

Please **turn off all electronic devices** before entering the performance hall.

Photography and audio/video recording in the performance hall **are prohibited.**

**DEPARTMENT OF
PERFORMING ARTS, MUSIC,
AND FILM**

The Cleveland Museum of Art
11150 East Boulevard
Cleveland, Ohio 44106-1797

performingarts@clevelandart.org
clevelandart.org/performingarts

For tickets call toll-free
1-888-CMA-0033 or online at
clevelandart.org/performingarts
Programs are subject to change.

These performances are made possible in part by:
The Ernest L. and Louise M. Gartner Fund
The P. J. McMyler Musical Endowment Fund
The Anton and Rose Zverina Music Fund

Series Sponsors:



Nrityagram Dance Ensemble

Please **turn off all electronic devices** before entering the performance hall.

Photography and audio/video recording in the performance hall **are prohibited**.

Welcome to the Cleveland Museum of Art

In celebration of the opening of our west wing, we showcase dance and music of the subcontinent of India, which still share a strong connection with its classical art. The performances explore some of these themes and connections by performers and experts who have devoted their lives to its mastery.

Tonight we welcome these wonderful artists from the Nrityagram dance village in India. Artistic director Surupa Sen is known for her blending of classical Indian dance forms with contemporary concepts resulting in a truly engaging performance.

Don't miss a special, free Mothers Day program of Bharatanatyam dance with Sujatha Srinivasan (May 11).

Our Masters of the Violin series culminates in two spectacular performances by master musician and devoted educator Midori (April 12) and the scorching Hungarian violin virtuoso Roby Lakatos and ensemble (May 2).

We invite you to come early to look at works of art, dine at the restaurant or cafe and refresh yourself with great performances from around the world.



Nrityagram Dance Ensemble Samyoga

Friday, April 11, 2014 • 7:30 p.m.

Gartner Auditorium, The Cleveland Museum of Art

Artistic Director / Choreographer	Surupa Sen
Composer	Pandit Raghunath Panigrahi
Rhythm Composers	Dhaneswar Swain Surupa Sen
Musicians	Jateen Sahu <i>voice & harmonium</i> Sibasankar Satapathy <i>voice & mardala (percussion)</i> Parshuram Das <i>bamboo flute</i> Sanjib Kunda <i>violin</i> Surupa Sen <i>off-stage announcement</i>
Research / Costumes	Bijayini Satpathy
Master Tailor	Ghulam Rasool Tailor
Executive Producer / Technical Director / Lighting Designer	Lynne Fernandez
Nrityagram – The Dance Village	Hessaraghatta, Bangalore, India www.nrityagram.org nrityagram@gmail.com www.facebook.com/nrityagram
US Representative	Sophie Myrtil-McCourty Pentacle / DanceWorks Inc. www.pentacle.org sophiem@pentacle.org



PROGRAM

Samyoga

{Sanskrit: combination; union; synthesis;
conjunction of two or more heavenly bodies}

In more ways than one, Surupa and Bijayini have formed a symbiotic combination quite unlike any in the artistic world.

Living and working together for the past 20 years in Nrityagram, each brings her unique knowledge and qualities to the dance. They have aspired to create art that is deep as well as exciting. Art sourced from within and outside of themselves.

Samyoga is the outcome of years expended in finding a balance. Of art and craft. Of strength and grace. Of technique and spirit. Confidence and vulnerability. Of a male godhead and his essential feminine divine.

In search of the essence of Odissi, they dance together—compliment each other and free themselves of enforced boundaries.

Namo Nārāyana

Rati Śringār Pallavi

Khanditā (love betrayed)

Intermission

Priye Chārusheelē

Vibhakta



THE PERFORMANCE

Namo Nārāyana

Verses by Shri Annamacharya sung in praise of Lord Vishnu.

Oh Nārāyana!

You are the Beloved of Gopapura,
the vanquisher of the demon Mura,
the one who lifted Mount Govardhana.

You ride upon the Great bird Garuda
and sleep in the milky ocean.

Your eyes are the sun and moon.

Fearsome as Narahari (half-man half-lion)

You are the Infinite Godhead.

Sage Nārada's only meditation,

You free us from the cycle of life and death.

Nārāyana Tē Namō Namah!

Nārāyana, to you I bow!

Dancers: Bijayini Satpathy, Surupa Sen

Rati Śringār Pallavi

A submission to the inherently lyrical form of Odissi, this dance explores the various dimensions of its abstract vocabulary.

Rati Śringār Pallavi is set to Raga Desh.

