shrikrupa.org
12302 Saratoga Sunnyvale Road,
Saratoga, CA – 95070

shri krupa
DANCE FOUNDATION

InFocus



Shri Krupa completes its 300th Arangetram this season!!!



AUG 2023 ISSUE 5

Shri Krupa Performing Hall

Studio space available for rent for events, music recitals, performances and photoshoots

Capacity: 70 people

Click here for reservations

For more details: skdcdance@gmail.com

August Events

Arangetram and Margam season is here! Shri Krupa also has two dance dramas scheduled this summer!

Check out the programme schedule here

When	What	Where
August 5 3:30 pm	Arangetram of Shalini Subramanian	McAfee Performing Arts Centre
August 6 4 pm	Arangetram of Poornima Chandramouli	Sunnyvale Community Centre
August 12 4pm	Arangetram of Ishaanvi Rajesh	Sunnyvale Theatre
August 13 5pm	Gita Govindam Dance Drama Teaser here	Woodside Performing Arts Centre
August 19 4 pm	Margam by Shathiya Rengalwar and Saasha Kesavan	Mission City Center For Performing Arts
August 20 5pm	Meenakshi Kalyanam Dance Drama + 300 arangetram celebration	Mission City Center For Performing Arts





Get tickets for Gita Govindam dance drama here

Get tickets for Meenakshi Kalyanam dance drama here

WANT TO BE A SPONSOR FOR THE SHRI KRUPA DANCE DRAMA PRODUCTIONS?

Contact skdcdance@gmail.com for sponsorship details

To enroll a new student, visit shrikrupa.org/registration

SKDF is a 501(C)3 non-profit organization,
Any amount donated is tax-deductible.
Donate to skdfboard@gmail.com via Zelle
Tax ID 77-0330286

Zelle

From the Artistic Director's Desk

This year marks the 300th arangetram of Shri Krupa!

Guru Smt. Vishal Ramani reflects on her journey, and shares her vision and wisdom in this Q&A

Congratulations Aunty on the 300th arangetram. To start with, what do you see as the role of arangetram in a student's dance journey?

It is possible for a student to thrive without it, but the arangetram motivates the young dancer to attain perfection and gain confidence. It gives a platform to exhibit their learning and encourages pushing oneself further in an exciting way. The grit it develops extends to other disciplines in life too. It is extremely empowering to present the performance and that empowerment is the purpose of an arangetram.

You've completed 300 arangetrams this year and helped shape the dance culture in Bay area over the years. How would you describe the early days?

Back in the late 70s and early 80s, Indian cultural arts was completely missing in the mainstream. There was very little curiosity or interest. But nothing could dampen my high spirits, and I remained energetic and optimistic determined to find a way to make a mark. I first found my recognition in the intellectually charged atmosphere of Stanford where I performed. I established the school first at Remington Community Center, Sunnyvale. The first arangetram in Bay area was from my school and it was at Cubberley theater in 1983 by Shashikala Bhat. She did a Thodi varnam 'Danike'. It was a great struggle to gather musicians from all over the place to have live music for the performance. That is where the journey began. Today I am at 300, and I have truly lived through every single arangetram.

What would be the one big challenge and one big highlight on your journey to 300 arangetrams?

The biggest challenge has been the fact that I am teaching children raised in a country that is removed from the Indian culture, language and ethos and to make sure that this dance form which is an embodiment of this culture still reaches these children. The big highlight would be the presence of Carnatic music in the school and the support that Sri Ashok Subramaniam and Gandharva Vidya Center has lent to the growth of the school over all these years. In my personal life, the lovely grandchildren that fill my home with cheer, chatter and laughter would certainly be the highlight.

How have you evolved as a Guru over the years?

I have definitely evolved with the times and technological advancements. I have also experimented with new ideas for dance ballads. As you go deeper in this dance form, you form new ideas and new imagery. I have also evolved with every student. Every student is a blank canvas that requires me to paint differently with different paints and different strokes, and they have constantly been moulding my teaching methods and my choreography style.

What sets Shri Krupa apart? How does it distinguish itself as a top dance school?

Shri Krupa doesn't just inculcate cultural values, but it also imparts humanitarian values - discipline, timeliness, decorum, focus and respect. Students are encouraged to work together and help each other. No one at Shri Krupa is on the dance journey alone. Parents at Shri Krupa too come together and work towards the learning of all the students. We are a family, a community, and that is the secret of our success.

What is your message to students on their way to arangetram, and those on their post-arangetram journey?

For students on their way to arangetram, my advice would be to work towards perfection in all aspects of dance: both technical and emotive. For students on the post arangetram journey, my advice would be to continue learning and refining - especially the emotive qualities - by striving to experience them through life. My advice to all students would be to not settle for mediocrity but to always pursue excellence; the more you integrate yourself into the art, the more the art grows in you. Take responsibility for your individual devlopment and always be open to learning and never say done to learning.

The School At A Glance

JULY in Pictures

Ananya Kamath's Margam



Guru Poornima Performances



Season's First Arangetram! Prisha and Stuti Pogde





DON'T MISS the grand celebration of Shri Krupa's successful completion of 300+ Arangetrams, at the end of this season on August 20, at the end of the Meenakshi Kalyanam dance drama. Do attend and show your support!

Want to advertise on Shri Krupa Newsletter?

Contact skdcdance@gmail.com

Outgrew your dance costume? We invite you to drop off your used and in-fair-condition costumes at the studio.



Your donations will be made available to other students to buy at low cost.

