



Converging Arts
Columbus

Schools of Tradition



MAY 19

**FORT HAYES
PERFORMING ARTS
CENTER**

Echoes of Tradition

Concept

Lauren Spavelko

Madhavi Sudhir

Musical Director

Lauren Spavelko

Choreography

Madhavi Sudhir

Sarah Hixon

Amisha Shah

Theater Coordinator & Sound

Ryan Van Bibber

Light Design & Operation

Eric Burns

Visual Media

Hemalatha Venkataraman

Performances By

Hixon Dance (directed by Sarah Hixon)

Natyapriya Indian Classical Dance School (directed by Madhavi Sudhir)

CREATORS' NOTES

Lauren Spavelko, Musical Director

Our community is increasingly global, and so is the intermingling of our arts, traditions, and cultures. I have immensely enjoyed diving more deeply into Indian music and dance, finding the intersections with Western classical music and dance, and working with our creative team to create this incredible program for you today.

In choosing the music for the “Western” side of the program, I researched pieces by Indian and Indian American composers. The composers featured (Reena Esmail, Shruthi Rajasekar, and Kanniks Kannikeswaran) have an intimate depth and breadth of knowledge in both Western and Indian musical traditions. They are uniquely able to blend these as they choose, or to draw from one tradition more than another for a particular piece. The result is an astounding array of colors, sounds, and styles—Western classical, Carnatic (southern Indian), and Hindustani (northern Indian). Many of these challenged our Western players to include techniques and stylings from the Indian tradition. A number of songs feature an Indian solo singer nestled within the Western ensemble.

For the “Indian” side of the program, Madhavi selected a number of pieces that reflect the Carnatic and Hindustani styles of playing, both traditional works and modern compositions. We hear a dazzling palette of Indian instruments—drums including Edakka, Chenda, Mridangam, and Tabla; cymbals including Elathalam and Nattuvangam; stringed instruments including the Veena and Hindustani violin; Flute; and Hindustani and Carnatic vocals.

Our dancers also had new experiences and challenges dancing to this music. For the Indian dancers, some scenes are set to more traditional Indian music (such as “Samara” and “Veeram”) while others are distinctly more Western in sound and are completely different from what they normally dance to (“I saw You and I danced”). Similarly, the Hixon Dance company brings Western modern dance to the driving and rhythmic “Pulikali,” a Tiger Dance song from the folk art tradition of Kerala, India performed on the Chenda (drum) and Elathalam (cymbals). Perhaps the greatest union of musical and dance styles in a single work is Reena Esmail’s three-movement work “Meri Sakhi ki Avaaz,” a work about two sisters from two different cultures.

We hope you enjoy the production!

Madhavi Sudhir, Choreographer

Getting together and creating a unique production has been a very meaningful experience for me. We tried to get two different worlds together in terms of music and dance and it's been very rewarding to see the outcome. Artists from different walks of life have exchanged their expertise in their respective fields. I hope that you enjoy and carry this experience along with you.

PRODUCTION

Music Director	Lauren Spavelko
Choreographer	Madhavi Sudhir
Choreographer	Sarah Hixon
Choreographer	Amisha Shah
Theater Coordinator & Sound	Ryan Van Bibber
Light Design & Operation	Eric Burns
Visual Media	Hemalatha Venkataraman

WESTERN MUSICIANS

Chelsea Hart Melcher (soprano)	Nancy Nehring (viola)
Vidita Kanniks (soprano/Indian soloist)	Sam Johnson (cello)
Devin Copfer (violin)	Beth Parker (piano)
Liz Fisher (violin)	

INDIAN SINGERS

Sumamala Devulapally (Carnatic)	Bipin Venkappan (Carnatic)
Ramya Janaki (Carnatic)	Sugata Chatterjee (Hindustani)

INDIAN INSTRUMENTALISTS

Dhanush Kondoth	Edakka/Chenda (drums)
Sreenath Kunapuli	Mridangam (side drum)
Vinayak Parvate	Tabla (Hindustani hand drums)
Siddharth Kammanadiminti	Flute
Sumamala Devulapally	Veena
Hurshil Nittala	Violin
Madhavi Sudhir	Elathalam / Nattuvangam (cymbals)

