



Bharatanatyam Arangetram of
Nikita Barsainya

Daughter of Prerna and Naveen Barsainya
Disciple of Vidushi Dr M. S. Srilakshmi

Saturday, 15 April 2023, 5 pm
NUS UCC Theatre







Message from His Excellency
P. Kumaran
*High Commissioner of India
to Singapore*

P. KUMARAN



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23 March 2023

MESSAGE

I extend my hearty congratulations to Ms Nikita Barsainya on the occasion of her Arangetram, which is a culmination of years of formal training and undeniable efforts, fueled by a passion for the art.

Music, dance and the performing arts are widely recognised as a means to building bridges that promote greater understanding between communities and cultures. It therefore gives me much happiness and pride, to see that the Indian community in Singapore continues to make commendable efforts to nourish Indian art and culture among the younger generation and keep the torch of tradition burning bright in the years to come.

I wish young Nikita all success in pursuing her dreams, both in her chosen art and in her professional career. I hope the discipline and rigour learned by her during her years of training in classical dance, will stand her in good stead in other aspects of her life too.

With warm wishes,


(P. Kumaran)



Message from

Ms. Low Yen Ling

Mayor of Southwest District

*Minister of State for Culture, Community
and Youth*

*Minister of State for Trade and Industry
Member of Parliament, Chua Chu Kang
GRC*

My heartiest congratulations to Nikita Barsainya on your Arangetram, an important milestone in the journey of an Indian classical dancer. This achievement is the culmination of your dedication, intense training and hard work. It showcases your talent, perseverance and determination to master the art of dance.

Apart from the performing arts, dance brings people together and enhances the celebration of life and important traditions. I trust that your passion for dance will continue to grow and we look forward to your continued mastery of a fine art form that is a key to our arts and cultural scene.

I wish you every success in the future and may you ascend to greater heights in dance.

Thank you.



Capt. Ashok K. Batura

Honorary Consul-General,
Consulate of the Republic of Malta, Singapore Managing
Director of Sinoda Shipping Agency Pte. Ltd.

A veteran of the shipping industry, Capt. Batura has been awarded many accolades for his contributions to society. He was born in India and pursued a career in Merchant Navy, and eventually moved to Singapore in 1978. He founded Sinoda Shipping Agency in April 1992 and is the Honorary Consul-General of the Republic of Malta in Singapore since 1999. His wife, Mrs. Sarita Batura and him have been supportive of the Indian Arts, and strongly advocate being connected to the roots.

Guest of Honour



Special Guests



Mr. Kris Bhatt

Principal Secondary School
NPS International School,
Singapore



Ms. Geeta Dayal

Managing Director
Healthy Mind Online,
Singapore



Dr. Vijay Kumar Sharma

Associate Professor at National
University of Singapore,
Senior Consultant, Neurology,
NUH Singapore



Mr. Neeraj Chaturvedi

President Bhojpuri Association
of Singapore,
Director at Cubek Technologies
Founder and CEO of
ElectronicsCrazy Singapore

About Natyaranjini



Natyaranjini Centre For Dance Excellence: Natyaranjini is a premier institution founded by Vidushi Dr. M.S.Srilakshmi dedicated to impart focused training in Indian Classical dance -Bharatanatyam having students across various nationalities in Singapore who have developed a natural passion for learning Indian Traditional Dance form. She has been training and mentoring Dance Teachers and students from Singapore, Malaysia, India, Ireland, USA, Panama and various other countries.

With her guidance and training, her senior students have received International Awards at various Major Platforms. With a structured syllabus, Natyaranjini has been training students from various age groups. Natyaranjini conducts Annual Bharatanatyam Examinations and Bharatanatyam Workshops at its Center in Singapore. Natyaranjini has also invited Senior Art Critics, Musicians, Dancers from India for their Major Events in Singapore.