Dancers: Bijayini Satpathy, Surupa Sen



Khanditā (love betrayed)

A poem from the *Gīta Govinda* is interpreted through facial expressions (*bhava*) and gestures (*mudra*). Written in Sanskrit in the 12th century by the poet saint Jayadeva, the *Gīta Govinda* is a romantic ballad about the immortal love of Radha and Krishna. It is a song of love and longing that reflects the Vaishnava belief that all humankind is feminine energy (Radha) constantly seeking union with the one male godhead (Krishna).

Krishna has promised to meet Radha in the forest grove. Radha waits all night long but Krishna does not come. Now it is dawn and Krishna arrives with signs of having been with another woman.

Enraged, Radha says,
“Go away Krishna!
Speak not these lies to me;
return to her; for she will quench your passion and give
you joy.
Why do you come to me now?”

Dancer: Surupa Sen

— Intermission —



Priye Chārusheelē

Radha asks Krishna to leave.
Separated again
they suffer.
Finally
a repentant Krishna returns

Priyē Chārusheelē
Beloved mine!
Abandon this baseless pride
and come to me

Your slightest word
like a moonbeam
dispels the darkness of my heart

You are my adornment
my breath
the most precious gem
in the ocean of life

Like the Chakora bird
that stares at the rising moon,
my longing eyes,
transfix
to your glowing face.

I await your kiss.

Place upon my head
your lotus feet
and quell this burning fire,
in my heart
Beloved mine!

Dancer: Bijayini Satpathy



Vibhakta

In the union and the separation of the male and female principle lies the secret of all creation. It is believed that creation begins when, with the power of yoga, the ONE splits into two and becomes Ardhanārīśvara (the Lord who is half-woman). In this form both halves live in perfect symphony—at once distinct and separate as well as harmonious and blended. Each acknowledges and celebrates the existence of the other.

“Her body is the colour of a champa blossom,
his is like camphor;
her body is sprinkled with musk-vermillion powder,
his is smeared with the ash of funeral-pyres;
she is adorned with anklets and bracelets of gold,
he wears a multitude of glistening snakes;
she wears a garland of mandaara flowers,
he wears a garland of skulls;
she is draped in silks,
he is clad by the sky;
her hair is dark like the monsoon clouds,
his matted locks flash with lightening.
Her dance creates the universe.
His Tandava dissolves everything.
I bow to the mother of the universe.
I bow to the father of the universe.
Om namah Shivah.
Om namah Shiva.”

(*Ardhanārīśvara Stotram* attributed to Shri Adi Shankara)

Ardhanārīśvara Stotram is a hymn sung by a devotee. We interpret it as a poem, where Shiva the male principle, sings his adoration to his beloved other half. And Shivah, the female aspect, describes the glory of her magnificent counterpart.

It becomes at once, a love song and a celebration of the ‘duality’ of the human spirit.

Dancers: Bijayini Satpathy, Surupa Sen



ABOUT ODISSI

For centuries, a temple has looked out at a turbulent sea, its walls dancing a prayer to the rising sun. Magnificent ruins like these, in Odisha in Eastern India, confirm that Odissi was performed as far back as 200 BCE. Originally a sacred ritual dedicated to the gods, Odissi is one of the oldest dance traditions in the world. Its sinuous forms, languorous limbs, and rapt expressions frozen in stone tell of a past rich in dance, music, myth, and legend.

Odissi speaks of love and union, between human and divine, transporting viewers to enchanted worlds of magic and spirituality. Its sensuousness and lyricism reflect both the motifs of Odisha temple sculpture as well as the poetry from the deep wellsprings of Oriya music.

ABOUT NRITYAGRAM

The Nrityagram dance village is located outside Bangalore, India. It was founded in 1990 by Odissi dancer Protima Gauri, who converted ten acres of farmland into a setting for the study, practice, and teaching of dance.

At Nrityagram, dance is a way of life. Reminiscent of ancient ashrams where gurus imparted not only technique but also a philosophy of being, this is a creative space where dancers, musicians, and choreographers live together, sharing their skills and developing their art. To enrich their practice, dancers are also taught yoga and martial arts along with Sanskrit and classical literature. As knowledge passes from guru to disciple, the continuity of the classical arts is ensured.

For almost two decades, Surupa Sen and Bijayini Satpathy have researched and expanded the dance vocabulary of Odissi dance and have developed a style that distinguishes the dancers of the Nrityagram School. A unique blend of traditional knowledge



with contemporary understanding and application makes Nrityagram the only institution of its kind in the world.

