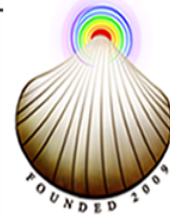


Kathak Kala Sangam

Institute for the Fine Arts. Trinidad and Tobago



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The Kathak Kala Sangam

(Convergence of the Arts of Story Telling)

ITEMS FOR THE FLORIDA PERFORMANCES AND WORKSHOPS /LECTURE DEMONSTRATIONS WITH PROFILES OF THE K. K. SANGAM

Items for Stage Performances

1. Guru Vandana (Salutations to the Guru or Guide)

Guru is the earthly manifestation of the absolute Lord, the spiritual consciousness which represents the Creator, Preserver, and Remover of Obstacles; salutations to that Sri Guru. The chant/mantra explains and acknowledges the value of a guru's teachings and its connection with divine awakening and enlightenment.

Choreography: Guru Ratikant Mohapatra.

Music: Guru S. Vighnaraja.

Dancer: Ria Ramhit (performing in the Odissi Classical Style of Indian Dance).

2. Chaturang

The item is a composition involving lyrics, solfa notes (Sargam), rhythmic phrases and Tarana syllables. It is executed in Kathak Classical style of Indian dance.

Choreography: Dr. Sat Balkaransingh

Music: Pt. Birju Maharaj

Dancer: Janelle Pooja Pundit

3. Tarana Pallavi

In this item, the styles and techniques of the Indian classical Kathak and Odissi dance forms are compared and contrasted. The Kathak with its graceful and subtle, linear and rounded body movements, swift pirouettes, rapid and rhythmic foot movements are juxtaposed against

sculpturesque postures, feminine charm and lyricism. The distinct melodic strains and costuming also reflect the differences of the styles of performances.

Choreography: Adapted from Gurus, Pt Birju Maharaj and Mayadhar Raut.

Music composition: Pt Birju Maharaj, sung in Rag Malkauns and Guru Mayadhar Raut,
sung in Raga Saveri.

Dancers: Ria Ramhit (Odissi); Pooja Pandit and Dr. Sat Balkaransingh (Kathak).

Additional Items for Demonstrations/workshops (If required)

1. Moksha (Ultimate Bliss)

Moksha means spiritual liberation. In this item the dancer soars into the realm of pure aesthetic delight and spiritual ecstasy; a thrilling crescendo to both the eyes and ears. With the cosmic sound of “Om”, the dance dissolved into nothingness - just like the deliverance of the soul into the spiritual realm.

Choreography: Guru Kelocharan Mohapatra.

Music: Pundit Bhubaneshwar Mishra

Dancer: Ria Ramhit (performing in the Odissi Classical Style of Indian Dance).

3. Madhuashtakam: (The beautiful grace and eloquent aspect of Divinity (Krishna))

This eight - line stanza (Shloka), sung in Sanskrit, refers to the grace and various characteristics of Lord Krishna.

Music - Pt. Birju Maharaj

Dancers- Sat and Janelle Pooja Pundit

Information on the Kathak Kala Sangam

The Kathak Kala Sangam

The Kathak Kala Sangam, founded by Dr. Satnarine Balkaransingh and a group of like-minded visionaries on the Arts was conceived since 2008 and established in July, 2009. The Institute was created to cater to the various levels and types of artistic expressions that emanate from the peoples of Trinidad and Tobago, from the subtle and ethereal to the materialistic. It is about touching the innermost core of our being and taking form through this manifestation in various levels of expressions. Its aim is to touch the lives of as many of our peoples as possible, especially the young impressionable individuals, giving them purpose and identifying opportunities to achieve their full potential.

The founding principles of the Kala Sangam are:

- To promote, improve, develop and maintain public education in, and appreciation of the performing and creative arts; dance, drama, song; its literature and the science of music in all its aspects.
- To nurture creativity and innovation so as to encourage the pursuit of excellence in the Arts. To educate and train in the Arts.
- To recognize excellence in the arts including the creative, performing and literary arts.
- To give support to other recognized organizations with similar aims and objectives.

Since its establishment, the Institute has presented several public, stage and other productions, both local and foreign, under the name Kathak Kala Sangam referred to as the Kala Sangam.

The Logo.

The logo of the Sangam seeks to incorporate the divergence of thoughts, ideas and creative energies, as represented by the various cultures of T&T. - *a common seashell* that is found on the beaches around T&T. The striations, beginning at the bottom of the triangularshaped shell, dovetail into a composite, unifying point, at the top. This unifying point, which represents the assimilation of the thoughts, ideas and creations, now churn out new products, compositions, creative ideas and energies, which radiate outwards, to the wider society and beyond our physical boundaries. It is analogous to the ripple effect that emerges when a stone is thrown in a pool of water. The emanations from the unifying point of the shell are here represented by waves or bands of colours and shapes, representative of the various colours of the spectrum or of the swirling energies and their accompanying electromagnetic frequencies of the energy centres or chakras of the human body. The multiplicity of images are representative of the vision and mission of the Sangam: feeding from the folk and other streams (represented by the striations of the shell), merging, assimilating, synthesizing and syncretizing to emerge into creations at different levels of perfection. This is a microcosm of the macrocosm of Trinbago's multicultural society, which is seeking its place in the wider world.

Teaching: Three Subjects and Five teachers at two venues.

Dance: Kathak Classical Dance, Indian Folk Dance

Vocal Music: Classical, light classical, contemporary and Indian folk Instrumental Music:

Percussion: Tabla, Dholak and Pakhawaj (hand drum).

**FOUNDER AND ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
DR. SATNARINE BALKARANSINGH**

Profile

- Dr. Sat Balkaransingh is a performing artist since the 1960s: musician (Steelband), producer, director, choreographer, and dancer. Has directed over 70 productions, scripted several dance-ballets for stage and television; performed for Royalty, Off-Broadway and for Heads of Government; performed in North and South America, UK, Asia and the Caribbean.
- Co-founder of the Nriyanjali Theatre (1977); Founder and Artistic Director of the Kathak Kala Sangam of T&T(2008), Sat's works have been featured in the media (Radio/TV); in USA, India, South America (Venezuela & Guyana), the Caribbean, Trinidad and Tobago and on the BBC's Caribbean Programme.
- He is a published author (authored four books and co-edited one) with works in numerous journals and books, ranging from development economics and commerce to folk performative traditions and the Arts. Delivered over 40 lectures/presentations to researchers, scholars, academics and media at over 20 Universities and tertiary level institutions, internationally.
- Former senior public servant in the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, now Consultant and adviser on Policy, Strategic and Project Planning for Socio- Economic and Cultural development; and member of several organisations.
- Recipient of numerous awards including recognition (twice) as a *National Icon* by the GORTT.
- Dr. Balkaransingh holds a BA (Hons), Economics (Delhi Univ); Post- Grad Specialisation in Kathak dance under Guru, Pt. Birju Maharaj from the Kathak Kendra, Delhi, India; MSc Project Planning and National Development, Univ of Bradford, UK; and a PhD 'Cultural Studies' (Socio-Cultural Anthropology) from the Univ. of Trinidad & Tobago (UTT).