



PraNartana

SCHOOL OF INDIAN CLASSICAL DANCE

- proudly presents -

NRITYANJALI

Bharatanatyam showcase by students of Dr. Vasumathi Prasad - an evening of celebration of expression, melody and rhythm.



SUNDAY THE 22ND FEBRUARY 2026

4:00 PM – 8:00 PM

OLYMPUS THEATRE

SGS COLLEGE, WISE CAMPUS,

NEW ROAD, STOKE GIFFORD, BRISTOL, BS34 8TQ

Dedicated to our Guru,

Padma Shri awardee, the legendary Smt. Chitra Visweswaran in celebration of her 75th birthday year, whose life and art have illuminated countless hearts and minds. May her journey continue to inspire generations with the same elegance, discipline, and divine grace that define her dance.



DR. VASUMATHI PRASAD is an accomplished Bharatanatyam danseuse, choreographer, and avid teacher. She began training from an early age in this dance form, and later as a disciple of renowned Padma Shri awardee Smt. Chitra Visweswaran, taking part in several of her Guru's group productions.

She pursued her interest right through her medical studies and professional practice. She has given several performances in India and later in the USA & UK. Over the past two decades, settled in Bristol, UK, she has dedicated herself full time to her passion.

INSTITUTE

Dr. Vasumathi has been running PraNartana, her dance school in Bristol, with her students regularly performing at community, cultural and temple events in the South West and Midlands. She focuses her efforts towards preserving the tradition and purity of the dance form, while at the same time adapting and improvising within the limits of the style.

Being active in various local charities, as well as South Asian forums, she has been teaching her students

With a community and cultural orientation. She was honoured as Natyakala Visharath through Tamil Association by Minister of Co-ordination, Indian High Commission, UK. She works with children with special needs at the local school and is exploring ways in which practice of this dance form can have beneficial effects on these youngsters.



Rooted in *Vazhuvoor* style, she is keen to popularize the now distinctly evolved Vichitra Bāni by her illustrious teacher. She has maintained a close connect with her alma mater, formalized in the form of affiliation of PraNartana School of Indian Classical Dance, Bristol to Chidambaram Academy of Performing Arts (CAPA), Chennai, with the blessings of her guru. This has paved the way for her students to be associated with the legend and her institution, facilitating collaboration for enhanced learning and opportunity to showcase talent to a wider forum.

FACULTY

Sri Srinivas Hirimagalur has been associated with PraNartana as an Honorary Faculty over the past few years. A trained Bharatanatyam dancer, he started learning Bharatanatyam at the young age of 5. His interest and passion for the dance form was nurtured by his Guru, Trichur Surendranathan, whose encouragement and meticulous training helped Srinivas perform his Arangetram at the age of 13 in Chennai, India. While in school, Srinivas performed on numerous occasions and at events, as well as featured on an episode of 'Nadana Arangam' aired on Doordarshan, Chennai.



After a long hiatus, Srinivas rekindled his interest in the dance form while in the UK and started learning from Dr. Vasumathi Prasad, who was teaching his daughters Bharatanatyam at the time. Since then, he has performed at various events in the UK along with the students of PraNartana dance school, and performed alongside his daughters at their *Arangetram* in 2018 in Bangalore. Srinivas continues to engage and support Dr. Vasumathi Prasad at PraNartana, with an unwavering commitment, passion, and dedication.

VI CHITRA BĀNI

This refers to the distinct stylistic identity developed and articulated by Smt. Chitra Visweswaran. Key characteristics of ViChitra Bāni: Strong grounding in śāstra (Nāṭyaśāstra principles), Emphasis on geometry and sculptural clarity, Intellectual depth and thematic sophistication, Subtle, refined abhinaya, Clean, unhurried lines with strong *araimandi* and Integration of music, literature, and thoughtful movements.



CLASSES & PERFORMANCES

Classes take place Saturday mornings at the dance studio, Wise Campus, Stoke Gifford, Bristol. PraNartana students perform frequently at community and social events in Bristol, Birmingham and other parts of the UK.

Several senior students have completed their *Arangetram* and are continuing their artistic journey with passion and dedication.