NATYAPRIYA INDIAN CLASSICAL DANCE SCHOOL

Directed by Madhavi Sudhir

Soumya Kalle	Niju Baby Narakathu*
Mananya Ellendula	<i>*Father of Student</i>
Spoorthi Kandalai	Kimaya Menon
Kimaya Menon	Hamsini Sai Batchu
Mayank Naik	Dhanvi Basireddy
Trisha Subin	Gauri Anil
Snikitha Kaushiki Vedula	Mithila Uplenchwar
Nikhita Vijayakumar	Aarna Tandra
Srilaasya Lagishetty	Sreedha Marre
Chetana Killada	Joshitha Duvvur
Harshini Burra	Hansika Namilike
Anu Sashwathi Anantha	Nethra Denduluri

HIXON DANCE COMPANY

Directed by Sarah Hixon

Ellie Bearss	Sarah Price
Alex Graban	Anne Raspe
Alicia Hann	Sarah Vah
Lisa Horton	

KATHAK DANCERS

Directed by Amisha Shah

Mithila Agnihotri	Surbhi Subramanyam
Janki Shah	Saloni Patel
Jvanika Deshpande	Sharanya Mishra
Jyoti Bhatt	Gauri Joshi
Shital Vyas	Anubhuti Shah

AUDIENCE ETIQUETTE

You are welcome to take photos and short videos.
(No flash please!) Please remember to dim your phone screens. Please share on social media with these hashtags so others can find our work.

IG: @convergingartscbus
#ConvergingArtsCbus #cbusarts #EchoesofTradition

Echoes of Tradition Program

OPENING

Scene 1 – Ganesha and Trishra Allaripu
Traditional

Scene 2 – Modhuro

Arr. Dr. Kanniks Kannikeswaran

NAVARASA

Scene 3 – Navarasa

Introduction to the 9 Emotions

Dr. Sanjay Shantharam

Narration by Madhavi Sudhir

Raag: Madhubanathi - Adi

SRINGARA / LOVE

Scene 4 – Meri Sakhi ki Avaaz (My Sister's Voice)

- I. Do Kaliyaan (Two Flowers)**
- II. Sweet is the Voice**
- III. Mirror/Opposite**

Reena Esmail

Quote: Delibes "Flower Duet" (Lakmé)

HASYA / JOY

Scene 5 – I Saw You and I Danced

Shruthi Rajasekar

KARUNA / COMPASSION, PITY

Scene 6 – Devotee

Shruthi Rajasekar

RAUDRA / ANGER

Scene 7 – Samhara Tandava

Raag: Mayamalavagowla - Adi

VEERA / BRAVERY, COURAGE

Scene 8 – Veeram


Madhurai R Muralidharan

Raag: Ragamalika, Khanda Chapu

BHAYANAKA / FEAR

Scene 9 – Pulikali

Traditional



BHEEBHATSA / DISGUST
Scene 10 – Putana Samhara
Raag: Abheri, Adi talam

ADBHUTA / WONDER
Scene 11 – Tarana
Raag: Yaman, Teen taal

SHANTA / PEACE
Scene 12 – Dhire Dhire
Reena Esmail
Raag: Megh

CLOSING
Scene 13 – Jugalbandi
Raag: Sindhubhairavi, Adi

PERFORMING ORGANIZATIONS

CONVERGING ARTS COLUMBUS

Converging Arts Columbus connects artists to create innovative programs with diverse artistic expressions to explore themes of humanity. Committed to engaging local talent, programs aim to reach an audience in the central Ohio area and encourage a growing appreciation for the arts within the community. In November 2023, Converging Arts Columbus was selected as the winner of the Greater Columbus Arts Council's Columbus Makes Art Excellence Award for our production of *The Journey: Civil Rights*, concept and creation by Destiny Coleman.

NATYAPRIYA INDIAN CLASSICAL DANCE SCHOOL

Natyapriya Dance school enriches students in Indian classical dance styles both Bharatnatyam and Kuchipudi, for more than two decades. It creates an environment for students to get acquainted with their culture and introduces them to their centuries old dance heritage, which has been passed on from generations.

The dance group has traveled to India to perform and around the US to presented repertoires of different composers, worked on modern themes, choreographed for other community productions and have done collaborations with other dance styles. Natyapriya conducts workshops, eminent dance Instructors from India have shared their experiences. There dancers have been invited to perform at Art festivals for cultural exchange, work on productions which are in different genres. They are well known for their dramas, creative concepts, costumes and choreography.

