



Om Ganapathiye Namaha

NAATYA VEDAM - KUCHIPUDI KALAKSHETRAM

Presents

Kuchipudi Rangapravesam



Sri Laasya Manchala

Disciple of Guru Smt. Sreelakshmi Sista

Along with

Srinu & Vijaya Lakshmi

Saturday, Aug 22nd, 2026

Middletown, DE 19709



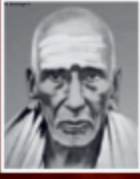
Nataraja
The lord of Dance



Sri. Siddhendra Yogi
Founder of Kuchipudi

**Nānābhāvopasampannam nānāvasthāntarātmakam |
Lokavṛttānukaraṇam nāṭyametanmayā kṛtam || 112 ||**

Nāṭyaśāstra Chapter 1, Verse 112, explains the purpose and inclusive nature of drama, conveying that it is a reflection of the world and meant for everyone. Nāṭya is the imitation of the real-world and an impression of the day-to-day experiences of the people.



Sri Chinta Venkata Ramayya
(1860 – 1949)



Sri Vempati Venkata Narayana
(1871 – 1953)



Sri Vedantam Lakshmi Narayana
(1886 – 1956)



Sri Tadepalli Perayya Sastry
(1886 – 1942)

Kuchipudi Moorthy Trayam

With the blessings of Nataraja
and of all the Great Gurus
who gave us this Divine Art



Padma Bhushan Vempati Chinna Satyam
(1929 – 2012)

Kuchipudi

Kuchipudi is one of the most vibrant styles of classical dance in India, created in the 13th century by Siddhendra Yogi. Kuchipudi combines both dance and drama, and is known for its graceful movements, expressive gesture, and vibrant storytelling.

Rangapravesam

Rangapravesam, meaning "ascending the stage" in Sanskrit, is a significant, full-length debut solo performance, marking a dancer's transition from a student to a professional artist. Primarily associated with Kuchipudi, after years of training, and it showcases the dancer's maturity in technique, expressions, and stamina. It is a milestone that marks a dancer's readiness to perform independently, which depicts artists maturing through a variety of compositions.

The School "Naatya Vedam – Kuchipudi Kalakshetram"

Established in Bear DE, by Sreelakshmi Sista (Sree Sista) is an acclaimed and accomplished Kuchipudi Teacher, Practitioner, Choreographer, and Research Scholar period Since last 25 years, primarily trained under the legacy of Guru of Gurus, Padmabhushan Dr. Vempati Chinna Satyam.

Guru Smt. Sreelakshmi Sista

Founder & Artistic Director, Naatya Vedam Kuchipudi Kalakshetram

Smt. Sree Lakshmi Sista is a distinguished dancer, choreographer, and scholar dedicated to the preservation of the Kuchipudi tradition. Her artistic journey began at age seven under Kalaimamani Chitra Viswanadhan (Bharatanatyam), later transitioning to Kuchipudi under the legendary Guru Korada Narasimha Rao. Sree's artistry has been further refined through the guidance of eminent maestros, including disciples of Dr. Vempati Chinna Satyam— Smt. Indira Sreeram and Padmashri Dr. Sobha Naidu as well as mentorship from Dr. P. Ramadevi, Dr. Anupama Kylash, and Guru Dr. Yashoda Thakore.

A lifelong student of the arts, Sree holds a Master's degree in Kuchipudi and has authored a thesis on the textual traditions of the Siva Natakam Yakshaganam. Her choreographic repertoire includes acclaimed productions such as Girija Kalyanam, Mohini Avataram, and the dance opera Nauka Charitham. Beyond dance, she is an accomplished musician with certifications in Veena and Carnatic Vocal.

In her professional life, Sree exemplifies the balance of tradition and modernity. She holds dual Master's degrees in Computer Science from the prestigious BITS Pilani and Osmania University and currently serves as Senior Vice President of Technology at JP Morgan Chase. Through Naatya Vedam, she continues to mentor the next generation of dancers across the Tri-State area with a philosophy rooted in continuous learning and technical excellence.