PROGRAMME

Item	Ragam / Talam	COMPOSER
1. PraNartana Shlokam		From Natesha Sahasranamam
2. Vara Vallabha Ramana	Hamsadhwani	Sri G.N. Balasubramaniam
3. Anjali	Gambeeranattai, Adi	Smt. Chitra Visweswaran
4. Alarippu	Tisram	
5. Mallari	Gambeeranattai, Adi	
6. Nataraja Kauthuvam	Ekam	Smt. Chitra Visweswaran
7. Pravahaanjali – Shlokam & Jai Gange	Puriya Dhanashiri, Adi	Smt. Chitra Visweswaran
8. Vātapi Ganapathim	Hamsadhwani, Adi	Sri Muthuswami Dikshitar
9. Jathiswaram	Ranjani, Adi	Sri R. Visveswaran & Smt. Chitra Visweswaran
10. Rāra Venu	Bilahari, Adi	Patnam Subrahmanya Ayyar
11. Chethi Mandāram	Anandabhairavi, Adi	Sri Vayalar Ramavarma, Sri Devarajan
12. Varnam	Charukesi, Adi	Sri Lalgudi G. Jayaraman, Smt. Chitra Visweswaran
— BREAK —		
13. Guru Brahma (shlokam)		
14. Gajānanam (shlokam)		
15. Aangikam Bhuvanam		
16. Alarulu Kuriyaga	Shankarabharanam, Adi	Sri Annamacharya
17. Chinna Chinna Padam	Kaapi, Adi	Smt. Ambujam Krishna
18. Sāma Gāna Lole	Hindolam, Roopakam	Sri G.N. Balasubramaniam
19. Amma Nimma	Raagamalika, Adi	Sri Purandaradasa
20. Panchāshat Peetarupini	Karnataka Devagandhari, Adi	Sri Muthuswami Dikshitar
21. Neenyako Ranga	Raagamalika, Adi	Sri Purandaradasa
22. Abhir Gulal	Bhup / Nat	Pandit Jitendra Abhisheki
23. Thillana	Chandrakauns, Adi	Sri Sundaram Iyer
24. Mangalam	Saurashtram, Adi	Sri Thyagaraja

PERFORMANCES & PERFORMERS

1. PraNartana SHLOKam

An invocation of Lord Nataraja from *Natesha Sahasranamam*, "He who is free from the illusion of the manifested world, yet self-evident and of the nature of intuitive consciousness. He is the intense impulse [of energy], His body is shared with the Goddess [*Ardhanarishwara*], and He is eternally engaged in the cosmic dance".

2. Vara VALLABHA Ramana

Invocation of Lord Ganesha, beloved of the eminent Vallabha Devi and the destroyer of obstacles, describing his attributes and asking for his protection.

3. ANJALI

The traditional opening number in a Bharatanatyam recital, this is a dynamic invocation offering flowers to the Lord of Dance, seeking the blessings of the Guru, and welcoming the audience. Gambheeranattai raga is traditionally associated with Lord Ganesha.

Performed by: Anusree, Gargy, Malavika, Mridhula, and Ramani.

4. ALARIPPU

A celebratory piece of pure rhythmic dance that marks the formal commencement of the recital. Symbolizing the blossoming of a flower, the dancer offers a "garland of movements" to the Divine, the Guru, and the audience. This version, set to the Tisram (triple) rhythm, is known for its crisp geometry and vibrant, energetic pace.

Performed by: Anika, Charvi, Dhriti, Diya, Sanchita, Sejal, and Tvakstha.

5. MALLARI

Mallari is a grand invocatory piece that celebrates the movement of the Divine. Through intricate footwork and majestic poses, the dancer recreates the vibrant atmosphere of a temple festival, culminating in a crescendo of rhythmic speeds.

Performed by: Gaia, Meenakshi, Sanvi, Sarah, and Yashica.

PERFORMANCES & PERFORMERS

6. Nataraja Kauthuvam

Kauthuvam is derived from "Kautukamu," a song of praise. A vibrant composition that celebrates Lord Nataraja, the King of Dance. This piece intertwines powerful rhythmic syllables with poetic lyrics, describing the majestic sound of Shiva's ankle bells and His divine role as the creator and sustainer of the cosmic rhythm.

Performed by: Srinivas.

7. PRAVAHĀNJALI – SHLOKAM & JAI GANGE

A thematic tribute to the sacred River Ganges. Beginning with a meditative Sanskrit verse depicting her celestial descent, the piece transitions into a celebratory song. The dance captures the duality of the river—her powerful, turbulent energy as she falls from the heavens and her serene, life-sustaining grace as she purifies the earth.

Performed by: Divya, Mrudula, Neha, Niranjani, Nivedita, Shreeya, Srinivas, and Vasumathi.

8. VĀTAPI GANAPATHIM (INSTRUMENTAL)

A masterpiece of Carnatic music, this *kriti* invokes the "Vatapi" form of Ganesha to remove all obstacles. The lyrics weave together poetic descriptions of His elephantine form with deep philosophical truths, celebrating Him as the source of the primal sound 'Om' and the guardian of the Mooladhara Chakra.

Performed by: Ameya, Kalyani, Kavya, Mokshaa, Shivani, and Willow.