HIXON DANCE COMPANY

Hixon Dance is a modern dance performing ensemble founded in 2007 by Sarah Hixon. The company is active in the performing arts community throughout central Ohio and beyond. Hixon Dance regularly collaborates with other artists—especially musicians—and experts in other fields to inspire, create, and produce new work. The company is known for presenting impactful and finely crafted works that are accessible to audiences with a strong commitment to a multidisciplinary creative process. Past collaborators include **The Columbus Symphony Orchestra, The Movement Project, The Columbus Ohio Discovery Ensemble, Opera Project Columbus, The Worthington Chamber Orchestra, Groundshare Arts Alliance, Shove Gently Dance**, and others. They have recently worked with composers **Jacob Reed, Lauren Spavelko, Michael Rene Torres**, award-winning poet **Maggie Smith**, dramaturg **Chris Leyva**, and astrophysicist **Dr. Gregory Mack**. Over the years, Hixon Dance has been a mainstay of the

independent dance community, participating in a wide array of community-centered performances including the Columbus Dances series, GCAC's New Choreography Project, Columbus Summer Dance Festival hosted by The Ohio State University, the Dance Compassion Project, Vox Novus, OhioDance Festival, Ten Tiny Dances, the Cleveland Dance Festival, and others. Hixon Dance hosts City Dance Showcase, an adjudicated selection of local dancemakers each fall. To learn more about the company and their education program, please visit hixondance.com.

CREATIVE TEAM



Lauren Spavelko (Musical Director) is a composer, arranger, studio teacher, performer, and visual artist. She writes to inspire deeper connections with one another and ourselves.

She has been commissioned by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Johnstone Fund for New Music, the Central Ohio Symphony, and more. Her work has won multiple awards, including the Spoleto Festival's G.C. Menotti Young Composers Prize (Baby Book) and the Ruth Anderson Commission Prize from IAWM (Black Box 2.0). She has been a finalist for the NATS Art Song Composition Award ("Baby Book") and for the American Prizes in Vocal Chamber Music ("Baby Book" and "From Edna, With Love") and Orchestral Music. ("Kéyah").

In addition to composing, Spavelko is a gifted educator. She operates her private studio Musical Life and teaches theory & piano skills for musical theater at Otterbein University. She also presents as a guest composer in K-12 classrooms, designs youth composition workshops, composes for youth ensembles, and delivers lectures on solo entrepreneurship.

Spavelko is a co-coordinator of the Institute for Composer Diversity's chamber music database and a board member of Converging Arts Columbus and the Central Ohio Hot Jazz Society. She is a graduate of the University of Louisville (M.M. Composition) and Ohio Wesleyan University (B.M. Music Education). You can hear her laughing through Columbus while swing dancing, singing and fiddling, practicing yoga, painting, and making a joyful raucous with her circle. Learn more: www.LaurenSpavelko.com



Madhavi Sadhir (Choreographer) Madhavi Sudhir hails from Southern part of India, a city called Bengaluru, Karnataka state. She is the Founder/ Director of Natyapriya, a dance school in Columbus, Ohio. Madhavi is well versed in both Bharatanatyam and Kuchipudi Classical dance forms from India. Along with her students she has presented multiple Theatrical Dance productions in both Indian mythological and modern themes. She has conceptualized, Choreographed and performed for individual classical pieces, Indian folk, and Bollywood songs. She has worked as a Choreographer for Gallery Players, Image Productions and with Cedarville University students as a part of their college project. An undergraduate in Bachelors of Business Management, she loves to work with different artistic Folks on projects

which can utilize her potential to enhance each other's work. She would like to Thank her guru Dr. Sanjay Shantharam for his constant support.

Collaboration with Converging Arts Columbus for Echoes of Tradition has been a wonderful experience, there was a lot of learning, cultural exchange in terms of Music and Dance, working with so many local artists was definitely a great opportunity. I would like to dedicate today's performance to my parents and my handsome cat Raba who passed away recently.



