

Our Mission

Fostering the Living Heritage of Indian Performing Arts

The Association of Performing Arts of India (APAI) is dedicated to preserving and promoting India's Classical Music and Dance and educating people of all ages in South Florida, including young people of Indian descent, about Indian traditional arts and culture as a living heritage for all.



Unity thru Diversity from L Geethu James, Rashmi Shshi, Malini Basu with dance Prof. Clarence Brooks of FAU

More than 5,000 years ago, the sacred Indian texts called the "Vedas" bore witness to the power of music in Indian culture -- in the Vedas is found the first evidence of musical notation. Throughout the history of India, music and dance have given expression to the diverse beliefs and rich cultures of its people. And, as people of Indian descent have spread across the globe, their Classical Music and Dance traditions have influenced the music, dance, and artistic creations of composers and performers in almost every culture. Today, we find the rhythms and instruments of India in jazz, flamenco, contemporary classical compositions, movie scores, world music, contemporary and traditional choreography, and countless other artistic forms. Indian Classical traditions are part of the world's cultural heritage.

Programs and Activities

Each year APAI reaches thousands of South Florida residents and artists and many visitors to our community through Live performances featuring world-renowned and well-known local Indian Classical musicians and dancers.



Malini Basu teaching steps to audience

- APAI feature exhibitions, lectures on the culture of India, and live demonstrations of Indian dance and music demonstrations of Indian instruments - provided in local elementary and high schools and colleges and other public venues throughout the area.
- Master workshops for musicians from all cultures and traditions, enabling them to learn Indian Classical music repertoire and techniques.



L Anindo Chatterjee on Tabla, Mohini Athavale on Tanpura, Aura Rascon on Flute with World Renowned Pt Hariprasad Chaurasia on Flute

- Collaborative presentations in which APAI joins with other community institutions to present performers and programs that demonstrate the integration of Indian Classical art forms into both traditional and contemporary art forms.



Late Smt Lakshmi Shankar



Padmasri Dance Academy : 2011 Chitram

Opportunities for members of the large and growing community of people of Indian heritage to come together to promote and express their cultural heritage.



Dr. N. Rajam and Sangeeta Shankar

APAI's History

Since its founding in 1998, APAI has focused on featuring premier caliber artists associated with the Hindustani (North Indian) classical traditions, growing over time to include classical dance and dance-drama, folk art forms, and events fusing Indian traditions with diverse music and dance traditions.

APAI's first performance in November 1998 featured Ustad Rashid Khan, a leading Hindustani vocal artist and his accompanists on tabla (Indian drums) and harmonium. Since that time, APAI has brought dozens of award-winning instrumentalists, vocalists, and dancers from India and the United States to South Florida.

All principal instruments of Hindustani tradition have been featured in performances by well known artists such as:

- Sitar - Manju Mehta, Pt. Manilal Nag, Irshad Khan, Shujaat Hussain Khan, Krishna Mohan Bhatt, Shubhendra Rao, Reena Srivastava, Anupama Bhagwat, Kartik Sheshadri and Shahid Parvez Khan.
- Sarod (fretless multi-string lute) - Pt. Brij Narayan, Rajeeb Chakraborty, Alam Khan.
- Bansuri (transverse bamboo flute) - Pt. Hari Prasad Chaurasia.



L Utsav Lal, Rajesh Bhandari

- Shehnai (double reed wind instrument similar to the oboe) - Ustad Ali Ahmed Hussain Khan
- Sarangi (rarely seen classical fiddle) - Late Pt. Ramesh Mishra
- Violin - Dr. N. Rajam, Ramakrishnan
- Guitar - Pt. Vishwa Mohan Bhatt

Vocalists have featured renowned male and female artists including:

- Lakshmi Shankar
- Pt. Jasraj
- Pt. Rajan-Sajan Mishra
- The Gundecha Brothers
- Veena Shasrabuddhe
- Shubha Mudgal
- Uday Bhawalkar
- Mitali Banerjee Bhawmik

Dance and dance-dramas are among APAI's most popular programs and have featured world-renowned and many local performers including The Shakti Dance Company - a Bharata Natyam dance company well known for its elaborate performances incorporating a full company of dancers, instrumentalists, and vocalists.

Fusion performances demonstrating common musical traditions have featured the flamenco guitar and vocals alongside the sarangi and flamenco dance side by side with classical Indian Kathak dance.

... And performances featuring the finest in local dancers and musicians.



Manju Mehta



Subhen Chatterjee and Pt. Vishwa Mohan Bhatt



Shubha Mudgal



Shakti Dance Company



Fusion of Flamenco and Kathak Dance Featuring Clarity Filgueiras and Prashant Shah

Audience Comments

September 8-2012, Fusion of Kathak and Flamenco

"...I am still duly surprised by what I experienced watching masters of music and dance working so adeptly together as well as masters in two uniquely different dance genres collaborating in performance."

Professor Clarence Brooks
Associate Professor & Director of Dance Department of Theatre and Dance
Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters
Florida Atlantic University

March 12th, 2016: Enchanting Sound of Sitar and Tabla featuring Manju Mehta on Sitar and Gourisankar Karmakar on Tabla.

"...Absolutely mesmerizing and artistry of the highest abilities."

Dr. Jesse Hale



Support the Living Heritage of India

The Association of Performing Arts of India (APAI), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, welcomes your support as a volunteer, a donor, or a sponsor. To learn more about APAI and the opportunities APAI offers to foster the living heritage of India, call, send an email, or visit www.apaiart.com. The website contains information on upcoming performances and offers an opportunity to donate.

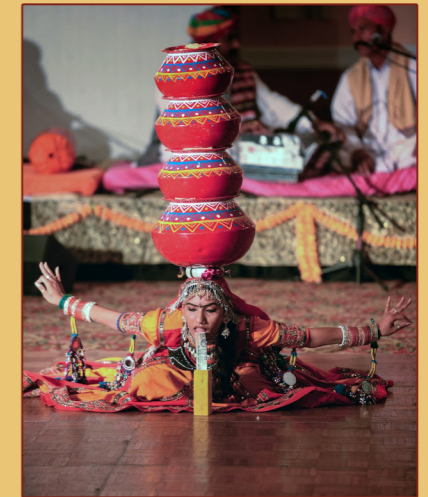
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Association of Performing Arts of India



Rhythm of Rajasthan

Preserving and promoting the living heritage of Indian Classical Music and Dance

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