

# Yuva Bharati

presents

**Bharatanatyam and Bharatanrityam Recital by  
Prathima Vadiraja, Savitha Pillai and Tara Shankar**

**October 10, 2009,  
Mission City Center For Performing Arts,  
Santa Clara, CA www.yuvabharati.org**

## Program

### **Pushpanjali followed by Anandamrutha - Prathima**

**Ragam: Amruthavarshini Talam: Adi**

**Composer: Muthuswamy Dikshitar**

Legend has it that the ragam (melody) Amrutavarshini was sung in order to invoke rain. The Goddess of rain is said to be pleased on hearing this ragam and bestows rain thus making the land fertile. This piece praises the Rain Goddess as the one to whom all the Gods prayed, and who resides in everyone's heart.

### **Mahakali – Savitha**

**Ragam: Gowla Talam: Adi**

**Composer: Madurai R Muralidharan**

This popular padam by Madurai Muralidharan describes the various aspects of the Divine Mother MahaShakti as the Goddess of Wisdom – Maheshwari, as the Goddess of Harmony – Mahalaxmi, as the Goddess of Perfection – Mahasaraswati and as the Goddess of Power – Mahakali.

### **Abhayakaram – Tara**

**Ragam: Ragamalika Talam: Roopakam**

**Composer: Madurai R Muralidharan**

Lord Vishnu's preserving and protecting powers have been manifested to the world in a variety of forms called Avatars, in which one or more of his divine attributes were embodied in the form of a man or an animal with supernatural powers. All these Avatars of Vishnu appeared in the world either to correct some great evil or to effect some great good on earth. These avatars are ten in number. This item describes the ten avatars of Lord Vishnu.

### **Ananda Koothanin - Savitha**

**Ragam: Hamsanandi Talam: Adi**

**Composer: Swami Shantananda**

This traditional dance piece, inter-laced with fast-paced jathis, describes the devotee's joy in watching the powerful dance of Lord Shiva along with his beautiful consort, Shivagami. The entire universe rejoices at the sight of this celestial dance.

### **Sri Ramathse – Abhang – Prathima**

**Ragam:Ragamalika Talam: Adi**

In Sri Ramathse, the composer explains the elation one feels on touching Lord Rama's feet. Ahalya, a devotee, was cursed by her husband Gautama and turned into stone because she was seen with Indra disguised as Gautama. Rama gave her life by touching the stone with his Lotus feet. Sabari, an old devotee of Lord Rama, tastes fruit to give Rama the sweetest one. Lord Rama graciously accepts the fruit and bestows her salvation.

### **Liberation of valiant Bird Jatayu - Tara**

**Composer: Tchaikovsky's Romeo and Juliet Symphony**

In this unique item set to Tchaikovsky's famous Symphony, the dancer describes the sacrifice of the bird Jatayu, an ardent devotee of Lord Rama. The episode begins with Rama and Sita enjoying the serene beauty of the forest. Maricha disguised as a beautiful deer captures Sita's attention. Sita urges Rama to chase the deer and capture it. On hearing Maricha's voice disguised as Rama shouting for help, Lakshmana is torn between Rama's command to protect Sita and Sita's pleading for Lakshmana to go to Rama's rescue. Ravana, disguised as a monk, captures Sita and flies away to Lanka. Jatayu observes Ravana's flight and bravely attempts to rescue Sita. Ravana mortally wounds Jatayu and escapes with Sita. The episode ends with Jatayu attaining moksha (salvation) on Lord Rama's lap. Lord Rama, who is the incarnation of Lord Vishnu, performs the last rites for his devotee Jatayu and vows to vanquish Ravana and save his beloved Sita.

## Intermission

**Idathu Padam – Prathima****Ragam: Khamas****Talam: Adi****Composer: Papanasam Sivan**

Idathu Padam is in praise of Lord Nataraja or Shiva as the cosmic dancer. He is the one who dances with his left leg raised. His form is adorned with serpents that sway in unison and with garments of tiger skin. He is worshipped by the sages who watch in awe as he dances. The bells on his anklets jingle and in his matted locks, the moon shines. Lord Vishnu plays the mridangam for Nataraja as he dances in the temple of Chidambaram.

**Ujjaini – Savitha****Ragam: Kalyani****Talam: Adi****Composer: Bharatiyar**

Ujjayini is a melodious keerthanam describing the victorious, ever-beautiful Goddess Shakti, the consort of Lord Shiva. It goes on to describe her various avatars and how they combine to form the divine power that protects the universe.

**Dhrupad - Tara****Ragam: Poorvi****Talam: Roopakam**

Dhrupad is an ancient style of Hindustani classical music. This item includes pure musical notes (swaras) and poetic verses (sahitya). It describes the beauty of the Sapta Swaras - seven sacred musical notes: Sa, Re, Ga, Ma, Pa, Da, Ni. The Sapta Swaras are inspired by sounds of birds & animals. Shadja (Peacock), Rishaba (Ox), Gandhara (Goat), Madyama (Krouncha bird), Panchama (Cuckoo), Dhaivata (Horse) & Nishada (Elephant).

**Dasavataram – Savitha****Ragamalika & Talamalika**

Dasavataram is a fast-paced item that depicts the 10 incarnations of Lord Vishnu to save the humanity from monstrous demons.

**Thillana– Prathima****Ragam Thillang****Talam: Adi****Composer: Laigudi G. Jayaraman****Savitha Pillai**

Savitha is a Bharatanatyam and Mohiniattam dancer, having started her Bharatanatyam training under Smt. Radha Chandran of Natya Kala Mandir in Mumbai. After her Arangetram in 1991, she performed at various venues in India including the Guruvayoor temple in Kerala. Her Mohiniattam initiation was under Smt. Geeta Ijayshankar, with whom she performed for several years before moving to the US. In the US, Savitha resumed her practice at Smt. Shreelata Suresh's Vishwa Shanti Dance Academy, San Mateo, CA. As part of the academy, she has performed at the San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival and the Spring Dance Inspiration at the Fort Mason Center, San Francisco. For the past couple of years, Savitha has also been teaching at the Vishwa Shanti Academy.

**Tara Shankar**

Tara has trained rigorously in the theory and practice of "Bharata Nrityam" under her Guru and Mother Smt. Radhika Shankar. Tara gave her Bharata Nrityam Arangetram in sep' 2004. She danced at the Nritya Navaratri Mahotsavam held at Naradana Gana Sabha. Tara performed the "Art of Karanas" with her mother in March 2007. Tara has performed with her mother at Divya Nama Anjali, a benefit concert for the Livermore Temple. She also performed for Bhavan Shri Satya Sai Baba's 80th B'day celebrations. She has participated in Kalpana program organized by Yuva Bharati. Tara Shankar is pursuing political science at UC Irvine. She learns classical Karnatic music with Guru. Asha Ramesh. She is a Yuva kendra graduate at the Chinmaya Bala Vihar. Tara is the co-captain of the UCI A cappella group, Andaaz and a member of the concert choir group at UC Irvine.

**Prathima Vadiraja**

Prathima has been undergoing training in Bharathanatyam for 10 years now. She trained under Thiru. A.Lakshman, artistic director of Nritya Lakshana in Chennai and is continuing her training under Smt. Vidhya Subramanian, artistic director of Lasya in Cupertino. Some of her notable performances, after her arangetram in 2000, were at the Natyanjali festival in Chidambaram, International dance festival in Chennai, Yuva Bharati's Kalpana and the Storytime festival in San Francisco.