The outside world, too, is an integral part of Nrityagram. Choreographers, movement specialists, sculptors, painters, writers, musicians, and theater practitioners from all over the world frequently visit the village to perform and conduct workshops and seminars in their areas of practice.

Vasantahabba, Nrityagram's annual dusk to dawn festival of music and dance, has a roster which includes some of the greatest names in India. It is attended by over 40,000 enthusiastic spectators streaming in from surrounding villages—and beyond.

While Vasantahabba is Nrityagram's most public interface, everyday artistic practice connects with the larger world through initiatives like **Kula**, which is both a conceptual and a physical space for artistic collaboration, synergy, and conversation. In order to nurture the sustained cross-pollination of artistic work and dialogue among artists, it offers a self-contained residential facility in the Nrityagram campus. Since November 2010, Kula has already hosted five Sangam House International Writers residency seasons, which have brought in 75 writers from cultures as diverse as East Asia, Europe, North and South America, and all corners of India; a collaboration between Rangashankara, Bangalore and Schnaawl Theatre, Germany; the Afghan Shakespeare Project, by the pioneering Afghan theater company Rah-e Sabz ('Path of Hope'), Roysten Abel's newest work "The Kitchen", Scottish Dance Theater, Ben J. Riepe Kompanie, Germany, etc. This is in addition to several individual/independent artists.

The Nrityagram Dance Ensemble, Nrityagram's repertory company, is regarded as one of the foremost dance companies of India, performing all over the world including an annual tour to the United States.



Although steeped in and dedicated to ancient practice, the Ensemble is also committed to carrying Indian dance into the twenty-first century. Enabled by grants from the National Dance Project of the New England Foundation for the Arts, and more recently from the Joyce Theater, New York, Nrityagram's dancers not only explore creative expansions of tradition but are also able to commission fresh compositions from leading Indian classical musicians.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Surupa Sen (artistic director, choreographer, soloist) was the first student to graduate from Nrityagram.

She began her Odissi training with the late body language genius and architect of Odissi, Guru Kelucharan Mahapatra. She also studied Odissi with Protima Gauri, and Abhinaya (expressional dance) with Guru Kalanidhi Narayanan.

As a child she studied Bharatanatyam to which she attributes her pre-occupation with form and line. Attracted to choreography from her first exposure to western makers of dances, she has worked with dancers and choreographers from across the world.

Surupa has performed, in solo recitals and ensemble, all over India and the world.

Her first evening-length choreographic work, *Śrī: In Search of the Goddess* (2000), consisted of both a non-traditional suite (Night, Fire, Dialogue with Death) and a re-working of traditional dance (Srimati, Srimayi, and Sridevi).

Her next production *Ansh* (2004) was a reworking of a typical Odissi recital, which toured extensively in India and the United States including a run at the Joyce Theater, New York in 2005.

Sacred Space (2006), a show based on Temple Architecture and its relationship to dance, used an expanded traditional



Odissi vocabulary and toured the US for six months including a weeks run at the Jacobs Pillow Dance Festival and the Spoleto Festival.

Pratima: Reflection (2008) an evening-length work that explores the relationship between the dancer and her dance, was commissioned by the Joyce Theater's Stephen and Cathy Weinroth Fund for New Work and premiered in February of 2008 at the Joyce Theater, New York. *Vibhakta*, from *Pratima: Reflection*, was listed in "The 10 best dance performances of 2008" by *The New Yorker*.

Surupa's newest Ensemble work, *Samhāra* (2012) is Nriyagram's first international collaboration. *Samhāra* was premiered in Bangalore in February 2012, toured the United States in 2012 and 2013 and was performed extensively in India, Sri Lanka, and other parts of Asia.

She has also choreographed two full-length duet shows *Samyoga* (2012) and *Songs of Love and Longing* (2013).

Surupa received the Raza Foundation Award in 2006, the Yagnaraman Award in 2008 and the prestigious Nritya Choodamani from Sri Krishna Gana Sabha, Chennai in 2011.

Surupa is artistic director and choreographer at Nriyagram.

Bijayini Satpathy (director of dance education, soloist) made Nriyagram her home in 1993.

Her initial Odissi training was in Odisha from the age of 7, until she moved to Nriyagram in 1993. She has worked with Surupa Sen, ever since.

