

# Invitation



नालन्दा  
विना तु नृत्यशास्त्रेण चित्रसूत्रम् सुदुर्विदम्

**nalanda dance research centre**

*takes pleasure in inviting you to*

**'BHARATA MUNI SAMMAN – 2011'  
SAMAROH**

at:

Kalaangan, Ravindra Natya Mandir,  
Prabhadevi, Mumbai

on: Sunday, the 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2012

at: 6.45 p.m.

## **NALANDA'S 'BHARATA MUNI SAMMAN'**

Dedicated to the preservation and propagation of Indian dance in particular and Indian culture in general from its founding in 1966 Nalanda Dance Research Centre has unswervingly trodden on its chosen path with single minded determination. Nalanda has always upheld the pricelessness of all that is India and her great ancient culture which consists of the various performing arts, visual arts, the mother of all languages Sanskrit and Sanskritic studies , the religio-philosophical thought and other co-related facets.

Being a highly recognized research centre, Nalanda recognizes and appreciates all those endeavours that probe deep into the all encompassing cultural phenomena of this great country. Very naturally these endeavours come from most dedicated individuals who not only delve into this vast ocean that is Indian culture but also have the intellectual calibre to unravel, re-interpret and re-invent this knowledge and wisdom to conform with their own times.

From 2011 Nalanda has initiated a process of honouring such individuals who have acquired iconic status.

By honouring them Nalanda is honouring India on behalf of all Indians.

**Hence the annual**

**BHARATA MUNI SAMMAN**

### **Receipients for 2011 in alphabetical order**

- Dr. (Smt.) Kapila Vatsyayan – Indology
- Shri. Kavalam Narayana Panikkar – Theatre and Musicology
- Smt. Kishori Amonkar – Hindustani Vocal
- Guru Ramankutty Nair – Kathakali Dance
- Prof. Suresh Upadhyay – Sanskrit and Indian Philosophy



### **Dr. (Smt.) Kapila Vatsyayan**

Dr. Kapila Vatsyayan, formerly Secretary, Department of Education, Government of India and a nominated member of the Rajya Sabha, is an internationally recognised art connoisseur known for her outstanding work in diverse fields of culture and art.

She is recipient of Jawaharlal Nehru Fellowship. She is a Fellow of the Russian Academy of Sciences, the French Academy of the study of Asian Civilizations, the Sangeet Natak Akademi and the Lalit Kala Akademi. She has been Academic Director

of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts and Member, UNESCO Executive Board.

Dr. Vatsyayan combines in herself the creativity of an artist, the rigour of critical insight of a scholar and the acumen of an administrator. As advisor, administrator and policy maker in the Government of India, she has been responsible for policy and programmes of culture in its interface with education as also with the institutions of archaeology, archives, museums and libraries. She has been associated with the establishment and development of many libraries, museums and archival repositories. The blueprint she drew up, at the instance of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, for the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the arts provides evidence of her vision and multidisciplinary approach. She has the distinction of negotiating nearly fifty cultural agreements with foreign countries.

She has authored nearly 20 books and over 200 research papers. Amongst her publications, the Classical Indian Dance in Literature and the Arts and the Square and the Circle of the Indian Arts are considered as landmarks in interdisciplinary studies. Her publications include Bharata: The Natyasastra and eight volumes on Gita Govinda and the Indian Artistic Traditions.

### **Dr. Vatsyayan is recipient of many awards including:**

- Padma Vibhushan
- UNESCO's Madam Curie, Mahatma Gandhi and Cultural Diversity medals
- Campbell Memorial Medal from the Asiatic Society, Mumbai
- JDR III Award for Culture
- Srimanta Sankaradeva Award, Government of Assam
- Rajiv Gandhi National Sadhbhavana Award
- Woman of the Year award from Cyprus
- Fellow of the Sangeet Natak Akademi
- Fellow of the Lalit Kala Akademi



### **Shri. Kavalam Narayana Panikkar**

A distinguished theatre personality, a poet par excellence, an authority on the regional musical mode and rhythms of Kerala and a true musicologist Shri. Kavalam Narayana Panikkar holds a unique position in the field of Kerala ethos in particular and Indian cultural traditions in general. He holds a unique position in the evolution of a regional theatre movement. In a career spanning over four decades, Shri. Panikkar has given a new lease of life for the age-old Sanskrit drama tradition on one hand and on the other, he indentified the interrelations between the evolved art forms

and folk arts, successfully creating a fusion that has enthralled the contemporary audience.

