

# SAMPRA DAYA

## DANCE CREATIONS

### CANADA

INDIA TOUR | DECEMBER 2022



# MANDALA



Canada Council  
for the Arts



ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL  
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO  
an Ontario government agency  
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MISSISSAUGA







Welcome to the India Tour of Mandala - a production by Sampradaya Dance Creations that is performed as a meditation in dance and music. Bridging the yantras of Hinduism and the sand mandalas of Tibetan Buddhist practice, the artists consecrate the stage and their bodies to a divine purpose of self-realization.

In the creation of this contemporary work - each movement, each gesture, each dancer is invested with the power of expressing the micro within the macro, the consecration of the space and the body to a divine purpose. Dance is in the moment, ephemeral and impermanent – as is the sand mandala.





It is said that at the centre of a Mandala , we will find our answers. We will know who we truly are.

From sanctifying the sacred space of the Tibetan sand mandala to the Shri Yantra embellished through the verses from Adi Shankaracharya's treasure trove of Soundarya Lahari, our dancers take you through a performance inspired by the intrinsic potential of the Sri Chakra.

We create and dismantle mandalas to signify the impermanence of all that we experience. We release their healing energies through flowing water and fire and to learn that all we have now is the infinite potential of the present moment.



This production is inspired by the Tibetan Sand Mandala and its philosophy of the impermanence of life through its illusory harmony and order. It is believed that the mandala is a cosmogram of the universe – a blueprint for three levels of existence and that they transmit positive energy to the environment and to those who participate and/or view them.

The creation of the sand mandala is a form of meditation requiring intense mental discipline and a state of self-surrender. While constructing a mandala, the Buddhist monks chant and meditate to invoke the divine energies of the deities residing within the mandala.

Using the dance forms of Bharatanatyam and Kathak rooted in the philosophical and aesthetic traditions of India, we find a remarkable congruency in the two traditions rooted in Hinduism and Buddhism. Dance is a form of meditation that has an inner higher purpose, one of transcending the mundane to self-realization. As well, our work is inspired by the construction of the mandala and its geometrical design, its layering of patterns, the subtle interplay of colored sand and the focused attention to detail. These are very necessary and integral elements in bharatanatyam – a dance form recognized for its geometric movement syntax expressed in complex rhythmic principles.



# TOUR SCHEDULE

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December 16, 2022  
6:00 PM IST

CHINMAYA MISSION  
AUDITORIUM  
*New Delhi*

December 18, 2022  
5:00 PM IST

NCPA  
*Mumbai*

December 20, 2022  
7:00 PM IST

KALAMANDAPAM  
SABHAGAR  
*Lucknow*

December 22, 2022  
8:30 PM IST

NATARANI THEATRE  
*Ahmedabad*

December 24, 2022  
6:00 PM IST

BHARATIYA VIDYA  
BHAVAN  
*Chennai*

December 25, 2022  
6:00 PM IST

BANGALORE  
INTERNATIONAL CENTRE  
*Bengaluru*

December 28, 2022  
6:30 PM IST

SANGIT KALA MANDIR  
*Kolkata*

January 01, 2023  
6:30 PM IST

A. D. A. RANGA MANDIRA  
*Bengaluru*



# SAMPRADAYA DANCE CREATIONS CANADA

Described by the New York Times as 'a dance company of rare vitality', Sampradaya Dance Creations is an award winning Canadian professional dance company specializing in the creation and production of classical and contemporary dance works rooted in the Indian Classical dance form of Bharatanatyam. Sampradaya's strength lies in its pursuit of excellence in the creation of a stunning range of solo and ensemble works that are infused with the creativity of Indian dance vocabularies, while inspiring audiences with its innovative approaches to traditional movement.

Founded in 1990 by Lata Pada, Sampradaya Dance Creations has created an impactful presence as the frontrunner in promoting Indian dance forms for the Canadian audience. Our work in classical and contemporary Bharatanatyam induced with innovative cross-cultural elements makes the Sampradaya style stand out. Our wide range of creative productions is a testament to our repertoire and the skill of our dancers.



