



CREATIVE CURRENTS @ KALADHAARA

Welcome to Kaladhaara's Newsletter!

This quarterly newsletter brings you the latest happenings from our school. From student achievements and upcoming events to insightful articles and highlights from recent performances, our newsletter serves as a platform to celebrate the journey of our talented students/artists.

If you would like to see a topic in the newsletter, please send your ideas to kaladhaaravideos@gmail.com.



Scan QR code to join Kaladhaara whatsapp group

EVENTS FROM LAST QUARTER SEPTEMBER

- Navaratri Concert Series at Folsom Hindu Temple and Sai Community Center



OCTOBER

- Vijayadasami Celebrations at Kaladhaara
- 9th Concord Murugan Thiruvizha
- Demo/Presentation to Preschoolers at Goddard, Rocklin
- River City High School Diwali Celebration Performance



NOVEMBER

- Nrithyotsav
- Natya Gana Kala Vedika (TAGS)
- Pravaahini at Sacramento and San Ramon (see page 2)



✳ It has been a busy and fulfilling past few months at Kaladhaara. From in-house performances, staging productions, performing at cultural events and festivals, to hosting the Sac Valley Margazhi, dancers at all levels of the school have had opportunities to experience all aspects of being a student of dance. ✳

DECEMBER

- Chamber Concert Series by Yuva Bharathi - Solo Presentation by Vatsalya Narayan
- Sacramento Valley Margazhi Concerts



Gopika Srivastava



Sreenidhi Rajeev



Vatsalya Narayan



Sweetha Ramkarthik



Chitraloka Sathyanarayanan



Mayura Ravi

JANUARY

- Sacramento Valley Margazhi concerts



Medha Aiyah, Avanthika Panchapakesan



Neha Seshadri



Dhatrisri Alla



Anvitha Chinthado



Mathura Viswanathan

Who? · What? · Where?

Welcome back to this segment! In our past newsletter, we introduced the concept of Margam in Bharatanatyam repertoire by presenting the "Thanjavur Quartet." Let's delve a little deeper into each of these legends in this and forthcoming editions.

Who was Chinnayya?

Chinnayya (born c. 1802) was the eldest of the four brothers of the Thanjavur Quartet. Like his siblings, he was a direct disciple of the legendary composer Muthuswami Dikshitar, one of the Trinity of Carnatic Music.

What did he contribute?

While all four brothers collaborated, Chinnayya is specifically credited with being a master of Abhinaya (expressive storytelling through facial expressions and gestures). He composed numerous Varnams and Kritis that are foundational to the Bharatanatyam and Carnatic traditions. He was also instrumental in refining the technical aspects of the Alarippu and Jatiswaram.

Where?

He initially served the Thanjavur Maratha Court under King Serfoji II. However, he is most famously associated with the Mysore Court, where he moved at the invitation of Maharaja Krishnaraja Wodeyar III. There, he played a pivotal role in transplanting the Thanjavur dance tradition into the cultural fabric of Karnataka.

Are you curious about the roots of Bharatanatyam? Students are encouraged to reflect on the material presented here and to bring forward questions that spark meaningful dialogue and enrich their knowledge of this classical art form.



GUIDELINES FOR SMOOTH SAILING

- Dress Code:** Kurta, leggings, cotton dupatta, and neatly tied hair (no hair falling on the face).
- WhatsApp Groups:** These are for one-way communication from teachers, such as sharing class videos. Please direct any questions through Class Manager. New students who joined Kaladhaara this year, please join our WhatsApp group to stay updated on the latest information.
- Punctuality:** Please arrive on time, as we have back-to-back classes scheduled at each location.
- Homework:** If homework is assigned, ensure your children prepare for it before the next class to support lesson progression.
- Payments:**
 - Payments should be made through the Class Manager app only. Zelle/Venmo payments are not accepted.
 - Fees are due on the 7th of each month. A late fee will be applied if payments are not made within 8 days of the invoice being generated.