Sarah Hixon (Choreographer) is a choreographer, dance educator, and artistic director of Hixon Dance. The company is known for its collaborations with other artists, especially musicians, and for presenting impactful and accessible performances. Hixon studied choreography with Doug Varone, Bebe Miller, David Parsons, Susan Rethorst, Vera Blaine, Susan Shields, and others. She trained at The Washington Ballet, American Repertory Theatre, and The Milwaukee Ballet, among others. She holds a BFA in Dance from George Mason University and an MFA in Choreography from The Ohio State University. Hixon's award-winning choreography has been presented at The Wexner Center for the Arts, The National Academy

of Sciences in Washington, D.C., Joy of Motion, The Short North Stage, The Lincoln Theatre, The Fairfax Center for the Arts, The Pivot Center, and others. She has worked with Opera Project Columbus, the Worthington Chamber Orchestra, CATCO is Kids, Vox Novus, COSI, and many collaborators throughout the region. Recent collaborative partners include The Columbus Symphony, The Movement Project, poet Maggie Smith, and composer Michael Rene Torres. She has received special commendations for her work from Congresswoman Joyce Beatty and Ohio House Representative Beth Liston. She has taught at several universities and pre-professional schools throughout Washington, D.C., and central Ohio including the OSU Department of Dance, BalletMet Columbus, New Albany Ballet Company, Wittenberg University, George Mason University, and The Peabody Institute among others.

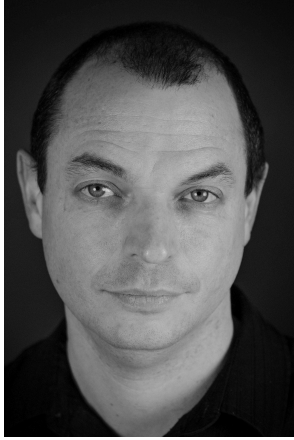


Amisha Shah (Choreographer) is a dancer and teacher of Indian classical dance style "Kathak" in Central Ohio. Amisha has graduated in dance styles "Bharat Naatyam" and "Kathak" from Akhil Bhartiya Gandharva Mahavidyalaya, India. She learnt Kathak under Smt. Asha Joglekar and also had the opportunity to participate in workshops conducted by the legendary Pt. Birju Maharaj.

Amisha completed her Masters in English from the University of Mumbai, India. She taught English and Communication at various colleges in Mumbai including her alma mater - Mithibai College of Arts.

After completing her Vishaarad in Kathak, Amisha established her own dance school named "Krutaanjali", where she teaches students of all ages in Central Ohio.

Amisha and her students offer their obeisance to the art form and the cultural tradition through annual Guru Poornima recitals. In addition to that they regularly participate and present at cultural festivals, workshops, competitions and community events, so as to further the cause of classical dance and cultural values in society.



Ryan Van Bibber (Theater Coordinator & Sound) teaches audio production at the Fort Hayes Metropolitan Education Center and at Columbus State Community College. He holds music degrees from Ohio University and The Ohio State University, as well as a certificate in music production from the Berklee College of Music.



Eric Burns (Light Design & Operation) is the current technical theatre teacher at Fort Hayes Arts and Academics High School. He earned his theatre and educational degrees from Ohio Wesleyan University, and hopes that audience members will enjoy the clear time and effort put into every technical aspect of Echoes of Tradition.



Hemalatha Venkataraman (Visual Media)

Hemalatha (Hemu) Venkataraman is a transplant from the beaches of Madras, India now living in Columbus, Ohio. An architect by training and an artist by passion, she is a largely self-taught artist who has been drawing on any and all surfaces available to her since she was 2 years old.

With an eye for detail, she particularly specializes in architectural en plein air, miniature paintings on recycled materials like used tea bags, and South Asian women as key subjects in her bodies of work. She primarily uses watercolors, ink, and gouache for her physical 'paper' paintings. In addition to physical media, she is also a designer and research strategist by trade and so, works comfortably with digital paintings/collages, and typography, as well. She has showed her works in both solo and curated exhibitions in the last decade. Born with a naturally curious and continuous learning mindset, you can find her constantly picking up new techniques, styles, and subjects in and through her art. You can find Hemu's work on IG @hemuvenkat or on her website at hemudesigns.com (<http://hemudesigns.com>)

CAST

Western Musicians



Chelsea Melcher (soprano) Nicknamed “Columbus’ Sweetheart Soprano”, Chelsea Melcher has been described as “cooly captivating” “ethereal and sublime”, and “a woman to be reckoned with” onstage. She received a PD from Jacobs School of Music, MM from The Ohio State University, and BM from Central Michigan University. Chelsea’s roles include Micaëla (Carmen), Fiordiligi (Così), Valencienne (Merry Widow), Elvira (Giovanni), Mimi and Musetta (Bohème), Violetta (Traviata), Nedda (Pagliacci), Maria (Sound of Music), Adina (L’Elisir d’amore), Butterfly (Butterfly), Norina (Pasquale), Mariuccia (Due Timidi), Female Chorus (Rape

of Lucretia), Lauretta (Gianni Schicchi), and Papagena (Zauberflöte).