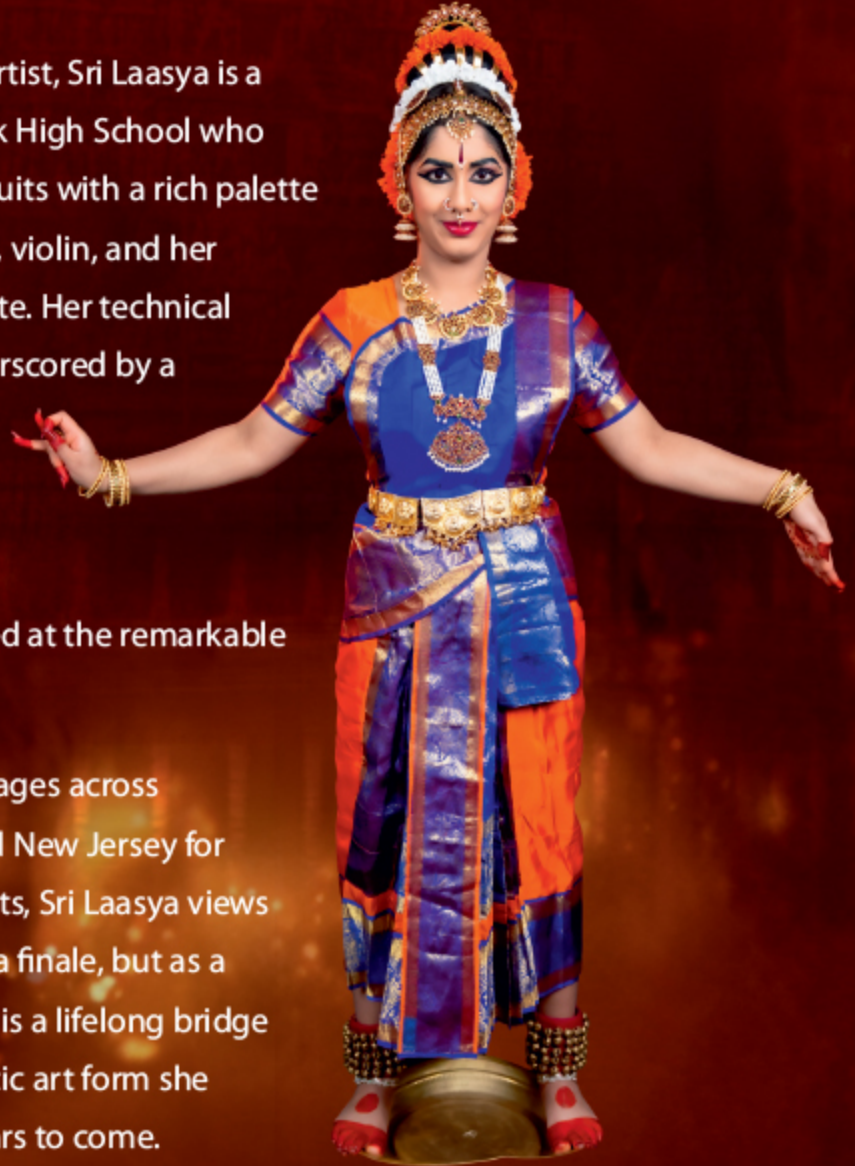


Shishya: Sri Laasya Manchala

Sri Laasya's journey into the world of Kuchipudi began at the age of six, fueled by an innate passion for movement and rhythm. Under the esteemed tutelage of Smt. Sree Lakshmi Sista at the Natya Vedam School of Kuchipudi, Sri Laasya found a mentor whose zestful teaching style perfectly mirrored her own spirited energy. This unique bond, fostered through a blend of traditional adavus and contemporary conceptualizations, has flourished over eight years of dedicated discipline.

A gifted multi-disciplinary artist, Sri Laasya is a Freshman at Appoquinimink High School who balances her academic pursuits with a rich palette of interests, including piano, violin, and her upcoming Black Belt in Karate. Her technical proficiency in dance is underscored by a Senior Certification from SAMPADA (Silicon Andhra, in affiliation with Potti Sreeramulu Telugu University), which she earned at the remarkable age of 11.

Having graced numerous stages across Delaware, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey for charitable and cultural events, Sri Laasya views her Rangapravesam, not as a finale, but as a gateway. For her, Kuchipudi is a lifelong bridge to her heritage and a majestic art form she intends to champion for years to come.





SANTHA



SRINGARA



HASYA



ADBHUTA



KARUNA



BIBHATSA



BHAYANAKA



VEERA



ROUDRA



Kuchipudi Prayer : Vani Paraku

As with all traditional classical dance ceremonies, this event will start with the Purva Ranga Video, a prelude to traditional Kuchipudi Concerts. This is a prayer song offered to Goddess Bala Tripura Sundari, the presiding deity of Kuchipudi village and also addressed to the Goddess of Learning, Goddess Saraswati to invoke their blessings for a successful Debut.



Ganesha Kavthuvam

Ragam : Aarabhi | **Talam :** Adi

Composer: Dr. Mangalampalli Balamurali Krishna

Choreography: Dr. Vempati Chinna Satyam

Kavthuvam means hymn, refers to its poetic excellence. The Kavthuvam here is composed on Lord Ganesha, the elephant headed God, the remover of all obstacles. He, the son of Lord Siva and Parvathi, blesses and fulfill desires of all devotees seeking his refuge.



Ananda Tandavam

Ragam : Simhendra Mandhyamam | **Talam :** Adi

Composer: Dr. C.Narayana Reddy

Choreography: Dr. Vempati Chinna Satyam

Ananda Tandavam is a divine dance performed by Lord Siva, the dance of the supreme celestial dancer in the form of Nataraja. It symbolizes the cosmic cycles of creation and destruction. In this composition, the vigorous yet brisk movements of the enticing cosmic dance of Lord Nataraja at Chidambaram is envisioned and portrayed.