About the Guru

Vidushi Dr. M.S.Srilakshmi is a Danseuse par Excellence, she is a renowned Bharatanatyam Artiste, Artistic Director, Educator, Choreographer, Collaborator and Curator. She has choreographed over 5000 choreographies spanning over four decades of her Career. She started her initial training from her mother K. Sharadamani and continued with Smt Manjula Paramesh. She underwent advanced training from Sangeetha Nataka Academy Awardee late Guru Smt Narmada of Bangalore, India and then Guru Sri K.P.Kittappa Pillai and Nattuvangam from Smt Kamala Rani of Kalakshetra.

Her Dance Productions have premiered at the Esplanade Theatres by the Bay and also featured in Mediacorp Vasantham TV Channel. She has collaborated traditional Bharatanatyam styles with various instruments and dance styles for joint dance productions. Her article has been published in the book “Namma Naduvina Sadhakar, Belli Anchu- Silver Lining”. She is the Curator, Producer and Artistic Director of Annual Grand event “BEYOND BORDERS INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF CLASSICAL DANCE AND MUSIC” which is a prestigious platform for prominent artists. She is also on the panel of judges and award committee for various National and International level dance competitions in Singapore and India. Vidushi Dr. M.S.Srilakshmi is a multifaceted personality. She is also a Grassroot leader and has recently started a YouTube Channel- “Explore and Experience Kannada Vlogs Singapore” sharing Informative and Educative videos.

Vidushi Dr. M.S.Srilakshmi has been recognized and has received many awards for her achievements and contributions to dance and community, such as Nrithya Shiromani Award, Aryabhatta International Award, Kannada Seva Ratna Award, Adarsha Shikshaka Ratna Award, Women & Excellency Bathukamma Gold Award and many more. Her interviews had been telecasted on various TV channels.

Nikita's Journey



Nikita's passion for dance has been evident since her early year; she began learning Indian semi-classical and folk dance at the age of 4, performing solo and group dances at numerous social and cultural events.

She began exploring Bharatnatyam at the age of 6, learning the basics of the dance form such as various hand gestures, facial expressions, and footwork. After her initial years of formal training, Nikita continued to learn more advanced aspects of the art from 2018 onwards under the guidance of Vidushi Dr. M.S.Srilakshmi, an accomplished Bharatanatyam dancer and performer. Under her guidance, Nikita has performed at various platforms and events, such as Salam India, Expo events, ancient temples around Singapore, and many more. She also competed in the International Classical Dance competition organized by ICMDA (International Carnatic Musician and Dancers Association), India, winning the Bronze medal in the senior solo performance category.

Apart from dancing, Nikita enjoys singing and performing music. She underwent her basic training in Indian Carnatic and Hindustani vocals under gurus from India as well as Singapore. She also enjoys playing the piano, having been formally training since the age of 8. Nikita is a student of NPS International School Singapore and is starting Grade 10 this year.

Nikita excels academically and in her extra-curricular activities, particularly in the area of public policy debate; the Model United Nations is among her favourite platforms to express her viewpoints on Global Co-operation and International Welfare. She is a vivid reader who also indulges in writing, having published a few articles in her school newspaper. Nikita is always bubbling with creative ideas and enjoys contributing to a variety of interesting discussions. As a compassionate young girl, she actively seeks out opportunities to serve the community and volunteer for social causes.

Pursuing her passion for dance and music is not without its challenges; it requires hard work, dedication, and a willingness to take risks and persevere in the face of setbacks. She has successfully managed to navigate and maintain the balance between her interests in dance and music, and her academic work.

Nikita is overjoyed to perform this Arangetram, which marks her formal solo debut into the world of Bharatnatyam, and looks forward to sharing her passion for dance with others. She has tirelessly worked on the intricate footwork, hand gestures, facial expressions, and body movements required for the performance. She has put in years of training, discipline, and practice to learn pieces of ever-increasing complexity and refine her technique, timing, and expression.

