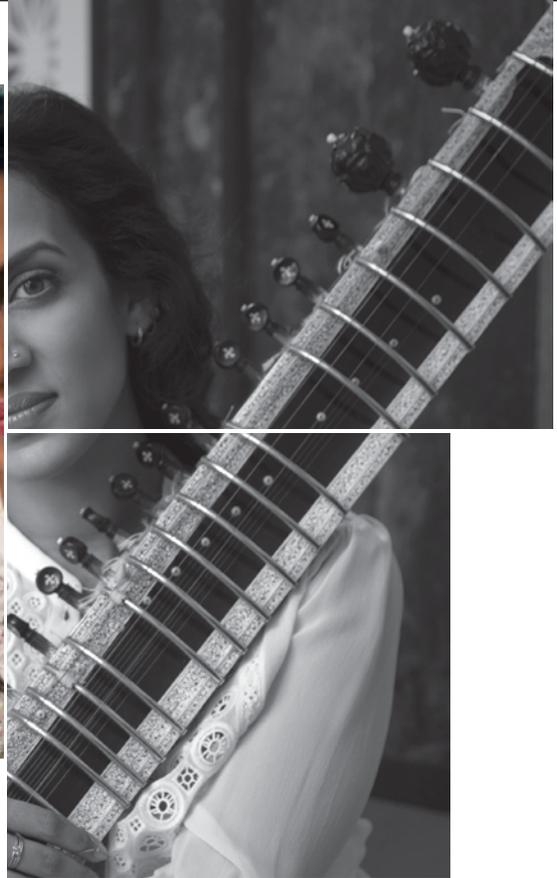
SURRENDER TO THE BEAUTY
AND GRANDEUR OF INDIAN
CLASSICAL DANCE AND MUSIC.
AT THE NISHAGANDHI FESTIVAL,
TO BE HELD IN THE LUSH
GROUNDS OF THE
KANAKAKKUNNU PALACE IN
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM.



STRINGS THAT SING

GET TRANSPORTED TO
ANOTHER WORLD AS
ANOUSHKA SHANKAR CREATES
AN EVENING OF MUSICAL
ECSTASY.





ANOUSHKA SHANKAR

Known for her versatility and lyricism, sitar player and composer Anoushka Shankar is a celebrated figure in world music. Daughter of Indian sitar maestro Pandit Ravi Shankar, Anoushka did not take long to carve a space of her own, with a deep-rooted connect with Indian classical music and a flair for exploring different styles, including the flamenco, jazz, electronica and Western classical music. She started training with her father when she was nine years old and her first public sitar performance was at the age of 13.

Her first album, *Anoushka*, was released in 1998. Among various accolades, she has received four Grammy Award nominations. In February 2006, she became the first Indian to play at the Grammy Awards.

A plucked stringed instrument used mainly in Hindustani music, the sitar is believed to have been derived from the veena and is said to have been modified by a Mughal court musician to conform with the tastes of his patrons. It derives its distinctive timbre and resonance from sympathetic strings, bridge design, a long hollow neck and a gourd-shaped resonance chamber. The sitar became popular across the world through the works of Pandit Ravi Shankar and was introduced in Western popular music by The Beatles and The Rolling Stones.

20/01/2016
CLASSICAL CONCERT

IN PERFECT HARMONY

GIVE IN TO THE BEAUTY OF
KUCHIPUDI PERFORMED BY
VYJAYANTHI KASHI &
PRATEEKSHA KASHI.





VYJAYANTHI KASHI & PRATEEKSHA KASHI

Performers, choreographers, actors and teachers, Vyjayanthi and Prateeksha have today emerged as one of the finest dancers in Kuchipudi. Noted for their virtuosity and versatility along with their fluid choreography and stylistic experiments, this mother-daughter team imparts Kuchipudi lessons at the Shambhavi School of Dance in Bengaluru.

Vyjayanthi Kashi is a recipient of the Central Sangeet Natak Academy Puraskar and serves on the board of the Art and Culture, Government of India. She is also currently the Chairperson of Karnataka Sangeet Nritya Academy. Prateeksha Kashi and her mother have performed at prestigious dance festivals both in India and abroad.