The School At A Glance

Key Links

- Monthly Performance Series Signup Sheet
- Student/Parent Volunteer Signup Sheet
- Studio Rental for Students
- Yoga Classes Signup sheet
- Dance School Policy Handbook
- Music School Policy Handbook
- Festival performance signup sheet

Student Corner

Quiz

Who wrote Natyashastra?

See next month's issue for answer

Answer to last month's quiz:
The head, neck and eye movements are known as Bhedas in Bharatanatyam. Head movements are known as Shiro Bhedas, Neck movements as Greeva Bhedas and Eye movements are Dhrishti Bhedas

Students Of The Month



Saasha Kesavan is a rising freshman at Leigh High School. She started her Bharatanatyam journey at the age of four with Guru Smt. Vishal Ramani and completed her Arangetram in 2021. In her free time, she enjoys digital design, reading, listening to songs, and spending time with her little brother.



"I am truly blessed to be a disciple of Smt Vishal Ramani who sparked my interest in spirituality, ancient poetry and scriptures. She has been my pillar of motivation to do more and achieve more in dance and in life. Thank you Aunty for everything you do for us, and I seek your blessings."

Sukanya Sudugu is a software engineer at Apple and a mother and a dancer. Sukanya did her arangetram in 2019, and is an active volunteer at the school. Apart from dance she is also passionate about music.

To feature a student's art/literary work in Student Corner, email skdcdance@gmail.com

Introducing the Musicians

After the COVID hiatus, live music is back to Shri Krupa's Arangetrams and Margams this season! Below is a quick introduction of the musicians adding magic to Shri Krupa's performances.



NATTUVANGAM: Sri VASUDEVAN KESAVALU

Sri Vasudevan Kesavalu has mastered the art of Nattuvangam to perfection in the 20 years that he has been Padma Bhushan Smt. Alarmel Valli's student. She honored him with the title Layavidyadara in 2013. He is a highly talented percussionist and a disciple of Sangeetha Kalanidhi Dr. Umayalpuram K. Sivaraman. He was awarded the tile of Vadyakalaimani by the Tamil Nadu Government Music College, Chennai. He has performed in many theatres and festivals in India and abroad.

MRIDANGAM: Sri G.R.SENTHILKUMAR



Sri G. R. Senthilkumar has experience in the field of Mridangam for the past 20 years and was trained under the able guidance of his father Sri G.Ramamoorthy. He started playing Mridangam for Bharatanatyam from 1995 and has played for leading artists like Padma Bhushan Dr. Padma Subrahmanyam, Kalaimamani Indra Rajan among others. He has played Mridangam for dance performances and Natyanjalies conducted by various sabhas in India and abroad. He has been appreciated by stalwarts like Padma Bhushan Dr.Padma Subrahmanyam, Padma Vibhushan Sri Umayalpuram K. Sivaraman, Kalaimamani V. Chitra Visweswaran, for his performances at various Bharatanatyam dance debuts.

Introducing the Musicians

After the COVID hiatus, live music is back to Shri Krupa's Arangetrams and Margams this season! Below is a quick introduction of the musicians adding magic to Shri Krupa's performances.



VOCAL: Sri KAUSHIK CHAMPAKESAN

Sri Kaushik Champakesan started learning Mridangam at the age of 12 under the able guidance of Sri Nanganallur Swaminathan. He then developed a keen interest in Vocal Carnatic music and started learning the art under the tutelage of Smt. Padma Sandilyan and is presently under the guidance of Sri A.S. Murali. He has given several performances in sabhas in India and abroad. He has been accompanying many dancers in the field of Bharatanatyam, Mohini Attam, and Kuchipudi on vocals and Nattuvangam.

VIOLIN: Sri THIRUMARUGAL S. GANESH KUMAR

Sri Thirumarugal Ganesh Kumar, started his training at the age of 9, under the able guidance of Pannapattu Sri Venkatesan, further went to learn from Sikkal Sri Balu & Kovai Sri B.Dakshinamoorthy. He is currently pursuing his advance training under Padma Shri, Sangeetha Kalanithi Kumari A. Kanyakumari. He has also accompanied other eminent artists in their concerts and performs duets with his brother Thirumarugal Sri S. Dinesh Kumar. He has given numerous programs in India as well as in foreign countries. He is a recipient of various awards, like Kanchi Kamakoti Asthana Vidwan, Sri Lalgudi Jeyaraman Award (Krishna Gana Sabha), Sri Ramanuja Sangeetha Seva Ratna, and the Isai Kalaimanigal Award.



Performance Art Venues
McAfee Theater: 20300 Herriman Ave, Saratoga
Sunnyvale Theater: 550 E Remington Dr, Sunnyvale
Mission City Center for Performing Arts (MCCPA):
3250 Monroe Street, Santa Clara
Menlo-Atherton High School: 555 Middlefield Rd, Atherton

Accompaniments
Vocal: **Sri. Kaushik Champakesan**
Nattuvangam: **Sri. Vasudevan Kesavulu**
Violin: **Sri. Ganesh Kumar Sekar**
Mridangam: **Sri. Senthil Kumar Ramamurthy**

Choreography
Guru Smt. Vishal Ramani
Founder and Artistic Director
Shri Krupa Dance Company



2023 Arangetram Performances



Prisha Pogde & Stuti Pogde
Jul 30, 2023
McAfee Performing Arts Center

Ishaanvi Rajesh
Aug 12, 2023
Sunnyvale Theater





Shalini Subramanian
Aug 05, 2023
McAfee Performing Arts Center

Poornima Chandramouli
Aug 06, 2023
Sunnyvale Theater



2023 Margam Performances

Ananya Kamath
July 23, 2023
Menlo-Atherton High School



Saasha Kesavan & Shathiya Rengalwar
Aug 19, 2023
Mission City Center for Performing Arts