Credits include: Verdi’s Requiem, Strauss’ Vier Letzte Lieder, Messiah, Beethoven’s Ninth, Mahler’s Second Symphony, Beethoven’s Mass in C, Forrest’s Requiem for the Living, Haydn Requiem in C, Mozart’s Requiem, Mozart’s Coronation Mass, and US Premiering Jansson’s Requiem Novum.

Chelsea has worked with Opera Columbus, Opera Seabrook, Opera Project Columbus, Bay View Music Festival, New Albany Symphony Orchestra, Metropolitan Chamber Orchestra, Columbus Symphony, Ohio Light Opera, Midland Symphony, ProMusica Chamber Orchestra, Amherst Symphony, Central Michigan Orchestra, and OSU Orchestra. Chelsea has been inducted into the “Music Hall of Fame”, the founder of two online academies, and Co-Founder of Red School of Music. She’s also voice faculty at Capital University, Siena Heights University, and Columbus Children’s Theatre.



Vidita Kanniks (soprano) is a multi-faceted vocalist whose work primarily traverses chamber ensemble music & historical performance. With her dual background in Indian and Western classical music she aims to engage in unique, personal projects that challenge cultural and musical boundaries. Recent endeavors include her work on 'East is East', an artist residency and critically-acclaimed album with Montreal-based ensemble Infusion Baroque, her collaboration with contemporary diaspora composer and drag artist Gabriel Dharmoo on his solo mixed-media show, 'Bijuriya', and her recording work with Earth

World Collaborative's 'For the Humming World'. Upcoming season highlights for 2024-25 include solo appearances with the Montreal Early Music Festival, the Chicago Tamil Nadu Foundation, the Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra's Summermusik Festival and Sinfonia Ancaster (Toronto).

Vidita has been recognized by audiences around the globe for her collaborative work with her father, Dr. Kanniks Kannikeswaran. She has studied both within the Hindustani and Carnatic musical traditions, particularly in the Dhrupad style of vocal technique and interpretation. Her unprecedented interdisciplinary work in this area paired with her sensitive musicianship and affinity for language has led her to gain attention through social media content and live performances across the United States and internationally. An avid choral singer, Vidita has performed with the VOCES8 Foundation, Grammy-nominated ensemble Seraphic Fire, Cincinnati Vocal Arts Ensemble, Cincinnati Bach Ensemble and Collegium Cincinnati. She holds Bachelor's degrees in Vocal Performance and Music History from the University of Cincinnati-CCM (2018) and a Master's degree in Early Music Performance from McGill University in Montreal (2020).



Devin Copfer (violin) is a performer, recording musician, registered Suzuki teacher, and arts entrepreneur based in Columbus, OH. Devin is the Co-Founder and Director of Chamber Brews, a dynamic new music ensemble known for its multi-genre collaborations and unique events. She currently sits on the Advisory board of the Johnstone Fund for New Music, serves as Concertmaster of the Worthington Chamber Orchestra, and passionately runs a private violin and viola Suzuki Studio based in her home neighborhood of Clintonville.

Some of her collaborations include work with Helen Sung, Mark Lomax, and Counterfeit Madison. She has performed with artists such as Maria Schneider, Michael Bubl , Sheryl Crow, Cory Wong, the Trans Siberian Orchestra, Dr. Mark Lomax, and Counterfeit Madison, and organizations such as The Columbus Jazz Orchestra, Opera Columbus, the Wexner Center for the Arts, and BalletMet. On her days off you can catch her racing sailboats on the nearest body of water.



Liz Fisher (violin) is a violinist, songwriter, performer, and recording artist based in Columbus, Ohio. She is the frontwoman for alternative rock band, The Cordial Sins, who released their debut album in April of 2023.