Her journey as a Bharatnatyam dancer thus far has been exciting, insightful, and fulfilling.







Pushpanjali

Ragam: Valachi

Taalam: Adi

Choreography:

Sangeetha Nataka Academy Awardee

Guru Smt Narmada

Ganesha Stuthi

Ragam: Thillang

Taalam: Adi

Language: Tamil

Composer:

Sri Papanasam Sivan

Choreography:

Vidushi Dr. M.S.Srilakshmi

Alarippu

Taalam: Taalamaalika

Choreography:

Vidushi Dr. M.S.Srilakshmi

Devi Stuthi

Ragam: Neelambari

Taalam: Adi

Language: Sanskrit

Composer: Sri Lingaraj Urs

Choreography:

Vidushi Dr. M.S.Srilakshmi

Varnam

Ragam: Ramapriya

Taalam: Adi

Language: Kannada

Composer:

Vidwan Sri Mahesh Swamy

Choreography:

Vidushi Dr. M.S.Srilakshmi

Shiva Stuthi

Ragam: Hamsanandi

Taalam: Adi

Language: Hindi

Composer:

Maharaja Swati Tirunal

Choreography:

Vidushi Dr. M.S.Srilakshmi





Bhajan

Ragam: Yamuna Kalyani

Taalam: Adi

Language: Sanskrit

Composer:

Sant Goswami Tulsidas

Choreography:

Vidushi Dr. M.S.Srilakshmi

Thillana

Ragam: Brindavani

Taalam: Adi

Language: Telugu

Composer:

Dr. M.Balamurali Krishna

Choreography:

Vidushi Dr. M.S.Srilakshmi

Mangalam



Musicians



Vidushi Dr. M.S. Srilakshmi – Nattuvangam

Vidushi Dr. M.S. Srilakshmi is a Danseuse par Excellence, she is a renowned Bharatanatyam Artiste, Artistic Director, Educator, Choreographer, Collaborator and Curator. She has choreographed over 5000 choreographies spanning over four decades of her Career.

She started her initial training from her mother K. Sharadamani and continued with Smt Manjula Paramesh. She underwent advanced training from Sangeetha Nataka Academy Awardee late Guru Smt Narmada of Bangalore, India and then Guru Sri K.P. Kittappa Pillai and Nattuvangam from Smt Kamala Rani of Kalakshetra.



Ampili Pillai – Vocals

Blessed with a rich mellifluous voice, Ampili has been known to reduce audiences to tears with her soulful renditions. In the last decade, she has mesmerised and thrilled audiences all over Singapore through countless Bhaskar's Arts' productions. It is also the very same innate ability to draw the audience into her music that has amassed her loyal fans everywhere she performs. Needless to say, Ampili's debut music CD Poonkuyil is having a successful run. Aside from being the resident vocalist at Bhaskar's Arts, Ampili is a member of the teaching faculty at Nrityalaya Aesthetics Society.



Ramanan Thiruchittampalam – Mirdangam

Ramanan started learning mirdangam at the age of 12 from the late Sri R Thangavelu of Kuala Lumpur. In 1981, he joined SIFAS and studied under the loving care of Sri Karaikudi R Krishnamurthy. Ramanan passed his mirdangam final examination conducted by the Society in June 1984 with distinction and was awarded a certificate of merit. He had his mirdangam arangetram in 1984 during the concert of Sangeetha Kalanidhi Sri T V Sankaranarayanan. Over the past 40 years, Ramanan has performed with many accomplished musicians and dancers both locally and abroad, including providing mirdangam accompaniment for more than 400 Bharatanatyam arangetrams.