In 1961 he was nominated as Secretary of Kerala Sangeetha Natak Academy. This appointment gave him a very deep insight into the rich cultural heritage of Kerala and its deep rooted and indigenous folk traditions. He started his researches in the folk and classical performing arts of Kerala which inspired him to his experiments in theatre.

A major break through came when he directed a Sanskrit play – Madhyamavyayoga – at the Kalidas Samaroh in Ujjain when it received a standing ovation. Since then Shri. Panikkar has directed a number of Sanskrit plays by Bhasa as well as Kalidasa which have been staged not only in India but abroad as well.

His plays, though experimental have themes in close proximity to real life and are a part of his experiments to develop the structural patterns and explore their possibilities in the Indian context.

Another of his invaluable artistic contribution has been the introduction of indigenous music of Kerala Sopana Sangeetam for Mohini Attam as an organic accompaniment to the classical dance style. His deep understanding of the inherent cultural ethos of Kerala and wide ranging research in the indigenous 'taala' systems has resulted in a very cohesive musical structuring which is exclusive to Mohini Attam. Dr. Kanak Rele at Nalanda has created a fabulous storehouse of researched items in Mohini Attam based on his musical compositions. Today this innovative repertoire has breathed a fresh life into this almost decadent dance style which has established its place as a major classical dance style.

**Shri. Panikkar has been awarded many prestigious awards such as:**

- PADMA BHUSHAN
- Kerala Sahitya Akademy Award
- Emeritus Award – Ministry of HRD
- Kalidas Samman – Madhya Pradesh Government
- Kerala Sangitha Natak Academy Award
- Central Sangeet Natak Akademi Award
- Vallathol Samman – Vallathol Sahitya Samiti, Trivandrum.



### **Gana Saraswati Smt. Kishori Amonkar**

Kishori Amonkar is widely considered as the finest female vocalist of her generation. She seems to have evolved a balance between sheer classical idiom of her Jaipur Gharana tradition and her highly intellectual and emotional insight into her music.

Born to renowned vocalist Smt. Mogubai Kurdikar in Goa in 1931 and brought up in an environment immersed with melody and rhythm, Kishori was groomed by her great mother in the best traditions of the parampara of which maestro Alladiya Khan

Saheb is acknowledged as the pioneer.

Hers is indeed a monumental voice that combines strength with suppleness, euphony with luminosity and vigour with grace. One is struck by her crushing sonority of voice, her accurate intonation, her impassioned expression and, above all, her compulsive urge for originality in concept, design and presentation.

Her approach to raga, its interpretation and development is enchanting as well as intellectual. She is endowed with a very expressive voice, which is capable of communicating any emotion she wants to portray. She has a versatile repertoire ranging from 'Khayals', exquisite 'Thumris', to spiritually elevating 'Bhajans'. She is very popular with her audience and has travelled extensively and has participated in major prestigious festivals in India as well as abroad.

Kishori Amonkar has established herself as a most sought-after guru. Her disciples include vocalists like Manik Bhide, Padma Talwalkar, Aarti Ankalikar, Mira Panshikar, Meena Joshi and Vijaya Joglekar-Dhumale. She has also guided male students like Arun Dravid and Raghunandan Panshikar.

### **She has been awarded innumerable honours and titles like:**

- Padma Vibhushan
- Gana Saraswati by the Jagadguru Mahaswamiji of Shringeri Math
- Sangeet Natak Akademi Award
- Chakradhar Sanman
- Bharata Gana Ratna



### **Kalamandalam Shri. Ramankutty Nair**

Recognised as the greatest contemporary Kathakali artiste and 'aashaan' (guru) Shri. Kalamandalam Ramankutty Nair is undoubtedly one of the iconic figures on the performance stage. After a long studentship under the great teacher Pattikamthodi Ravunni Menon Shri, Ramankutty Nair started his association with the world famous Kerala Kalamandalam established by the Poet Laureate Vallathol Narayana Menon. Ramankutty Nair took upon himself the onerous task of preserving the time

honoured characteristics of the magnificent theatre art Kathakali. His art represents the strength of tradition and aesthetic beauty of Kathakali. The visual grammar of Kathakali finds its true expression in the 'Kalari' and performance of this genius of a performer.