[www.sdc.sampradaya.ca/](http://www.sdc.sampradaya.ca/)



[instagram.com/sampradayadancecreations](https://www.instagram.com/sampradayadancecreations)



[facebook.com/sampradayadance](https://www.facebook.com/sampradayadance)



# Lata Pada

*Founder, Choreographer, Artistic Director Emerita,  
Sampradaya Dance Creations*



Dancer, Choreographer, Teacher & Cultural Consultant, Lata Pada is recognized as one of Canada's leading artists and arts advocates. An award-winning artist, she holds the distinction of being the first South Asian artist to receive the prestigious national honor of the Order of Canada in 2009.

In January 2011, she was awarded the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman by the President of India. In 2012, she was honored with the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for her contribution to the community as a Canadian citizen. More recently, Lata was inducted into the 2013 Inaugural Mississauga Legend's Row as well as being awarded the 2021 Lifetime Achievement Award by the Mississauga Arts Council.

As the Founder of Sampradaya Dance Creations, Lata's choreographic vision is compelled by her desire to redefine Bharatanatyam in the 'here and now' as it navigates new and uncharted territory resulting in a stunning range of solos, ensemble works and multi-disciplinary productions.

Lata has trained under India's eminent gurus Sangeet Natak Akademi Awardee, Kalaimamani Kalyanasundaram and the late Padmabhushan Kalanidhi Narayanan. Originally from Bangalore, India, she has made Canada her home since 1964. She holds an MFA in Dance from York University and is an Adjunct Professor in their Graduate Program. She founded Sampradaya Dance Creations and Sampradaya Dance Academy in 1990 after an extensive international solo career. Today both organizations are recognized as premier dance organizations in Canada and globally.



# Suma Nair

*Artistic Director, Sampradaya Dance Creations*



Suma Nair was initiated into Bharatanatyam at a young age under the guidance of Sujatha Suresh. She holds an MFA in Dance Choreography from York University and was awarded the Susan Crocker and John Hunkin Scholarship in Fine Arts for 2014-2015.

Her expanse of productions includes Kindred (2016). With her experience in Event Management , Marketing and Public Relations, Suma Nair blends her existing skill sets with a career in the performing arts. Suma Nair is currently the Artistic Director of Sampradaya Dance Creations.





**ATRI NUNDY**

Atri Nundy started learning Bharatanatyam at Sampradaya Dance Academy under her teacher Lata Pada at the age of 4. After completing her arangetram in 2005, she continues to work as a teacher at the Academy and as a Company dancer and choreographer at Sampradaya Dance Creations. She appeared in Glaciology in 2018

choreographed by Brandy Leary (Anandam Dancetheatre) and presented her own work-in-progress of Sequence at Wind Down Dance curated by Allen and Karen Kaeja and Michael Caldwell. She, along with her co-choreographer Tanveer Alam, presented The Tagore Project in the Spring of 2022 at Sampradaya Dance Theatre.

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**DHEERENDRA  
TIWARI**

Dheerendra was initiated into dance by Guru Ruchi Sharma & Guru Taposh Giri. Thereafter he continued under the tutelage of Guru Pandit Rajendra Gangani Ji, who is a known Kathak Maestro of Jaipur Gharana & is the torch bearer of his Gharana in its purest form.

He has been an integral part of the Aditi Mangaldas Dance Company – The Drishtikon Dance Foundation. He has recently given a Solo performance at one of the world's most prestigious festival, Darbar Festival, curated by Mr. Akram Khan at the Sadlers Wells, London, UK. Dheerendra is currently working as a Senior Kathak Faculty with the Bharatiya Kala Kendra, Mandi House, New Delhi.





**HARIKISHAN S  
NAIR**

Born and raised in Kerala (India) he has been dancing since age 3 and is fluently trained in Bharatanatyam, Mohiniyattam and Kuchipudi. He has gone on to collaborate, perform, and present his work at numerous dance festivals in India, UK, Canada, and the USA. He is currently engaged in a full time year long internship studying

Artistic Direction with Anandam. He tours new choreographic works and conducts teaching workshops and masterclasses extensively across North America. He is active in the community as a dance artist, teacher, choreographer, collaborator, rehearsal director, dramaturge and the Artistic Director of Regatta Kala Kendra.

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**NITHYA GARG**

Nithya Garg is an emerging artist who has trained in the Indian classical dance form of bharatanatyam for over a decade. Her work is informed by the pedagogy of Lata Pada who has guided her formal training through Sampradaya Dance Academy and the professional company of Sampradaya Dance Creations.

