

**Cleveland Thyagaraja Aradhana**  
on the 30th anniversary of the aradhana festival

Proudly presents

**"Gems of Great Composers"**  
A Grand Dance Performance of  
*Bharata Nrityam*

**Mohiniattam**



***Smitha Rajan***

(Senior Disciple of  
Guru Kalamandalam Kalyanikuttiamma/  
Sree Devi Rajan)

**Date: April 6, 2007**  
**6:30 PM**



***Bala Devi Chandrashekar***

(Senior Disciple of  
Dr. Padma Subrahmanyam)

**Kuchipudi**



***Anuradha Nehru***

(Senior Disciple of  
Guru Vempatti Chinna Satyam)

**Venue: Cleveland State University**  
**Waetjen Auditorium**

Gems of Great Composers is a carefully carved dance presentation from Popular and selected compositions of Great Composers. The great literary heritage brought through the ages have been applauded through dance, which are evidenced by the compositions. The compositions have been selected to portray the different moods of the composers through the rich tradition of Bharata Nrityam embellished with Mohiniattam and Kuchipudi.. The performance will portray the lofty facets of dance with music, the tradition of music and its performance, the concept of melody and rhythm.



**Bala Devi Chandrashekar**, is the Artistic Director and founder of Shree Padma Nrityam Academy of Performing Arts, in Princeton, New Jersey. Bala is an accomplished dancer, Choreographer and teacher of Bharata Nrityam. **She is a Senior Disciple of the noted Bharata Nrityam exponent Dr. Padma Subrahmanyam.** Among many awards and recognition, **Bala is the recipient of the prestigious title of Bharata Nritya Seva Mani conferred on her by her Guru Dr. Padma Subrahmanyam.** Bala has performed extensively both in India and abroad. Bala's performance is a special feature at the **Annual Seetha Kalyana Mahotsava** for discerning audience in **Umayalpuram, Tamil Nadu.** Bala is a panel artist with **New Jersey State Council on the Arts and is the Carl A. Fields center Artist in-Residence at Princeton University.** Currently, she serves as the movement consultant for the prestigious **Mc Carter Theater at Princeton for the Arabian Nights production. The Governor of New Jersey appointed Bala as a Board member to the New Jersey Governor's School Board of Overseers.** She is also the recipient of some of the prestigious grants from both State and center run councils and Private Foundations. Bala constantly strives to create strong awareness of the ancient classical Indian dance in mainstream America by consciously **working with prestigious Universities, Arts councils and Historical Societies across the USA.** As an active participant in some of the prestigious dance seminars and workshops, she is involved as **Professor of Practice** developing "Performing studies" in collaboration with Theater and Dance, History, Philosophy, Linguistic anthropology and South Asian Departments of various Universities in the United States. Bala imparts valuable knowledge and training to motivated and dedicated students of art at Shree Padma Nrityam Academy of performing Arts Princeton NJ. In addition to her artistic endeavors, Ms. Chandrashekar is an independent Management Consultant. She lives in Princeton with her husband Mr. Chandrashekar and two sons Bhargav and Bhairav.

**Smitha Rajan**, one of India's best and internationally acclaimed Mohiniyattam performers, is a strict traditionalist in her style, well known for the structural integrity and spiritual intensity she brings to the stage. She comes from a very rich classical tradition, which spans more than three generations. She is the granddaughter of India's greatest classical dance performer, **Padmasree (Late) Kalamandalam Krishnan Nair** and the mother of Mohiniyattam, **Smt. Kalamandalam Kalyanikuttiamma.** She holds the unique distinction of being trained by these legends of Indian classical dance world. Her abhinaya and gestures were fine-tuned by the great Krishnan Nair himself. Smitha started learning Bharatanatyam from the age of 4, from **Smt. Kala Vijayan** (her aunt, recipient of the Sangeeth Natak Academy Award) and performed her Arangetram in Bharatanatyam at the age of 5! Her mother **Smt. Sreedevi Rajan** - a renowned dancer and teacher, taught Smitha her first lessons in Mohiniyattam and **she did her Arangetram in Mohiniyattam at the age of 6.** Smitha also learnt Carnatic music from **Professor Kalyanasundaram** for over seven years. She is a member of numerous cultural organizations and associated with many television networks in India and abroad. Well versed in Kathakali and Bharatanatyam as well, she actively performs all over the world in both Mohiniyattam and Kathakali. Since early teens her primary focus has been on Mohiniyattam and committed to the rich heritage handed over to her by her legendary grandmother. She has numerous honors and recognitions worldwide to her credit. Recently, she was awarded the "**Kalaratna, Vallathol Puraskar**" by **Kaladarpanam, Kerala, INDIA.** Currently, she is staying in Saint Louis, Missouri, with her husband Mr. Jyotis Balasubramanian and her two children Jaidev and Abinav. She is the artistic director of the institution, "**Nrithyakshetra (Temple of Dance)**". Smitha tours India every year, attends major dance festivals within India apart from her world tours

**Anuradha Nehru**, a student of **Guru Vempati Chinna Satyam**, Anuradha has been critically acclaimed around the world. Her stage presence and sophisticated aesthetics, whether in movement, costumes, or light design, set her performances apart from others. Anuradha's work in Kuchipudi has had a particularly deep impact on the Indian Diaspora in the United States. She has trained several professional dancers who have gone on to distinguish themselves as soloists. She has been recognized by the Governor of Maryland for her "dedicated efforts to promote and preserve the classical dance form 'Kuchipudi' for future generations", and is a recipient of the "**Teacher Recognition Certificate**" from the **National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts** for encouraging and supporting students who have been recognized for exceptional artistic achievements. She is the Artistic Director of her Bethesda based school and dance company, **Kuchipudi Kalanidhi and Kalanidhi Dance.**