



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 on the newsletter, please send your ideas to kaladhaaravideos@gmail.com



15 years of Kaladhaara - Annual Day Celebrations



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EVENTS FROM LAST QUARTER MAY



- A specially curated performance by our stars at Meraki 2025 paid tribute to the multifaceted essence of women celebrating their empowerment, strength, and grace.

JUNE

- Performance by Sahana Shankar at the Annual Day celebrations of Chinmaya Triveni.
- Mayura Ravi, Sahana Shankar, and Sreenidhi Rajeev participated in the NavaDarshana Dance Intensive, led by the renowned Smt. Priyadarsini Govind. These immersive workshops offered more than just rigorous training — they fostered dialogue, reflection, and connection, serving as powerful reminders that lifelong learning sustains both the art and the artist.



JULY

- A performance by Kaladhaara's intermediate adult batch at the 2025 CAAPS Awards Gala — hosted by the Conference of Asian American Professionals — celebrated Asian American achievements while fostering community connections.



AUGUST

- Arangetrams
- Grand Annual Day celebrations
- Thematic Summer Production — Varnamala

✳️ With immense joy and gratitude, we mark the 15th year of Kaladhaara Arts Academy, a journey that began as a simple love for the arts and has blossomed into a vibrant family of passionate dancers, dedicated instructors, committed students, and ever-supportive well-wishers.

Kaladhaara today is more than a dance academy; it is a community where tradition meets creativity, resilience nurtures growth, and every dancer finds both expression and connection.

This summer, we celebrated that journey with a new logo and a season filled with milestones, performances, and joyful moments. As we carry this spirit forward, the year ahead promises even more opportunities to learn, create, and celebrate, together as a community. ✳️

Who? · What? · Where?

Welcome to a fun and engaging segment that brings you interesting and relevant snippets from the world of Bharatanatyam.

To kick things off, let's explore the legendary Thanjavur Quartet — the pioneers who helped shape the structure of Bharatanatyam as we know it today.

Who are the Thanjavur Quartet?

The Thanjavur Quartet refers to four brothers—Chinnayya, Ponnayya, Sivanandam, and Vadivelu—who systematized the classical South Indian dance form of Bharatanatyam in the early 19th century. They served as court musicians and dance masters to the Maratha ruler Serfoji II in Thanjavur. The brothers were also disciples of the renowned Carnatic music composer Muthuswami Dikshitar.

What did the Thanjavur Quartet contribute?

They formalized the Bharatanatyam performance repertoire into the structured sequence known as margam, which is still followed today. This sequence includes key items such as Alarippu, Jatiswaram, and Tillana. The quartet also composed a vast body of music specifically for dance, codified the basic dance steps (adavus), and made significant contributions to Carnatic music. Vadivelu, the youngest brother, is credited with adapting the violin for use in Carnatic music.

Where did they serve?

The brothers initially served in the court of Thanjavur (Tanjore) in present-day Tamil Nadu, India. Later, they were patronized by the courts of Travancore and Mysore, further spreading their influence across Southern India.

How well do you know your Bharatanatyam vocabulary?

✳️ Ready for a little crossword fun? Test your puzzle skills with this light-hearted challenge! You can solve it right here or scan the QR code to play online. Think you've got all the right answers? Send them over to kaa.classmanager@gmail.com. The first two correct entries will win a fun prize! 🎉 Good luck, and happy puzzling! 🧐

Across

3 Invocatory item

4 Basic Foundational Steps

5 Expressive aspect of dance, primarily facial expressions

9 Rhythmic pattern or beat

Down

1 Hand gestures

2 Spoken syllables to accompany a jathi

5 Fast paced item, typically performed at end of the concert

6 Dramatic aspect of dance

8 Half sitting position



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 for sharing class videos, etc. 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 kids prepare for it before the next class to help with lesson progression.

Payments:

- Payments should be made through the class manager app only. Zelle/Venmo payments are not accepted
- Fee is due on 7th and late fee will be applied if payments are not made within 8 days of the invoice being generated.



Celebrating 15 Years of Kaladhaara



Our Annual Day was a radiant celebration of every Kaladhaara student — from Kindergarten through college, including post-arangetram alumni and beyond. The stage came alive with joy and harmony as dancers across generations united, offering the community a captivating visual treat.

One of the evening's most memorable moments was Divya Vāhanam, where our youngest dancers beautifully embodied the stories of divine vehicles. With grace, precision, and charm, their performance captured the audience's imagination and earned heartfelt appreciation — a true testament to the power of art to touch hearts at any age.

Teacher Spotlights – Behind the Vāhanam Magic

The success of Vāhanam was made possible by the tireless dedication of our teachers, who nurtured confidence and creativity in our youngest dancers.