In addition to performing extensively with her band, Liz has also performed as a violinist with new music ensemble Chamber Brews and has recorded and toured with indie folk group, CAAMP, showcasing her musical abilities on stages ranging from The Ryman to Red Rocks. She currently serves as Assistant Concertmaster for the Worthington Chamber Orchestra and teaches as a registered Suzuki violin teacher in Clintonville. Liz's classical training offers unique context for her musical delivery, writing style, and arrangements, all of which she enjoys employing in an array of musical projects and collaborations.



Nancy Nehring (viola) started out as a piano major but ended up with degrees in Viola Performance from the Universities of Kansas and Michigan. She was a member of the Oklahoma Symphony, and played with many orchestras in California, Oregon, Colorado, Wyoming, Mexico & Canada. As an administrator she worked for a college music dept., a national music competition, and a summer chamber music program (for 18 years). Nancy has taught viola at every level from Suzuki beginners to college students, and frequently performed with chamber

ensembles in Canada, Ohio, Missouri & Minnesota. Formerly principal viola of the Central Ohio Symphony, she is now asst. principal of the Newark-Granville Symphony and a member of Janus Quartet. Nancy is also Personnel Manager for the Newark-Granville Symphony, and accompanies the voice studio of OSU Prof. Kat Rohrer as well as string students around Columbus.



Sam Johnson (cello) is a teacher, performer, and composer living in Columbus, Ohio. Sam earned the Doctor of Musical Arts degree from The Ohio State University School of Music in 2020, the Master's in Music from OSU in 2015, and the Bachelor's in Music from The University of Texas at Austin in 2013. While studying at OSU, Sam co-founded Cellohio, OSU's cello ensemble which serves central Ohio with unusual music in dynamic spaces. Sam serves as program designer and cellist in Chamber Brews, a Columbus-based chamber music series that centers care and collaboration in innovative performances. Sam is a founding member of Sweet Teeth, an experimental pop duo whose music bends genre through an extreme approach to timbre and vocals. Sweet Teeth released their fourth and fifth full-length albums in 2022.



Beth Parker (pianist) and opera coach, moved to Columbus in 2020 and has worked locally as music director and coach on the faculty at Capital U. and as pianist for Opera Columbus, Opera Project Columbus, OSU Opera, Otterbein, and the New Albany Symphony Chorus. Her coaching specialties are Italian recitative, “fearless French,” and bel canto style. Since 2016 Beth has coached at AIMS, the prestigious Austrian summer program. Active as a translator of scholarly works, she also writes supertitles for the Festival Verdi in Parma. Over more than four decades, she has had a varied career as chorus master, lecturer in music history and theory, opera workshop director, and administrator. Beth was a mainstay of Chicago’s classical vocal community for over a decade, having taught at Roosevelt and North Park Universities.

She also assisted Philip Gossett at the U. of Chicago’s Center for Italian Opera Studies. After graduate work at Indiana University, she apprenticed at the Merola Program of San Francisco Opera and studied with staff from the Metropolitan Opera. While in New York she ran a young artist program for Jerome Hines, accompanying for Franco Corelli, Frank Corsaro, and master classes with Marilyn Horne and other luminaries.

Indian Singers



Sumamala Devulapally (Carnatic) comes from a family of skilled Carnatic classical music artists. She was Initiated into Carnatic music in both vocal and veena at a very young age by the masterful hand of her illustrious father, Sri Devulapally Jayanth Kumar, a maestro in flute, and a myriad of instruments .Later she finessed her veena skills under the esteemed tutelage of Dr. Jayanthi Kumaresh, and continued advanced vocal lessons under the guidance of Dr. Mala Swamy. A testament to her versatility, Sumamala holds a

Master's in Classical Music and Computer Sciences. She has been running a music school in Columbus Ohio , lovingly nurturing aspiring talents across diverse age groups for over two decades. Sumamala is an experienced performer who has played on many stages, both as a main and supporting artist. Her music, filled with engaging melodies and expressive performance, helps audiences discover the beauty of it.



Ramya Janaki (Carnatic) Her passion for music blossomed during her childhood, as she embarked on a journey in Carnatic music under the guidance of esteemed gurus. Upon arriving in the US sixteen years ago, she discovered and cultivated her talent and passion for singing film and devotional songs.

You'll often find her singing a Bollywood or South Indian movie song at karaoke nights with friends and family, and Bhajans and carnatic krithis at temples and other puja events. Under the tutelage of Katyayani Kammanadiminti, Ramya continues to refine her Carnatic music skills and enhance her musical know-how.