9. JATHISWARAM

A vibrant nritta sequence weaving swaras and rhythmic patterns with precision and elegance, brilliant showcase of pure dance (Nritta) where melody and rhythm intertwine. Set to the soul-stirring Raga Ranjani, this item dispenses with words, allowing the dancer to become a visual manifestation of musical notes.

Performed by: Agnas, Amaris, Mahika, and Varsitha.

PERFORMANCES & PERFORMERS

10. Rāra Venu

This Swarajathi is a joyous and rhythmic invitation to the divine cowherd, Lord Krishna. Set to the morning Raga Bilahari, this composition captures the essence of Bhakti (devotion) through a playful dialogue between melody and movement.

Performed by: Aadhya, Ahannya, Linitha, Lucky, Reya, Rudra, and Tamee.

11. CHETHI MANDĀRAM

A soul-stirring Malayalam *kriti* dedicated to Lord Guruvayurappan. The piece captures the essence of simple, pure devotion as a devotee offers a garland of fragrant garden flowers—Chethi, Mandaram, and Tulasi—to the enchanting flute-player of Guruvayur. It is a poetic celebration of the bond between the Divine and the humble seeker.

Performed by: Anjali, Anusree, Gargy, Giby, Malavika, Mridhula, Nandita, Ramani, Renu, Saranya, and Trupti.

12. VARNAM

The centrepiece of the repertoire, the Varnam is an intricate tapestry of rhythm and emotion. Set to the soul-stirring Raga Charukesi, this composition portrays the yearning of the soul for the Divine. Through a series of demanding rhythmic cycles and evocative storytelling, the dancer explores the nuances of devotion, patience, and ultimate surrender.

Performed by: Mrudula, Nivedita, and Shreeya.

- BREAK -

13. GURU BRAHMA - SHLOKAM

A foundational prayer honouring the Teacher as the embodiment of the Divine Trinity. Through this verse, the dancer pays homage to the lineage of Gurus who transform the darkness of ignorance into the light of knowledge, acknowledging the Guru as the supreme guide on the spiritual and artistic path.

Performed by: Aadhya, Ahannya, Linitha, Lucky, Reya, Rudra, and Tamee

PERFORMANCES & PERFORMERS

14. Gajānanam - SHLOKAM

A timeless invocation to Lord Ganesha, the elephant-headed deity. This shloka describes His majestic form and His role as the compassionate remover of sorrows and obstacles.

Performed by: Gaia, Meenakshi, Sanvi, Sarah, and Yashica.

15. ANGIKAM BHUVANAM

A profound salutation to Lord Nataraja, the Cosmic Dancer. The verse describes the Divine as the manifestation of the universe: His body is the world, His speech is the total of all languages, and the celestial bodies are His ornaments.

Performed by: Ameya, Kalyani, Kavya, Mokshaa, Shivani, and Willow.

16. ALARULU KURIYUGA

A poetic masterpiece in Telugu captures the celestial grace of Goddess Alamelu Manga. The lyrics vividly describe her movements as a "shower of flowers" and her smile as radiant moonlight. This piece explores the delicate beauty and divine elegance of the Goddess through graceful gestures and expressive storytelling.

Performed by: Anika, Charvi, Dhriti, Diya, Sanchita, Sejal, and Tvakstha.

17. CHINNA CHINNA PADAM

A heartwarming Tamil composition that captures the playful innocence of Baby Krishna. The dancer portrays the joy of Mother Yashoda as she watches Krishna take his first tiny steps, his golden anklets creating a rhythmic melody. It is a celebratory piece filled with *Vatsalya* (parental love), depicting the mischievous and enchanting nature of the Little Cowherd of Gokul.

Performed by: Divya

PERFORMANCES & PERFORMERS

18. Sāma Gāna LOLE

A brilliant tribute to Goddess Saraswati, the embodiment of wisdom and the arts. Set to the enchanting Raga Hindolam, the composition praises the Goddess as one who finds joy in the sacred chants of the Sama Veda. The dance weaves together graceful depictions of the Goddess with vibrant rhythmic sequences, celebrating the divine source of all creative inspiration.

Performed by: Mrudula and Shreeya.

19. Amma Nimma

A delightful and enchanting Kannada *devaranama* composition in praise of Lord Krishna. The dancer uses expressive storytelling to depict the beautiful, divine presence in daily life and household. It is a charming exploration of *Vatsalya* (parental love) and Bhakti (devotion).

Performed by: Neha

20. PANCHĀSHAT PEETARUPINI

A scholarly and soulful tribute to the Divine Mother. The composition celebrates the Goddess as the embodiment of the 50 sacred Shakti Peethas (energy centers) and the 50 letters of the Sanskrit alphabet. Through meditative movements and graceful expressions, the dancer honours the Goddess as the source of all vibration, sound, and spiritual wisdom.

Performed by: Agnas, Amaris, Mahika, and Varsitha.