Crafting the Concert Experience

Our studio space at Mather Field has grown into a beautiful venue for hosting high-quality concerts for an intimate audience that truly cherishes the experience. Our community volunteer, Vish Aiyah, has been instrumental in shaping this vision for the Sacramento Valley Margazhi concerts, and we are delighted to share what this means to him in his own words: *“In a South Indian classical concert—be it the rhythmic precision of Bharatanatyam or the melodic depths of a Carnatic vocal performance—the experience begins long before the first note is struck. While the artist provides the talent, the production provides the atmosphere.*

Sonic Clarity is the Soul of the Performance. Classical music thrives on nuance. Expert audio mixing is the difference between a muddy sound and a transcendent one. It ensures that the delicate drone of the tambura, the crisp chollu of the mridangam, and the vocalist’s intricate oscillations all sit in perfect balance. When the sound is transparent, the audience doesn’t just hear the music, they feel its vibrations.

Visual Storytelling relies on lighting & stage decor. The decoration, or Alankaram, sets the sacred intent of the stage as mentioned in the Natyashastra. These decor elements—floral garlands, brass lamps, pillars, and rich silks—transport the audience from a modern hall into a space of timeless tradition. Complementing this is precision lighting, which acts as a silent narrator. The spotlight enhances the nuanced Bhava of the dancer and the dance.

The Result? Deep Immersion.

When sound, light, and decor work in harmony, the technicalities vanish. The audience is no longer distracted but becomes one with the Bhava (emotion) and Raga (melody). It is this invisible architecture that turns a “show” into a spiritual journey. Modeled after Chennai’s premier intimate sabhas, our mini auditorium fosters a deep connection between the artist and the audience. We are committed to constant evolution; from the addition of a dedicated green room to annual upgrades in acoustics and lighting, we continue to refine this space to ensure every performance is a resounding success.”



Pravaahini In the US!

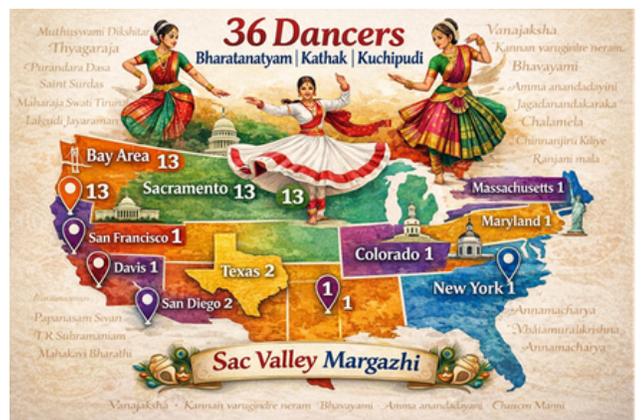
Following the successful India tour of our production Pravaahini, Fall 2025 opened new opportunities to present this work to local audiences in Sacramento and the Bay Area (fundraiser concert for KKSF – Kanchi Kamakoti Seva Fund). The heartfelt and encouraging response to both shows reaffirmed our vision and marked a meaningful step in shaping the next generation of performing artists at Kaladhaara.

Sri Panchapakesan Kasiviswanathan, lead volunteer at KKSF in his facebook shared- “The recently concluded Pravaahini dance production in the San Ramon Bay Area was not just a performance; it was a sacred experience. Under the exquisite artistic vision of Smt. Mathura Viswanathan, every movement blossomed with meaning, precision, and devotion. Her choreography flowed like a divine river, seamlessly blending tradition, emotion, and aesthetics.

Your contributions to the Kanchi Kamakoti Seva Foundation (KKSF) help sustain the many service projects inspired by our revered Acharyas—projects that uplift communities through education, healthcare, and spiritual & cultural outreach. May the divine energy of Pravaahini continue to inspire us to serve with compassion, gratitude, and devotion. We welcome your generous support to carry this sacred work forward.”



Sacramento Valley Margazhi Season 2: Nurturing Classical Arts Across the Nation



The 2025–2026 Margazhi season saw Kaladhaara co-host the second season of Sacramento Valley Margazhi, a celebration marked by grandeur and artistic excellence creating a vibrant platform for learning, and cultural exchange for students and audiences alike. 36 dancers from across the US came to present their learnings, giving the audience a glimpse into traditional compositions, unique perspectives of various Gurus and their teachings. The successful season reaffirmed our commitment to nurturing classical arts and fostering a thriving cultural community in the Sacramento Valley.

New at Kaladhaara

Bhajan for the littles!

Smt. Smrithi Rajeev is no stranger at Kaladhaara. An ardent rasika at every performance and a dedicated dance mom who volunteers at all our events, she loves to share her passion for our culture with the younger generation in our local community. Get in touch by filling out this form: <https://forms.gle/MXrSx2xkLMSHzorMA>



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