Named after the village of its birth, Kuchelapuram in Andhra Pradesh, Kuchipudi may be traced to the dance dramas enacted by young Brahmin boys in temples. It is performed to classical Carnatic music wherein the dancers embody grace and fluid movements.

Making Kuchipudi unique is Tharangam, wherein the dancer places a pot full of water on her head and dances on a brass plate.

21/01/2016

KUCHIPUDI

21/01/2016

CARNATIC HINDUSTANI
JUGALBANDHI



SREERANJINI KODAMPALLY & GAYATRI ASOKAN

Sreeranjini Kodampally stands in the forefront when it comes to the new generation of star performers of Carnatic music. She sang her first notes under the guidance of her grandfather, late Kodampally Gopala Pillai, a popular musician in his time. The winner of the Chembai Award for young artists in 2009, Sreeranjini is a talent to watch out for.

A versatile singer well-trained in Indian classical music, **Gayatri Asokan** is a playback singer who works mainly in the Malayalam film industry. Gayatri was the recipient of the Kerala State Film Award for Best Singer in 2003. Having trained under prominent vocalists including Sri Mangat Natesan and Pandit Vinayaka Torvi, Gayatri has made a mark of her own in Indian classical music and continues to scale new heights.

Experience a Jugalbandhi performance that traverses the layers of Indian classical music by bringing together its two great forms, Hindustani and Carnatic.

Sreeranjini and Gayatri come together to captivate the audience with their distinctive vocal styles, accompanied by a team of eminent artists like Viju S. Anand (Violin), Patri Satish Kumar (Mridangam), Madhu Bhat (Harmonium) and Gurumurthy Vaidya (Tabla).

22/01/2016

BHARATANATYAM



SMITHA MADHAV

Smitha Madhav is an accomplished Bharatanatyam dancer as well as a Carnatic vocalist. She had been trained under the illustrious guru Smt. Rajeshwari Sainath from Nritya Choodamani. Smitha has rendered Bharatanatyam recitals at several prestigious centres across the globe.

Her performances are acclaimed for their thorough and intensive research, extensive preparation, creative choreography and attractive presentation. Smitha represents the city of Chennai as its cultural ambassador to San Antonio, Texas, in the sister city agreement between the two cities.

One of the oldest dance forms of India, nurtured in the temples and courts of southern India since ancient times, Bharatanatyam integrates elements of music, theatre, poetry, sculpture, and literature. The dance form is based on 'Adavu' (steps) and 'Hasthamudra' (hand gestures) and the music is in the Carnatic style. Bharatanatyam includes Abhinaya or Natya (dramatic art of story telling), Nritta (pure dance movements) and Nrithya (combination of Abhinaya and Nritta). With expressive hand gestures and quick transitional movements, Bharatanatyam is believed to be one of the most mystical and spiritual dance forms in India.

MASTER OF MELODIES

DISCOVER THE BEAUTY OF
A GREAT CLASSICAL TRADITION
WITH PADMA BHUSHAN
T.V. SANKARANARAYANAN.





PADMA BHUSHAN T.V. SANKARANARAYANAN

T.V. Sankaranarayanan is one of India's most celebrated Carnatic vocalists. He was under the tutelage of the legendary Madurai Mani Iyer, his maternal uncle, from a very tender age of nine. T.V. Sankaranarayanan is noted for his musical renditions particularly for easily reaching the upper notes.

Accepted by connoisseurs and lay listeners as a veritable genius in effortless Swara singing, his penchant for improvisation keeps his music fresh. The numerous accolades that he has received include the Central Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1990, the prestigious Padma Bhushan and Sangita Kalanidhi in 2003.

Carnatic Music is commonly associated with the southern part of the Indian subcontinent, comprising Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu. It is one of two main sub-genres of Indian classical that evolved from ancient Hindu traditions. The basic elements of śruti (the relative musical pitch), swara (the musical sound of a single note), rāga (the mode or melodic formulæ), and tala (the rhythmic cycles) form the foundation of improvisation and composition in Carnatic music. It is mainly sung through compositions, especially the kriti (or kirtanam), a form developed between the 16th and 20th centuries by composers such as Purandara Dasa, Thyagaraja etc.

