

Sai Mayur Bharatanatyam Dance School

with

Sunimol Antony and Saji Thomas

present

*The Arangetram
of*

Delia Saji

*Disciple of
Mrs. Usha Rao*

25/07/2026

*The Holroyd
Community Theatre
Oswestry*



*Akhandamandalākāram vyāptam yena carācaram
Tatpadam darsītam yena tasmai śrīgurave namaḥ*

In the esteemed presence of

*Shalini Shivashankar
Chief Guest*

*&
Smt Nrithya Rammohan
Guest of Honour*



Delia's journey in dance began with solo and group Bollywood performances at community events, where she first discovered her love for being on stage. This passion eventually led to her joining Sai Mayur Bharatanatyam Dance School under the esteemed guidance of Smt Usha Rao, who has nurtured her love for Bharatanatyam. Over the past ten years, Delia has strengthened her technical ability while growing in her confidence and expression as a dancer.

Her love for performing has been further ignited through her involvement in numerous Annual Day showcases and cultural events across the UK. She was part of the winning team in the 2024 Aurora Dhamaka North-West Dance Competition and performed at prestigious events, including the 2024 ISTD Misrana showcase and on the renowned stage of The Bhavan in London. Delia has successfully completed six ISTD graded examinations with four Distinctions and is currently studying at the Intermediate level. Alongside her role as a dancer, she also manages the school's Instagram page, contributing to growing our dance school community. These diverse experiences have enriched her performance quality and self-confidence, shaping her into a well-rounded young artist.



As she prepares for her Arangetram, Delia has balanced dance training alongside her A-Level studies in Biology, Chemistry and Mathematics. She hopes to study Medicine at university starting from September. Her Arangetram marks not only a significant milestone in her Bharatanatyam journey but also the culmination of years of dedication, perseverance and love for dance.

Usha Rao

Passionate about teaching and preserving this ancient art form, Usha established Sai Mayur Bharatanatyam Dance School in 2013. Raised in a culturally and intellectually rich environment, she pursued her interests in both science and the arts. She began learning Bharatanatyam at the age of six and continued her training in the Mysore bani under the tutelage of Smt Srivalli Ambarishi, who played a pivotal role in refining her technique and introducing her to the nuances of abhinaya. Usha also studied Carnatic music, Veena, and Mridangam, further strengthening her foundation in the performing arts. Alongside her commitment to teaching and Bharatanatyam, she serves as a Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist and has been working in the NHS for the past fourteen years.

Under her guidance, students have performed on local, regional, and international platforms. One of her senior students reached the top 20 in the BBC Young Dancer 2021 competition, and several students have successfully completed ISTD graded examinations up to the Intermediate level. To date, eight students have completed their arangetrams under her mentorship. Usha's objective extends beyond imparting the beauty of Bharatanatyam; she strives to nurture confidence, self belief, and a sense of purpose in her students so they may contribute positively to society, bringing happiness and peace through their art.

Blessings from teacher

Delia's journey in Bharatanatyam has been marked by qualities that speak to her character and commitment. Her determination, strong work ethic, and unwavering dedication have enabled her to overcome the challenges of her early years in training, during which she never once gave up. Throughout her learning, she has remained kind hearted, gracious, and ever smiling - bringing warmth and positivity to every class. Even during the demanding periods of her GCSE and A level preparations, she continued to attend lessons with consistency and focus, demonstrating admirable discipline. Her excellent memory and sincere devotion to the art have supported her steady growth into a poised and confident dancer. As her teacher, I offer my heartfelt blessings and pray that these strengths continue to guide and uplift her in all her future endeavours.



Pushpanjali
Raga: Saraswathi
Tala: Adi

Pushpanjali marks the auspicious beginning of the recital. It is a traditional offering of flowers in reverence to the Gods, the Ashtadikpalakas (guardians of the eight directions), the Gurus, the accompanying musicians, and the audience.



Ganesh Stuti
Raga: Ragamalika
Tala: Tisra Eka

Ganesh Pancharatnam is a joyful and uplifting hymn in praise of Lord Ganesha, whose blessings are traditionally sought before any auspicious undertaking.



Shabdham
Raga: Ragamalika
Tala: Misra Chapu

Shabdham is a graceful and devotional piece that gently introduces a dancer to the traditional realm of abhinaya. In this unique composition offered to Lord Jesus, the dancer expresses His compassion, mercy, and divine benevolence with sincerity and reverence.





Bho Shambo
Raga: Revathi
Tala: Adi

Bho Shambo, a well loved kirtanam composed by Sri Dayananda Saraswati, is cherished by Bharatanatyam dancers for its devotional strength and uplifting rhythm. In this composition, the repetitive chant creates a calm, meditative atmosphere for both dancer and audience.

Varnam
Raga: Ramapriya
Tala: Adi

The Varnam stands as the central and most demanding piece of a Bharatanatyam recital, showcasing a dancer's mastery of both nritya and abhinaya. The composition traverses the essence of the Ramayana, highlighting the noble virtues, compassion, and valour of Lord Rama.





Krishna Bhajan
Raga: Ragamalika
Tala: Roopaka

In this hymn, the dancer captures the sweetness of devotion and the delight of remembering Krishna's playful childhood, offering the audience a moment of pure joy.

Javali
Raga: Behag
Tala: Roopaka

In this jāvalī, Delia presents three shades of the nāyikā, each revealing a different emotional state. She becomes the khanditā, angered by her lover's betrayal; the vipralabdā, hurt by his deception; and the kalahāntarītā, repentant and longing for reconciliation. Exploring all three within a single piece highlights the depth of abhinaya and showcases the dancer's expressive range with clarity and maturity.



Thillana
Raga: Hindolam
Tala: Khandā Eka

The thillana is the joyful conclusion of the Bharatanatyam margam. Filled with lively nr̥itta, quick footwork, and bright rhythmic patterns, it allows the dancer to end the performance with energy and grace.



Credits

Nattuvangam: Smt Usha Rao

Vocals: Sri Ajith Kartha

Mridangam: Vidwan Sri R N Prakash

Flute: Vidwan Sri Vijay Venkat

Veena: Smt Subathra Raghuraman

Photo Credits: Sri Shanthikaran Sharma

Video credits: Bitti George

Technical support: Moreton Hall technical team

*Compères: Layoni Joby, Prisha Mahapatra Roy
and Annabel Jobins*

*Costumes: Sri Prabhath Kalavidaru, Bangalore,
India*