21. Neenyako Ranga

A profound Kannada composition that explores the intimacy between a devotee and the Divine. Using the art of Nindastuti (ironic praise), the dancer playfully questions the need for the Lord's physical presence, concluding that the mere chanting of His sacred name is enough to be protected. In this masterpiece of emotional depth and spiritual wit, the stories of Prahlada, Draupadi and Dhruva are depicted.

Performed by: Nivedita

PERFORMANCES & PERFORMERS

22. ABHIR GULAL UDHALIT Re Rang

An ecstatic Marathi devotional song (*Abhang*) that transports the audience to the banks of the Chandrabhaga River. Set to a spirited folk rhythm, the dance depicts the joy of pilgrims in Pandharpur as they shower coloured powders (Abhir and Gulal) in celebration of Lord Vitthal. It is a vibrant portrayal of a devotee's surrender, where all worldly distinctions dissolve into the universal colour of divine love.

Performed by: Anjali, Anusree, Gargy, Giby, Malavika, Mridhula, Nandita, Ramani, Renu, Saranya, and Trupti.

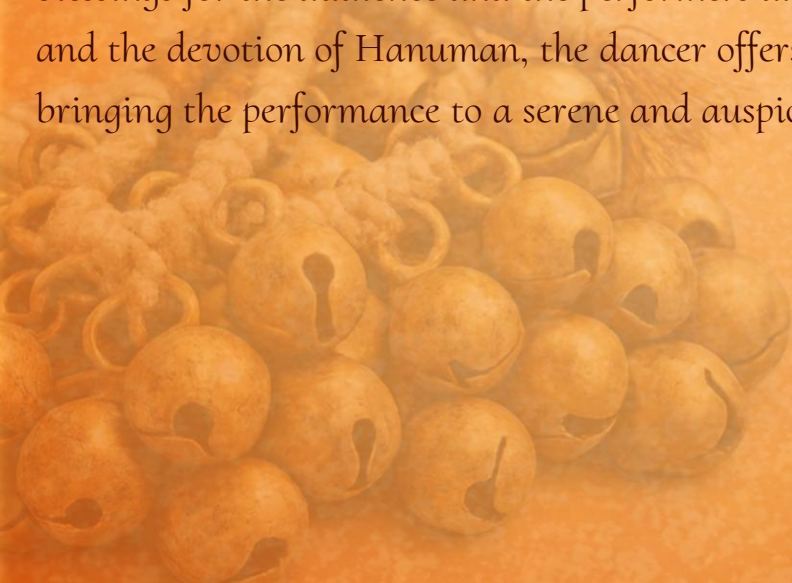
23. THILLANA

A vibrant and rhythmic finale to the repertoire (*margam*). Set to the moonlit and majestic Raga Chandrakauns, this Thillana is a celebration of pure dance. It weaves together intricate footwork, and synchronized body movements. As the rhythm accelerates, the dancers dissolve into a whirlwind of joy, bringing the performance to a grand and spirited conclusion.

Performed by: Agnas, Amaris, Divya, Mahika, Mrudula, Neha, Niranjani, Nivedita, Shreeya, Srinivas, and Varsitha.

24. MANGALAM

The traditional concluding prayer of the recital. This Telugu *kriti* seeks divine blessings for the audience and the performers alike. Invoking the grace of Lord Rama and the devotion of Hanuman, the dancer offers a final salutation of gratitude, bringing the performance to a serene and auspicious close.



CREDITS

<i>Choreography support</i>	-	<i>Mrudula, Shreeya & Nivedita</i>
<i>Compering</i>	-	<i>Shivajini & Sailesh</i>
<i>Costume</i>	-	<i>Ranjana Tailors, Chennai</i>
<i>Dance Jewellery</i>	-	<i>Sri Amman, Chennai</i>
<i>Videography</i>	-	<i>Juby Mathew</i>
<i>Photography</i>	-	<i>Sanat</i>
<i>Sound & Lighting</i>	-	<i>Olympus Theatre</i>
<i>Publicity material</i>	-	<i>Mrudula & Niranjani</i>
<i>Catering</i>	-	<i>Vijay Narasimha</i>

PraNartana school would like to express their heartfelt gratitude to Smt. Sukanya Ravindhar, Executive Director, Chidambaram Academy of Performing Arts, Chennai for all the inspiration, support and guidance.

On behalf of PraNartana school, *Dr. Vasumathi & Srinivas Hirimagalur* would like to thank all the students who took part in the event for their dedication, passion and hard work, and to senior students *Niranjani, Nivedita, Mrudula, Shreeya, Neha & Divya* for their active participation, and all the parents for their continued support and enthusiasm.

We would like to acknowledge the contributions from all the volunteers for excellent stage décor, backstage management, audio & lighting support, catering and logistics, including:

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