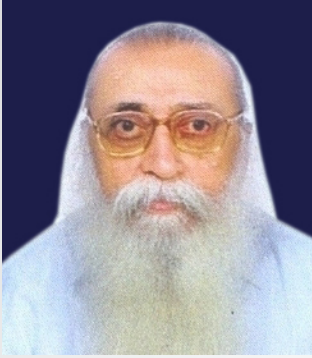
Shri. Ramankutty Nair became the main guiding force of Kerala Kalamandalam for almost half a century and retired as its Principal in 1985. He led the Kalamandalam troupe at various International dance theatre festivals held in different parts of Asia, Europe, U.S.A., Canada, Australia and the Latin American countries.

His enactment of the characters of Hanumana, Ravana, Duryodhana, Keechaka and Shishupala have won great acclaim. He has created a new character of Parashurama in the Kathakali pantheon of 'veshams' which he has personally enacted and today it has become one of the most popular stories on the Kathakali stage. Many of the contemporary stars of the Kathakali stage are his students including one of the all-time greats Kalamandalam Gopi.

Shri. Ramankutty Nair's unfailing sense of rhythm, depth and power of highly stylized dance and character – enactment are the pride of present day Kathakali.

**In recognition of his invaluable contribution to Kathakali he has been awarded among others with:**

- Padmabhushan
- Central Sangeet Natak Akademi Ratna
- Central Sangeet Natak Akademi Award
- Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Academy Award
- Kalidas Samman
- First artiste to receive Emiritus Fellowship of Ministry of H.R.D.
- D. Litt from Cochin University.



### **Prof. S.A. Upadhyay**

Prof. Suresh Upadhyay is the Director, Sanskrit Studies and Research, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan. A renowned scholar of Sanskrit and Vedic studies he is the recipient of 'Certificate of Honour' from the President of India. Many eminent organisations for Sanskrit Studies have showered awards on him. Prof. Upadhyay has provided research guidance to many publications on Indian culture published nationally as well as internationally. Prof. Upadhyay has travelled extensively all over

the world and has presented research papers on Hinduism and Indian Culture. He has had the honour of being invited by the Inter-faith Dept. of Vatican, Rome to participate and present papers on the Hindu Scriptures and Hinduism. Of special mention is the paper 'God, Man and Nature in the Upanishads' at the Third Hindu-Christian Symposium held at Rome where he had the unique honour of waiting upon His Holiness The Pope Benedict XVI at Vatican.

Prof. Upadhyay's command over Sanskrit as the mother of all languages and Sanskrit studies is a veritable store house of invaluable knowledge. His interpretations of the ancient Indian religious thought starting from the Vedic times translates the Indian wisdom into the contemporary thought process which transcends the time constraints and geographical boundaries.

He is a research guide to a large number of Ph.D. students. Dr. Kanak Rele the renowned dancer-scholar completed her Ph.D. under his guidance. Prof. Upadhyay has attended many National and International Seminars / Conferences and presented about 100 research papers which have been published.

#### **Major Awards:**

- Certificate of Honour' award by President of India
- Eminent Vedic Scholar Award by the University of Mumbai and the Brihan-Maharashtra Oriental Conference
- Prajnavanta Puraskara from the Brhamana Sabha, Mumbai
- The Sanskrit Vidvat - Puraskara by the Sat -Sahitya Prakashan Trust of H.H.Swami Akhandanand Saraswati, Mumbai
- Eminent Sanskrit Scholar Award by the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Govt. of India.
- Best Teacher Award, Govt. of Maharashtra
- Award from the Abhivadana Trust, Mumbai

**NALANDA DANCE RESEARCH CENTRE –  
A UNIQUE DANCE INSTITUTION**

Nalanda is the only dance institute in the country which is recognised as a research centre by the Ministry of Science and Technology Govt. of India for the past 27 years.

Nalanda is primarily engaged in fulfilling three basic aims:

- 1) preservation of traditional classical dance styles in their formal purity by imparting training through the traditional "guru-shishya parampara" method, (teacher-taught tradition)
- 2) rejuvenation and adaptation of training methods to meet scientific and technological demands of the fast changing contemporary society  
and
- 3) conducting research projects that enhance the understanding, appreciation and knowledge about dance not only as a cultural phenomenon but also as an adjunct to human development.

Rejuvenation of Mohini Attam at Nalanda:

This is a unique and very important Department of Nalanda. The dance style was almost forgotten at the turn of the present century. Dr. Kanak Rele and Nalanda have played a very significant role in not only rehabilitating this dance style but, more importantly, in creating technically sound courses of study for beginners as well at the University level.



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Plot A-7/1, N.S. Road No. 10, J.V.P.D. Scheme,  
Vile Parle (West), Mumbai - 400 049  
Email: nalanda1966@gmail.com  
Website : www.nalandadanceeducation.com