

Sai Mayur Bharatanatyam Dance school

9th Annual Day



06/07/2024
Vanbrugh Theatre
The King's School Chester
Wrexham Road
Chester

Programme order	Performers
Pushpanjali	Khushi, Ananya, Avani, Amaiza, Kanchi, and Parita
Ganesha stuti	Kushi, Shreedha, Diya, Nidhi, Priyanka, and Udit
Vande Meenakshi	Naomi, Ishani, Viyona, Anika, Ananya, Sanyuktha, and Shiloh
Alaripu	Fiona, Leona, Diya, Nidhi, Priyanka, and Udit
Jatiswara	Aashu, Manju, Prachi, Paulomi, and Nandana
GUEST ARTIST	Yakshagana , Bayalatta UK
INTERVAL	
Varnam	Soumya, Vibha, Nithikka, Aleena, Iniya and Mrithikka, Delia, Aditi S, Prisha, Suchi, Meher, Aditi R, Annabel, and Layoni
Keertanam	Anika, Rithi, Khushi, Shreedha, Fiona, and Leona
Ashtanayika	Suma, Sobha, Priya, Sujata, Shweta, Shilpa, Madhuri, Gayatri, Kalpana, and Sunitha
Bhajan	Khushi, Ananya, Avani, Amaiza, Kanchi, Parita, Naomi, Ishani, Viyona, Anika, Ananya, Sanyuktha, and Shiloh
GUEST ARTIST	Sophie Sykes and Students
Finale	George, Delia, Aditi R, Aditi S, Suchi, Annabel, Meher, Prisha, and Layoni

Bayalatta UK

Bayalatta UK is a one of a kind, amateur Yakshagana troupe in the UK. They present the Badagu Thittu style of Yakshagana. Performing authentic Yakshagana of coastal Karnataka, the group have enthralled audiences across the UK with their eye-catching costumes and music. In harmony with the traditional practices of Yakshagana troupes back home, the UK collective do not use theatrical costumes or makeup.

Dr Guruprasad Patwal, hailing from Byndoor in Karnataka and now a practicing GP in Doncaster, founded Bayalatta UK with the goal of promoting Yakshagana in the UK and Europe. Since its inception, he has advocated for the art form and performed at major International Arts Festivals in the UK alongside Mr Yogindra Maravanthe. Bayalatta UK has grown in prominence, attracting audiences from all around the country. Our flagbearer, Girish Prasad, has carried the mantle forward and performs Yakshagana at various events with the sole purpose of introducing and promoting this art. His hard work and dedication comprise the backbone of this group.

The pandemic affected a lot of Yakshagana artists financially; emphasising the unfortunate reality where Yakshagana is a rich art, but with poor artists. During the pandemic, Dr Guruprasad Patwal began online Yakshagana classes, which was overseen and continued by Mr Girish Prasad. The money raised was used to help poor Yakshagana artists families back home. Mr Shridhara Caniga, who is currently the main Stree Vesha artist in Maranakatte Yakshagana Mela, helped Dr Patwal and Girish Prasad in conducting these classes online, and later with arranging costumes for the shows. We have now brought together a collective of enthusiastic artists here in England, who are now ready to perform Yakshagana at a level closer to professionals back home.



Sophie Sykes

Sophie trained as a dancer from a very young age and became a full-time vocational dance student at age 15. She spent 3 years as a full-time student, learning and progressing to an advanced level in Ballet, Contemporary, Jazz, Tap, Modern and Spanish Dance.

During these years, she performed in annual shows, learning different solo variations from ballets, such as The Nutcracker (performing as The Snow Queen) and Sleeping Beauty (performing as The Finger Fairy) and many more, as well as performing in a variety of genres mentioned previously. She also took part in annual performances on tour with the college, which visited various primary and secondary schools across the country.

Sophie graduated after the 3 years, achieving her Level 6 Diploma in Professional Dance at age 18. After this, she decided to have a career change, and ventured more deeply into the fitness industry, where she now is highly qualified in Pilates, Exercise Therapy and Personal Training, while also teaching a variety of styles of dance classes. She gained these qualifications throughout a period of 1-2 years, started teaching classes online and then moved into her boutique private studio in Chester once it was ready.

Sophie has designed this studio to be a calming, nurturing environment, as one of her main focuses is on catering for those with Autism and Sensory Processing Disorder, like herself.



Sai Mayur Bharatanatyam Dance School

Sai Mayur Bharatanatyam dance school is led by Mrs Usha Rao, an established Bharatanatyam dance artist, choreographer, and teacher. Passionate to teach and spread this ancient dance form, Usha established Sai Mayur Bharatanatyam Dance School in 2013. Brought up in a cultural and intellectually rich environment,

Usha pursued both her interest in science and art. She started learning Bharatanatyam at the age of 6 and continued to train in Mysore bani under the tutelage of Mrs Srivalli Ambarish, who was pivotal in refining her technique and introduced her to the world of abhinaya. She also had the opportunity to study Carnatic music, Veena and Mridangam to aid her main interest in Bharatanatyam.

Alongside teaching and pursuing her interest in Bharatanatyam, she is a Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist and has been working as a consultant in the NHS for the past 13 years.

Her students have performed in various local, regional, and international platforms. One of her senior students, reached the top 20 in BBC young dancers' competition in 2022. Students have also successfully completed the ISTD graded exams at various levels. Through her guidance 6 students have successfully completed their Arangetram so far. Amongst her accolades, she curated a show based on the epic Ramayana which was very well received. In March of this year her dance troupe competed in the Northwest dance competition and won first place in classical fusion category. Her objective is not only to teach her students this beautiful art form, but to improve their confidence and self-belief so they can contribute to society, bringing happiness and peace.