Muddugare Yashoda

Ragam : Kurunji | **Talam :** Adi

Composer: Padakavitha Pithamaha Sri. Tallapaka Annamacharya

Choreography: Dr. Vempati Chinna Satyam

Muddugare Yashoda, is a popular keerthana by composed by Annamacharya, one his 32000 sankeerthanans, that celebrates the childhood, beauty, and divinity of Lord Krishna. The song compares the young Krishna to the Navaratnas (nine precious gems) to illustrate his precious, multi-faceted nature and his ability to protect his devotees, while highlighting Mother Yashoda's immense love for her child.



Durga Tharangam

Ragam : Shanmukhay Priya | **Talam :** Adi

Composer: Sri Narayana Theertha

Choreography: Kuchipudi Bhagavathulu

Jaya Jaya Durge, from the Durga Tarangam is a traditional devotional tharangam in the Kuchipudi repertoire praising Goddess Durga. It signifies "Victory to Mother Durga," and honors her as the protector who dispels fear and destroys evil. She is portrayed as the protector of the three worlds (Lokas), the creator, sustainer, and destroyer of evil, and the one who removes the miseries of those who seek refuge in her.



Usha Pravesam

Ragam: Kedaragowla | **Talam:** Adi

Composer: Sri Rentachinthala chidambara Kavi

Choreography: Dr.Vempati Chinna Satyam

Usha Pravesam is a Pravesha Daruvu (entry song/dance). In traditional Kuchipudi performances, the character Usha, the daughter of Demon King Banasura (grand-daughter of Emperor Bali), self introduces herself as she enters the stage. The dance performance highlights Usha's grace and beauty, and how her father fulfills all her desires without Usha needing to ask for anything.



Swagatham Krishna

Ragam: Mohana | **Talam:** Adi

Composer: Sri Ootukadu Venkata Subbaiah

Choreography: Padmasri Dr. Sobha Naidu

Swagatham Krishna is a renowned carnatic devotional keerthana, serves as a welcoming hymn, expressing deep surrender and love as devotees invite Lord Krishna. The song recounts Krishna's divine acts, including lifting the Govardhana mountain, dancing on the serpent Kalinga and killing the demons like Mushita, Chanura and Kuvalaya. The dance choreography portrays Lord Krishna as a sampurna avatara of Lord Narayana and includes the presentation of Dasavatharam (10 Incarnations).

Thillana

Ragam: Kunthalavarali | **Talam:** Adi

Composer: Dr. Mangalampalli Balamurali Krishna

Choreography: Padmasri Dr. Sobha Naidu

Thillana is pure Nritta (Pure Dance) with a short little lyrics at the end in praise of Lord Krishna, is also a high-energy, celebratory musical and dance composition frequently performed at the conclusion of Kuchipudi recitals. The choreography includes graceful dance movements along with the alluring poses set to a quick pace. It is used to showcase a dancer's mastery over rhythm and grace, bringing a grand finale to a performance.



Saibaba Harathi & Mangalam

Ragam: Harathi in Marathi Abhang Style | **Talam:** Adi

Harathi Composer: Madhavrao Adkar & Das Ganu Maharaj

Mangalam Composer: Sri Tyagaraja | **Choreography:** Smt Sreelakshmi Sista

The Saibaba Harathi song ("Aarti Sai Baba Saukhyadaatara Jeeva") is a profound Marathi hymn sung in Shirdi, celebrating Sai Baba as the ultimate giver of peace, happiness, and liberation. It highlights his role as a compassionate Guru, a protector of devotees, and a divine entity who remove worldly sorrows. Mangalam, in the context of Indian classical dance, is a traditional, auspicious, and conclusive hymn performed at the end of a concert to invoke blessings and wish for prosperity. Here, the lyrics "Pavamana Suthudu Pattu" praises Lord Rama, specifically honoring his lotus feet held by Hanuman (Pavamana Suthudu - son of the wind-god) and offers eternal victory to his divine form.



Orchestra

Nattuvangam	: Guru Smt. Sreelakshmi Sista
Vocal	: K. R. Sudharani
Mridangam	: B. Ganesh Rao
Flute	: Gokula Krishnan
Violin	: C.K. Vijayaraghavan



Acknowledgement

Photo & Video graphy	: Karthick Ram
Makeup	: Neelima Brahmandam

Message from Parents

We are humbled and honored that Sri Laasya is having the opportunity to present her Rangapravesham today. For nearly a year, she has dedicated herself with unwavering focus practicing three to four hours each day to prepare for this meaningful milestone. From a very young age, Sri Laasya has dreamt of performing her Rangapravesham. Throughout this journey, she has gracefully managed the demands of school, extracurricular activities, and intensive dance training, showing resilience and deep commitment every step of the way. As parents, we have had the privilege of witnessing her passion and perseverance up close.

Today's performance is not only a celebration of her talent but also a reflection of her inner strength, discipline, and love for the art. We are deeply grateful to her Gurus, whose guidance, encouragement, and unwavering support have been central to her growth and success. We would also like to extend our heartfelt thanks to our friends, family, the orchestra, decoration team, photographers, videographers, and all those who have contributed their time and effort to make this day truly special. Your support means the world to us.

With heartfelt gratitude:

Srinu & Vijaya Lakshmi