22/01/2016
CARNATIC VOCAL

WHEN EXCELLENCE TAKES A BOW

JOIN VIOLIN MAESTROS
DR. LALITHA & NANDINI ON
A SPECTACULAR MUSICAL
JOURNEY.





DR. M. LALITHA & M. NANDINI

Popularly known as the 'Violin LN Sisters', Dr. M. Lalitha and M. Nandini are acclaimed as the 'Queens of Violin' of the present generation. Hailing from an illustrious family of musicians, they have the privilege of being the fourth generation of musicians in the family that includes violinist brothers, L. Vaidyanathan, L. Subramoniam and L. Shanker.

Renowned for their immaculate bowing and dexterous fingering techniques, Lalitha and Nandini have performed at some of the world's most prestigious venues including the Houses of Parliament, Westminster, United Kingdom.

A western instrument developed to suit Western classical music, the violin is today perfectly tuned to the needs of Carnatic music. The most significant change was made in the way the violin was tuned, held and played. Carnatic music required the violinist to sit cross-legged on a platform, with the violin balanced between the chest and the scroll resting firmly on the ankle of the right foot. This necessitated appropriate changes in the bowing technique as well – all of which eventually put the Indian violin in a class of its own.

23/01/2016
**INSTRUMENTAL
FUSION**

CLASSICAL TREAT

BE THERE WHEN GURU
RAMKRISHNA TALUKDAR AND
KRISHNAKSHI KASHYAP UNVEIL THE
BEAUTY OF SATTRIYA, A DANCE
NURTURED IN THE VAISHNAV
MONASTERIES OF ASSAM.





GURU RAMKRISHNA TALUKDAR & KRISHNAKSHI KASHYAP

Kala Gaurav Ramkrishna Talukdar is a dancer of repute and a renowned choreographer and educator of Sattriya and Kathak Dance. Born in a culturally rich environment of Bamakhata Sattr, he has been trained in Sattriya art form since his childhood. Presently teaching Sattriya Dance in State Music College, Assam, he has also established Nartan Kala Niketan in 1987 for training, preservation and development of Sattriya dance and culture.

Krishnakshi Kashyap is a performing artist of Sattriya and Bharatanatyam. A disciple of Guru Ramkrishna Talukdar, she has also trained in Bharatanatyam under Sangeet Natak Akademi awardee Guru Indira P.P. Bora. Known for her grace and poise, Krishnakshi has numerous performances of both the dance forms to her credit.

Sattriya dance had its origin during the 15th century and it was originally performed within the four walls of the 'Sattras' (institutional centres) by the male 'Bhokots' or monks as a part of religious rituals and for spreading the philosophy of Vaishnavism.

In the mid 20th century, Sattriya dance was first performed outside the Sattras and female dancers started embracing the beauty of this dance form, which was earlier prohibited. On 15 November 2000, the Sangeet Natak Akademi declared Sattriya dance as a classical dance form of India.

24/01/2016
SATTRIYA DANCE

SOLE TO SOUL

WATCH MARAMI AND
MEGHRANJANI MEDHI SPIN
MAGIC WITH INTRICATE
FOOTWORK AND FLUID
MOVEMENTS.



MARAMI MEDHI & MEGHRANJANI MEDHI

An accomplished Kathak danseuse from Assam, Marami Medhi received her initial training in Kathak under the guidance of Late Charoo Bordoloi, the founder Principal of State College of Music, Guwahati. Subsequently she became a disciple of Kathak exponent Surendra Saikia. The founder of Sur Sangam, a dance institute in Guwahati, she is an A grade artist of Doordarshan Kendra, New Delhi and a panel artist of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations.

Meghranjani, daughter of Marami Medhi, is an accomplished Kathak dancer in her own right, having learnt Kathak under the guidance of her mother. Like her mother, Meghranjani passed Nritya Nipun in Kathak from Bhatkhande Sangeet Vidyapith, Lucknow. A popular Assamese film actor, she has been awarded a scholarship from the Dept. of Culture and the Centre for Cultural Resources and Training (CCRT), Government of India.