Nithya received the 2020/21 Metcalf Internship to specialize in the fields of Curation and Production in dance, working with ĀNANDAM. She has continued on to work with the company as their Curation and Production Director.





**PURAWAI VYAS**

Purawai Vyas, is a a talented dance artist, with over 15 years of training in Bharatanatyam. She has also trained in Ballet, modern/contemporary dance and Kalarippayattu during her undergraduate career and holds a BFA in Dance along with a BSc in Biomedical Sciences from York University.

Currently, she works with Sampradaya Dance Creations and Nova Dance as a company dancer. Purawai is also the co-founder of Kala collective, a dance collective of six south Asian dance artists with a shared training in Bharatanatyam.

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**SHOBHIT  
RAMESH**

Shobhit Ramesh is a natural artist with strong qualities of a performer. Shobhit started his initial training under Smt. Usha Unni, and later under the guidance of Shri Prem Menon. Training sessions under Navtej Johar and Justin McCarthy as a part of an undergraduate program has helped

him hone various aspects of performance and the theory of the art form. He has also conceptualised and co-choreographed Asav, a trio production exploring the varied facets and intricacies of the Margam diktat of Bharatanatyam dance repertoire. Shobhit is currently under the tutelage of internationally acclaimed dancing trio Shri Parshwanath Upadhye, Shri Adithya PV and Smt Shruti Gopal at the Upadhye School of Dance, Bangalore.





**SUKRITI  
SHARMA**

Now based in Toronto, Sukriti Sharma first started studying in Delhi, India with Guru Ashok Chakraborty and continued her training with Guru Krishan Mohan Mishra. During her decade-long study of Kathak, she was awarded a Post Diploma from India's premier institute Kathak Kendra, located in New Delhi, India.

Sukriti has been a part of Asavari, Padmashree Shovana Narayan's repertoire company for 4 years. She has also performed in a range of arts and culture festivals including Kathak Mahotsav in (Delhi, 2011), Surya Festival (Kerala, 2012), Konark Festival (Konark, 2013), Aroha Fest (Ottawa; 2019) and Angikam (Toronto, 2021).

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**TANVEER  
ALAM**

Toronto-based Tanveer Alam started his Kathak training with Sudeshna Maulik and pursued further nuanced learning with the Late guru Sandhya Desai. Alam is a 2019 graduate of The School of Toronto Dance Theatre. Alam has performed in the works of Rina Singha, Lata Pada, Padmini Chettur, Brandy Leary, Harikishan S. Nair, Sashar Zarif, Lucy Rupert, and Peter Chin.

As an emerging choreographer, he has presented work at SummerWorks Festival, Battery Dance Festival +, MAI - Montréal, arts, interculturels, CanAsian Dance Festival: Grit Short Dances, and Tangente. Alam has been supported by Toronto Arts Council, The Ontario Arts Council, and The Canada Council for the Arts.



# Jasmine Sawant

*Executive Director, Sampradaya Dance Creations*



Jasmine Sawant's expertise and her association with the world of performing arts is a massive asset to Sampradaya Dance Creations. Sawant's vision towards promoting Indian dance forms in Canada and her focus on developing Sampradaya Dance Creations while upholding its vision has helped the

organization evolve into a frontrunner in promoting South Indian dance forms. She has also worked at the International Indian School Dammam (formerly the Indian Embassy School Dammam) in Saudi Arabia, the French Embassy in Bahrain, and the Max Mueller Bhavan (Goethe Institute) in Mumbai.

# Gyandev Singh

*Stage Lighting Designer/ Filmmaker*



A graduate from the National School of Drama, New Delhi, Gyandev Singh has worked as a lighting designer with many eminent Dancers and Theatre directors like Leela Samson, Aditi Mangaldas, Roysten Abel, Anuradha Kapur, Kavalam Narayana Panikkar to name a few.

His skills in stage lighting design has taken him to various theatre and dance festivals in Europe, North America, South America Australia, Singapore, Thailand, Africa, China, Russia and the Middle East.



# Jacques Collin

*Projection Designer*



For the last 40 years Jacques Collin has designed and produced projections and media integration for the stage and large scale exterior installations. He has been a frequent collaborator to playwright Robert Lepage and his Ex Machina company since 1990.

