

ABOUT THE UNIQUE DANCE FORM OF BHARATANATYAM

Bharata Natyam is one of the oldest dance forms of India. It was nurtured in the temples and courts of southern India since ancient times. Later it was codified and documented as a performing art in the 19th century by four brothers known as the Tanjore Quartet whose musical compositions for dance form the bulk of the Bharata Natyam repertoire even today.

Bharatanatyam is evenly divided between three elements *Nritta*, *Nritya* and *Natya* .

Nritta : Rhythmic Element. Interprets the language of rhythm with the help of body movements.

Nritya : Combination of Rhythm with Expression. Conveys poetic meaning with the help of expressions, rhythmic gaites and postures. E.g. Varna, Shabda, Pada etc.

Natya : Dramatic Element. Performing for a theme like Ramayana, Mahabharata etc.

ABOUT THE ARTISTE (DANCE CHOREOGRAPHER AND PERFORMER)

Padmaja Kelam is an accomplished Bharatanatyam dancer and teacher living in the Atlanta area. She learnt from Guru Smt. Rajeshwari Sainath and Sri. Pasumarthy Ramalinga Sastry. Padmaja has been teaching dance for the past 25 years, 13 of them in the USA. She has had over hundreds of students and has conducted 17 arangetrams. She has choreographed over 70 dance items that include varnams, thillanas, jathiswarams, etc. Padmaja started the Kalaivani dance and music academy in 2004 to impart classical dance and music education. Even though her 4 dance studios are based in Atlanta area, students from places far away as Ashville (North Carolina), Chattanooga (Tennessee), Auburn (Alabama), and Greenville (South Carolina) come to learn from Smt. Padmaja. Her love and passion around dance and dance education is reflected in the graceful performances of her various students. She has been honored with many an accolades by the Hindu Temple of Atlanta, flying doctors of America, Telugu association of metro Atlanta, American telugu association, India Association of Tallahassee, Bharatiya Hindu Temple of Lexington Kentucky, Jacksonville Florida, Athens and Georgia colon cancer coalition etc... Her son Siddharth Kelam is an accomplished Bharatanatyam dancer, thanks to the efforts of Padmaja.

Padmaja has adapted several Guru Kula traditions albeit with a modern twist to accommodate the students who are passionate about learning yoga, music, nattuvangam etc. Her unique teaching philosophy provides the students not only dance lessons but also life lessons like, respect, sharing, love and understanding. Padmaja and her students are performing in Atlanta area and other states in USA.

Please see web link attached:

<http://somabhanu.blogspot.com/2007/09/kalaivani-dance-music-academy-preforms.html>

http://onlineathens.com/stories/061307/oconee_20070613012.shtml

<http://www.narthaki.com/info/reviews/review88.html>

http://chronicle.augusta.com/stories/102001/rel_124-1012.shtml

<http://www.onlineathens.com/stories/041306/>

<http://www.andaaz.org/20040815-FOI.htm>

<http://www.narthaki.com/info/reviews/rev416.html>



ABOUT THE DANCE SCHOOL FOUNDED BY THE ARTISTE

Kalaivani dance and music academy Inc.

Kalaivani dance and music academy (kdama) is an organization founded in 2004 to teach and promote Bharatanatyam (south Indian classical dance) and music. Kdama is founded by

Ms. Padmaja Kelam. She has 25 years of teaching experience and has trained hundreds of students who themselves have dance schools. KDAMA's mission is to teach traditional bharata natyam and to impart pride in learning this ancient dance form.

KDAMA organizes lecture demonstrations, performances and dance camps. Kalaivani supports local organizations in organizing and promoting this art form. The journey of KDAMA is a story of unique dedication, hard work, tenacity, and above all an uncompromising love and respect for classical dance, of all participants – the dancers, their families, the accompanists and some very enlightened art lovers who fortunately for KDAMA were also organizers of cultural programs. KDAMA is not just a group of dance recitals, nor an evening of classical entertainment, nor even a relaxing past time. KDAMA intended to be an experience – aesthetically engrossing and spiritually elevating. KDAMA would have meaningfully justified its existence to itself, if even a handful of viewers do feel that experience. Rising to greater heights of artistic excellence and promoting the spiritual value of our glorious performing tradition is the task that remains. KDAMA takes this opportunity to rededicate itself to this great task with goodwill of art lovers, blessings of elders and the benevolence of the lord.