Kathak traces its origins to the the nomadic bards of ancient northern India, known as Kathaks or story tellers. With the advent of Mughal culture, Kathak became a sophisticated chamber art, patronised by art-loving rulers. Kathak is characterised by fast rhythmic footwork set to complex time cycles. The footwork is matched by the accompanying percussion instruments such as tabla and pakhawaj. The dance movements include numerous pirouettes executed at lightning speed and ending in statuesque poses. The interpretative portion, based on tales of Radha and Krishna and other mythological lore, contains subtle gestures and facial expressions.

24/01/2016

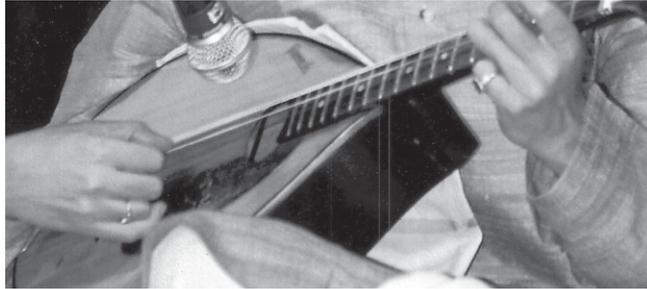
KATHAK



STRIKING A CHORD

WATCH PANDIT SUGATO BHADURI COMBINE
PROFOUND EMOTIONALISM AND SOUND
TECHNIQUES TO CREATE MUSIC MAGIC.





PANDIT SUGATO BHADURI

Sugato Bhaduri, one of the most sought-after mandolin players in India today, was initiated into the field of music at a very tender age. For 17 years, he learnt Mandolin under the supervision of the renowned Pandit T. N. Majumder. Profound emotionalism, vast intellectual approach towards the raga and sound technique are the basic components of Sugato's music.

In 2001, this young torchbearer of the Maihar-Seni Gharana was awarded the prestigious Surmani title by the Sur-Singar Samsad (Mumbai). In 2012, he was awarded the prestigious Gandharva Ratna title by Sangeet Samraat Ustad Alladiya Khan Memorial, Kolhapur, Maharashtra.

A small musical instrument that descended from the lute, the mandolin evolved from the lute family during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries in Italy. Till the nineteenth century, it was a part of orchestra in the western world and was established as a solo instrument from the beginning of the twentieth century. The mandolin is played by plucking the strings with a pick and usually consists of 4 lengths of doubled strings that are tuned in unison.

25/01/2016

MANDOLIN

GRACEFUL GRANDEUR

ENJOY THE FLOWING LYRICAL
BEAUTY OF ODISSI WITH
PADMA SHRI ILEANA CITARISTI.



PADMA SHRI ILEANA CITARISTI

Italian-born Odissi and Chhau dancer, Ileana Citaristi studied Odissi under Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra. Also an exponent of the Mayurbhanj Chhau, which she learnt under the tutelage of Guru Hari Nayak, she holds the title of an Acharya of Chhau from the Sangeet Mahavidyalya of Bhubaneswar.

Noted for her innovative choreographic productions in Odissi and Chhau, Ileana has won the National Film Award for Best Choreography for her work in Aparna Sen's Bengali film Yugant. For her contributions to Odissi, she was conferred the Padma Shri by Government of India in 2006. 'A' grade artist from Doordarshan, Ileana is the founder of the Art Vision Academy, which acts as a platform for sharing ideas between various artistic forms.

Sensuous and graceful, Odissi combines story telling and pure dance in lyrical movements and sculpturesque poses. This dance form is characterised by the 'triple-bend' pose called 'Tribhangi', requiring three bends at the neck, waist and knee reflecting exquisite charm and grace.

Odissi consists of two broad divisions: Nritya - which is pure dance without sentiments, story or characters, usually performed to music without poetry and Nritya - the expressional dance in which the dancer, through symbolic gestures, poses and facial expressions, interprets the poem sung.

25/01/2016
ODISSI



A DIVINE DISPLAY

WATCH MYTHOLOGY COME ALIVE
ON STAGE IN AN EXCLUSIVE
PERFORMANCE BY PADMA SHRI
HEMA MALINI AND HER TROUPE.





PADMA SHRI HEMA MALINI

One of the greatest icons of the Indian silver screen and a recipient of the coveted Padma Shri award for her contribution to Indian films and arts, Hema Malini is a trained performer in the classical Indian dance styles of Bharatanatyam, Kuchipudi and Mohiniyattam. Along with foraying into the highly technical areas of TV and film production, she brought to centre stage the art of dance choreography.