Since 2010 Jacques has worked with Lata Pada's Sampradaya Dance Creations (Classical and Contemporary Indian Dance), toured in Canada, Indonesia and India with the following productions : TAJ, Nirantara, Pralaya and Mantra.

# Nitin Sawant

*Technical Director*



Nitin Sawant has a deep passion for the arts. An excellent actor, he prefers to work behind the scenes. He brings his technical skills, especially videography, streaming and projections, and his project management skills to producing theatre and other events.

He has supported SAWITRI Theatre Group since its founding and is the Technical Director on most SAWITRI Theatre productions. He is also the Technical Supervisor for performances at Sampradaya Theatre.



# Praveen D Rao

*Musician*



Praveen D Rao is a classical musician, having worked as a percussionist and arranger in Kannada music industry for the past 23 years. He has composed music for theatre, dance, soaps and movies apart from albums and adverts.

He was trained by Pt. R. V. Sheshadri Gawai of Aravinda Sangeetha Vidyalaya and Tabla Maestro Pandit Ravindra Yavagal. Rao has composed music for theatre works, ballets, films, television and commercials. Praveen has been a composer for Sampradaya for several dance productions.

# Sandhya Raman

*Costume Designer*



Sandhya Raman is an internationally known costume designer, curator and textile activist. She has a versatile career spanning over 30 years. Working towards spreading awareness about socially responsible design, Sandhya co-founded DESMANIA DESIGN a leading design company in India.

Sandhya was conferred the Stree Shakti Puraskar from the Govt. of India for her contribution in empowering women, craftsmen and artisans. She has worked closely with several dance companies internationally such as Battery Dance Company (New York) to name a few.



# Uma Ambike

*Administrative Manager*



Uma Ambike holds a Masters in Business Administration with specialisation in Marketing from Pune University, as well as a Bachelor's degree in Education. She has held varied positions in a Corporate environment, including Admin executive, and Account Executive. Uma is a passionate educator and has considerable experience in the field of education, tutoring children of all ages and adults. Theatre and music are Uma's passion. She has been associated with the Sawitri Theatre Group of Canada for several years. She has a keen interest in Indian classical music, and continues to learn.

# Aishwarya Jayaraman

Associate Director, ArtSpire (Marketing & Social Media)

<https://www.artspire.in/>



## ArtSpire

ArtSpire is an arts management and consulting company based in Chennai, India & Toronto, Canada, specialising in the development and management of artistic initiatives.

ArtSpire consists of a team of professionals with deep understanding of, and passion for, the arts. They work with arts organisations, venues and artists, supporting them to develop, implement and sustain their artistic initiatives. They provide practical and customised advisory and consultation, based on our collective experience in the field. ArtSpire provides support across strategy, programming, communications, and operations.





## CREDITS

*Original Concept, Research, Artistic  
Direction and Choreography*

Lata Pada

*Costume Design*

Sandhya Raman

*Lighting Design*

Gyandev Singh

*Technical Director*

Nitin Sawant

*Sound Designer - Mandala 2019*

Kalaisan Kalaichelvan

*Co Choreography*

Suma Nair

*Choreography in collaboration  
with the dancers*

*Music Composer*

Praveen D. Rao

*Projection Design*

Jacques Collin

*Tour Manager*

Jasmine Sawant

*Marketing & Promotions*

ArtSpire

## Musicians

Composition of original Sanskrit verses - Arjun Bharadwaj

Vocal - Rohit Bhat, Keerthan Holla , Varijashree Venugopal

Mridangam- G Gurumurthy

E-Pads - Pramath Kiran

Veena - Gopal

Sitar - Shruti Kamath

Konnakkol - Prasanna, Praveen D Rao

Padanth - Praveen D Rao

Tabla & Pakhawaj - Praveen D Rao, Gurumurthy Vaidya

Flute - Mahesh Swamy, Varijashree Venugopal

Studio Engineers - Ashwin Prabhath, Rangaswamy, Pramath Kiran,  
Archana

## SAMPRADAYA DANCE CREATIONS

Founder, Artistic Director Emerita : Lata Pada

Artistic Director : Suma Nair

Executive Director : Jasmine Sawant

Administrative Manager : Uma Ambike

Sampradaya Dance Creations acknowledges the generous support of Canada Council for the Arts, Ontario Arts Council, City of Mississauga and its private donors and corporate sponsors.

**SAMPRADAYA**  
DANCE CREATIONS