✿ Smt. Rajni Aiyah

"Training the tiny tots, Kaladhaara's youngest batch, was incredibly fulfilling. Despite being the youngest in age and learning Bharatanatyam for only under a year, they performed two small dance items with Adavus and Abhinaya, showcasing impressive grasp of choreography and formations. Their ability to emote beautifully was remarkable. While keeping them engaged for the entire hour during class was challenging due to their short attention span, their innocence and spontaneity made teaching a delight. The children were uninhibited in their expressions, and the final performance was a huge hit, with the audience marveling at their confidence and synchronization."

✿ Smt. Aishwarya Viswanathan

"Working with our youngest dancers was an incredibly rewarding experience. Their enthusiasm and eagerness to learn were truly infectious and I always anticipated our sessions together. It was impressive to see them progress from the thattadavu/natadavu level to performing Bhajan songs that skillfully combined footwork and facial expressions. They surpassed my expectations by seamlessly adapting to the live orchestra, and their sense of rhythm was a delightful surprise. At such a young age, they went above and beyond their capabilities, demonstrating the rewards of consistent practice and dedication. I am so proud of them and consider it a true privilege and blessing to have worked with them."

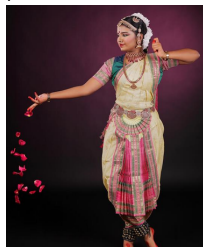
Summer Arangetram Season in Full Bloom

This summer, Kaladhaara proudly presented three arangetrams — each a radiant culmination of years of dedication and learning, marking the first steps of a performing artist.

The recitals not only showcased individual artistry but also enriched our local community, offering audiences a glimpse into the discipline, beauty, and devotion at the heart of Bharatanatyam.



✿ Chitrakala Sathyarayanan, Aug 2,
Sofia Theatre, Sacramento



✿ Dhatrisri Alia, Aug 9,
C.K. McClatchy High School



✿ Trishelle Ravindran, Aug 16,
Cordova High School PAC

Kaladhaara's Enchanting Community Showcases

Kaladhaara hosted several community events featuring local and visiting artists in the studio space at the Mather Field location over the summer.

Dhvani @ UC Davis partnered with Kaladhaara to host the prodigious vainika Vidwan Ramana Balachandran for a spellbinding lecture-demonstration. With nearly 400 solo concerts to his credit, his artistry and humility left a deep impression on all present. His session on "Arithmetic as a Framework for Swarakalpana" revealed how precision can unlock creativity. What began as a technical exploration soon became an inspiring dialogue, reminding us that discipline and imagination are inseparable in the pursuit of art.



Kaladhaara also showcased the 2nd Annual Day of the

Soudayam School of Layam, led by Vidwan Nagai Sri P. Sriram.

The evening highlighted rhythmic brilliance in Mridangam and Nattuvangam, brought to life by the students' dedication and artistry. The program was enriched by a stellar supporting orchestra: Sri V. Murali Sangeeth (vocal), Dr. Vinoth Kumar (flute), and Sri Anantharaman Balaji (violin), making every piece resonate with depth and beauty. It was a celebration of rhythm, tradition, and the bright future of percussion arts.

Student Spotlights – First Steps, Lasting Memories

Kaladhaara's Annual Day was not only about seasoned performances but also about the small yet powerful milestones achieved by our youngest dancers. For many, it was their very first time on stage — a moment filled with courage, joy, and discovery. Let's hear about their experiences in their own words.

✿ Anvitha - "I did my first Bharatanatyam dance on stage! It was so much fun. I loved dancing with my friends, we all smiled so big. I practiced every day and my teachers showed me all the steps. My mom dressed me up so pretty! I also liked watching everyone else's dances. But my most favorite part was when I got to dance on stage. I learned about Ganapathi and Durga, and my best part was dancing in the Durga dance. It made me feel like a superpower!"

✿ Ananyah - "Practicing with friends was an unforgettable experience. Learning the hand gestures was especially interesting and fun. When all the vahanam groups get together really interesting to watch their expressions.."

✿ Amuthini - "It was my first time dancing with live musicians, it was great! I learned so much during the summer practice, and I love my costume so much. Thank you for all my teachers."



Thematic Presentation – Varnamāla



The crown jewel of our 15th-year celebrations was Varnamāla, a thematic production that embodied Kaladhaara's vision. Twenty dancers wove a living canvas of rhythm and expression, from the fiery reds of valor to the serene whites of peace.

Each step, gesture, and glance unfolded like brushstrokes on a divine canvas. Seamless choreography and collective energy transformed the stage into a space where tradition, creativity, and devotion converged — reaffirming Kaladhaara's place as a cultural heartbeat in the Greater Sacramento community.



Carnatic Vocal Classes

This year, Kaladhaara takes an exciting new step by offering Carnatic vocal training for students aged five and above. Having explored devotional bhajans for over three years, our young learners are now ready to step into the wider world of South Indian classical music.

Guided by Smt. Mayura Ravi and assisted by Smt. Aarthi Krishnamurthy (of the lineage of Smt. Revathi Ravi), students will build strong foundations in śruti and laya while learning kritis, varnams, and devotional compositions.

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Kaladhaara_arts_academy

or via CLASS MANAGER

Read about us more on:
<https://kaladhaara.org/>