Bijayini's research on the moving body in all its possibilities has resulted in a scientific body training program for Nriyagram, sourced from Yoga, Natyashastra, Kalaripayattu, Western fitness methods, and Odissi body-conditioning exercises. This makes practice of dance injury-proof and increases the performance life-span of a dancer. She has also developed an expanded,



systematic and accessible training programme for Odissi dancers, which is equally valuable for beginners, advanced learners, performers, and teachers.

Bijayini has performed alone, and with the ensemble, all over the world and has received national and international recognition including the 2003 Mahari Award given to the best Odissi dancer of the year, the Sanskriti award in 2007 and Sangeet Natak Akademi's Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar 2007. In 2011 she received the prestigious Nritya Choodamani from Sri Krishna Gana Sabha, Chennai.

As director of dance education, Bijayini works on extending the vocabulary of the traditional form and formulating Nriyagram's dance pedagogy. She is also responsible for all outreach activities.

Jateen Sahu (voice, harmonium) learned Odissi singing under the tutelage of Guru Ramahari Das at the Music College, Odisha. He lives in Mumbai and has worked with Nriyagram since 2008. He is also a concert singer.

Sibasankar Satpathy (voice, mardala – percussion) was taught by Guru Dhaneswar Swain for five years before becoming second percussionist with Nriyagram in 2003. At present, he is resident percussionist at the dance village and travels and performs with the Ensemble.

Parshuram Das (bamboo flute) studied at the Music College in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. His guru is Pt. Mohini Mohan Pattnaik. In addition to working as a freelance music accompanist, he teaches at Utkal University of Culture, Bhubaneswar. He has been with Nriyagram since 2002.

Sanjib Kunda (violin) started work with Nriyagram in 2006 after graduating in Hindustani violin playing from the Music College, Odisha. Since then he has performed with the Nriyagram Dance Ensemble while continuing to accompany other dancers in Odisha.



Pandit Raghunath Panigrahi (composer) was one of the most prominent singers of Odisha. In collaboration with his wife, renowned Odissi dancer Sanjukta Panigrahi, and Guru Kelucharan Mahapatra, he created compositions that have become the mainstay of Odissi dance. He has composed the music for all of Nriyagram's productions.

Lynne Fernandez (lighting designer, technical director, executive producer) has worked as an actress and light designer with many notable directors including Barry John, Joy Michael, Ranjit Kapoor, and Lillete Dubey, and was one of the first professional lighting designers in India. Her theater work has been presented at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, in the West End, and off-Broadway.

She joined Nriyagram in 1993 and as executive director of the Nriyagram school, she is responsible for administration, fund raising, and project development. Her recent projects include Kula, a culture collective where arts practitioners can live and create new work, and a performing arts center comprising a theater, an exhibition space, and rehearsal studios.

She has also overseen the emergence of the Ensemble on to the international arena.

CREDITS

Nriyagram is a project of The Odissi Dance Centre Trust, a not-for-profit Arts organization.

Donations are exempt from tax to the fullest extent allowed by law.

For information, send email to: nriyagram@gmail.com

CMA Performing Arts Series

Visit www.clevelandart.org/performingarts for more information about performances, including audio/video samples and program notes.

MASTERS OF THE VIOLIN

L. Subramaniam

Friday, October 4, 7:30

O'Connor String Quartet

Wednesday, October 30, 7:30

Jordi Savall and Hespèrion XXI

Friday, November 1, 7:30

Masters of the Fiddle: Natalie MacMaster and Donnell Leahy

Friday, November 15, 7:30

Kayhan Kalhor

Wednesday, November 20, 7:30

Gil Shaham, Solo Violin

Thursday, February 6, 7:30

Ray Chen and Julio Elizalde

Wednesday, February 12, 7:30

Midori

Saturday, April 12, 7:30

Roby Lakatos

Friday, May 2, 7:30

FLAMENCO FESTIVAL

Eva Yerbabuena

Ballet Flamenco

Wednesday, March 5, 7:30

Estrella Morente

Wednesday, March 12, 7:30

Tomatito

Friday, March 14, 7:30

ASIAN PERFORMANCES PART 1: SUBCONTINENT OF INDIA

L. Subramaniam

Friday, October 4, 7:30

Sufi Devotional Music: Asif Ali Khan

Wednesday, March 19, 7:30

Nriyagram Dance Ensemble

Friday, April 11, 7:30

Mother and Child: Sujatha Srinivasan

Sunday, May 11, 2:00

MOTHER AND CHILD

State Symphony Capella of Russia

IN THE ATRIUM

Wednesday, December 4, 9:00

Mother and Child

Saturday, December 14, 2:00

Mother and Child: Sujatha Srinivasan

Sunday, May 11, 2:00