Lazar Thurakkal Sebastine – Violin

Shri. Lazar started his professional life as a performer and teacher in 1991. His father, Late Shri. Sebastine Thurakkal, a well-known violinist himself, laid a very strong foundation in music. Shri Lazar joined R L V college of music & Institute of Fine Arts, Tripunithura in 1984 for a 4-year diploma course in music and scored 1st rank in Kerala state for violin. He then pursued a 3 year post graduate diploma course in 1991. Shri. Lazar is a graded artist with All India Radio & Doordarshan, and was an instructor with Singapore Indian Orchestra & Choir People's Association Singapore. He is working as a tutor in Centre For the Arts National University of Singapore. He has composed music for tele films, devotional albums, contemporary & classical music albums. Besides being an accomplished violinist, he is also adept at playing Keyboard and has knowledge in Western Classical music.

From the Grandparents

Mrs Shakuntala Gupta and Dr. S R Gupta



Watching you grow into an individual of grace, beauty, and skill is truly breathtaking. Watching you, we can feel the passion and dedication that you have put into mastering your craft.

We are blessed to have a granddaughter like you who chases after her dreams with such determination and vigor. Your talent and artistry are truly inspiring, and we are constantly left amazed by the things that you work hard to achieve.

Thank you for bringing so much joy into our lives. We love you much more than you could ever imagine, and we are very proud to be your grandparents.

When God wishes to reward you, he does so with a daughter. A single smile from your daughter puts you at ease, regardless of how difficult the day may have been. We are blessed to have been able to see our daughter Nikita grow from taking her tiny first steps to performing intricate footwork, from holding her little fingers to watching her display Mudras, and from wearing an expression of unchanging wonder and awe to being able to exhibit complex facial expressions; gradually evolving into a beautiful person who expresses herself through the magical dance form Bharatnatyam.

Her Arangetram debut is a momentous occasion for our family, and we are filled with pride and joy as we watch our daughter showcase the skill and talent that she has developed through years of dedicated practice. While she makes her performance look easy, we have seen her feet red and swollen from hours of practice, revealing the immense difficulty needed to prepare for such a performance. Her continuous hard work and unyielding persistence throughout the preparation period were both astonishing and awe-inspiring; we are fortunate to have watched her evolve into a beautiful and confident young dancer before our very eyes.

We are grateful to our daughter's guru Vidushi Dr. M.S.Srilakshmi for her unceasing effort in guiding Nikita through her journey. We are also deeply appreciative of the support and encouragement we have received along the way from our family, friends and the community.

From the Parents *Prerna and Naveen Barsainya*





Acknowledgements and Heartfelt Gratitude to

My Mom, Dad and my brother Nilay for their continuous support and encouragement.

Training and Guidance

*Guru Vidushi Dr M S Srilakshmi,
Natyaranjini Centre for Dance excellence
Singapore*

Accompanists

*Vidushi Dr M S Srilakshmi (Nattuvangam),
Ms. Ampili Pillai (Vocal), Mr. Ramanan
Thiruchittampalam (Mirdangam) and Mr.
Lazar Thurakkal Sebastine (Violin)*

Designs and digital content creation
Team

*Ms. Soo Mei Fei, Mr. Sandeep Gopal Nair,
Mr. Sandeepan*

Make-up and Hair stylist

Ms. Selvy Radha Krishnan

Photography and Videography

Mr. Lijesh Karunakaran



Costume Designer

Mr. Vinod, India

Venue and Technical support

*Ms Geraldine Sew, Mr Selvan and NUS
technical team*

Decoration Team

*Ms. Shivani Barsainya, Ms. Udit Mishra,
Ms. Padmaja Alavarthi*

Emcee

*Ms. Tripti Bhadauria and Ms. Vaishalee
Rajaraman*

Event management and support Team

*Mr. Ajay Barsainya, Mr. Rohit Jaiswal,
Ms. Priyanka Jaiswal, Ms. Anjusha
Sandeep, Mr. Shailendra Mishra, Mr.
Sudhakar Mannem, Mr. Manish Pratap,
Ms. Aisa Gonzaga Cagadas*

All the Volunteers and Ushers for their efforts to make this event smooth and successful.
Audience, Family and Friends for their love, blessings, and unwavering support.