Besides her musical pursuits, Ramya works as an IT professional and resides in Powell, Ohio, with her spouse and two children.



Bipin Venkappan (Carnatic) is a singer trained in the carnatic music genre, one of the 2 classical music traditions of India. He has trained under various gurus / teachers from a young age and is currently a disciple of eminent carnatic vocalist, Dr. Trivandrum Krishnakumar, in the guru-shishya or, teacher – disciple tradition.

Bipin performs at community and religious events in the Columbus area, especially in the semi-classical, devotional and motion-picture or film genres. He sings in the Tamil, Malayalam and Hindi languages of India. He maintains a keen interest in and is an avid listener of most forms of music from across the globe. He lives in Westerville, OH and is an IT engineer by profession.



Sugata Chatterjee (Hindustani) Born in Calcutta, singer Sugata has cultivated a systemic and disciplined training on Hindustani Classical vocal from her childhood days under the able guidance of guru Satya Ranjan Chatterjee. Under his tutelage, she completed Sangeet Prabhakar (six years diploma in Hindustani Classical Vocal), conferred by Alahabad Sangeet Parsad, India, 1989. Her versatility now includes Hindustani khyal, bhajan, thumri and ragpradhan.

Indian Instrumentalists



Dhanush Kondoth (Idika/Chande) is from Michigan. He is an Engineer by profession and Musician by passion. He had his training in Chenda from the age of 8 under the tutelage of Sri. Kottakkal kuttan marar and then advanced training from Sri. Udhayanan Namboodri. He performed his rangaravesham at the age of 11 and has performed in many venues across India and US. He is also trained in Idakka which is a very ancient musical instrument derived from lord Shiva himself. Sri P Nandakumar of Iringalkkuda is his guru for Idakka.



Sreenath Kunapuli (Mridangam/side drum) is a senior at Dublin Scioto High School. Sreenath has been learning mridangam since the 3rd grade. He learned his basic lessons from vidhwan Sriram Satagopan, and is currently receiving advanced training from Vidhwan Sri Patri Satish Kumar. Sreenath has accompanied in many concerts including accompaniment for a decorated artist from India, a Dhvani youth concert and for the Sree Venkateswara Bhakti Channel. Sreenath has performed, and is a prize-winner in the Cleveland Thyagaraja Aradhana. Sreenath also teaches mridangam. Sreenath plans to attend the Ohio State university for Computer Science and Engineering in the fall.



Siddharth Kammanadiminti (flute) is a senior going to Olentangy Liberty High school and planning to major in computer science and do animation. Siddharth has been playing flute and singing since he was 5 years old. His first flute teacher was his grand father Sri Indraganti Kaliprasad and he is currently learning from Sri Sruthi Sagar. His first vocal teacher was my mother Smt. Katyayani Kammanadiminti and he is currently learning under Smt. Sarada Gummuluri.



Vinayak Parvate (Hindustani Tabala) has been Columbus resident for the past 25 years and is an IT professional. He is an enthusiastic Tabla student and learns tabla from his teacher Shri Sanjay Karandikar, Pune, India. He enjoys good music of all genres and accompanies local artists for Indian classical and dance on tabla.



Hurshil Nittala (violin) born into a family of musicians, was initiated into Carnatic Music by his mother, Smt. Sumamala Devalpally at the age of 4 years. He is currently undergoing advanced vocal training from Sri Madurai Sundar in Detroit. Hurshil has received numerous awards such as first prize winner in Dhvani Columbus and the Cleveland Thyagaraja Festival. Hurshil was initiated into Carnatic Violin by his grandfather, Sri. Jayanthkumar Devalpally, and has continued training under Sri. Anil Kumar Kolanka. He also is undergoing training in Western Violin from David Tanner. He is a member of the Columbus Symphony Youth Orchestra(CSYO). Hurshil is currently a junior at Olentangy Liberty High School.

Dance Groups

NATYAPRIYA INDIAN CLASSICAL DANCE SCHOOL
Directed by Madhavi Sudhir





HIXON DANCE COMPANY
Directed by Sarah Hixon



KATHAK DANCERS
Directed by Amisha Shah



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SPECIAL THANKS

Sponsors

Ohio Arts Council
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Natyapriya Indian Classical Dance
Hixon Dance

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