Drawing from her vast knowledge of classical dances, she has choreographed stage musicals that brought to life salient pieces of Indian mythology. These choreographies, presented by her institution, the Natyavihar Kalakendra, have touched an appreciative chord among millions of viewers throughout the world.

At the Nishagandhi Festival, Hema Malini, along with her group, will perform 'Mahalakshmi', a specially choreographed performance on Goddess Lakshmi.

Hema Malini and her team will elucidate India's rich and diverse heritage while depicting various mythological characters, their symbolic references and their roles.

26/01/2016

DANCE

MELDED MELODIES

WITNESS USTAD ZAKIR HUSSAIN,
SHASHANK SUBRAMANYAM AND RAKESH
CHOURASIA CONJURE UP A MUSICAL FEAST.



TABLA LEGEND USTAD ZAKIR HUSSAIN WITH FLUTE MAESTROS SHASHANK SUBRAMANYAM & RAKESH CHOURASIA

Ustad Zakir Hussain, son of tabla genius Ustad Alla Rakha, is an iconic figure in the international arena, known for his ingenious techniques and dexterity in tabla playing. Ustad Zakir Hussain has many international collaborations to his credit. He was awarded the Grammy for Best World Music Album in 1992. He was bestowed with the Padma Shri in 1988 and the Padma Bhushan in 2002, by the Government of India.

Shashank Subramanyam is a Grammy nominated flute artist and specialises in Carnatic Music. He has performed in a wide range of musical ensembles ranging from the purely classical, symphonies, jazz and crossover projects. He is known for his intricate and intense alapanas, melodious compositions and faster and rhythmic improvisations.

Rakesh Chaurasia, the nephew of flute maestro Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia, has evolved a style which while maintaining the purity of the flute manages to capture the attention of the young listeners too. Rakesh's forte is in blending his flute without really losing its identity in mixed instruments' concerts.

Rakesh has already globetrotted many times over, enthralled audiences at classical and non-classical concerts. Rakesh has been the recipient of numerous awards and accolades, including the Indian Music Academy Award.



27/01/2016
JUGALBANDHI

UPCOMING TALENTS

23/01/2016
MOHINIYATTAM

PARVATHY SREEVALLABHAN & SANDRA PISHARODY

Parvathy Sreevallabhan is an upcoming Mohiniyattam performer who has been highly regarded for her poise and elegance, along with her passion for the art form. She has been training under Guru Nirmala Panicker for 12 years and in the meantime, has taken part in several performances in India and abroad.

Sandra Pisharody, a bright prospect for the classical dance form of Mohiniyattam, had her 'Arangettam' (debut) in 2008, and since then has taken part in several performances. Sandra has completed more than 16 years in Mohiniyattam. The numerous accolades that she won in State-level competitions speak volumes about her artistry.



24/01/2016
KUCHIPUDI

ARATHY SUDHAKARAN

Having started training in Bharatanatyam, Mohiniyattam and Kuchipudi at a very young age, Arathy's 'Arangettam' (debut) took place when she was six years old. Her abilities were recognised very early and with her natural flair for the art and relentless commitment she has developed into an elite performing artist. She has been the recipient of numerous awards at both interschool and intercollegiate levels, apart from having won all-round appreciation and accolades from the media and society.



27/01/2016
CARNATIC VOCAL

ARJUN B. KRISHNA

A promising talent in Indian classical music, Arjun Krishna has been performing in Carnatic music concerts inside and outside Kerala for 15 years. From a very young age, Arjun has been exhibiting considerable prowess when it comes to the 'Swaras' (notations). He has sung Keerthanas in feature films and also has lent his voice to many devotional songs. Presently under the tutelage of Prof. P. R. Kumara Kerala Varma, Arjun is surely a talent that you cannot miss.





KATHAKALI FEST

20/01/2016

TO

26/01/2016

FOOD FEST

Food Fest is a bountiful celebration of taste and flavours that will satisfy the cravings of every gourmet. Featuring dishes from Kerala, it will be the best opportunity to savour the diverse culinary offerings from across the state.





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