

SRUTI

THE INDIA MUSIC AND DANCE SOCIETY

Proudly Presents

PADMASRI DR. PADMA SUBRAHMANYAM

Performing in Bharata Nrithyam style

KRISHNAYA TUBHYAM NAMAHA

with Live Music and Eight accompanying Artists

Saturday, August 13, 1988. 7:00 P.M.



DREXEL UNIVERSITY

Stein Auditorium, Nesbitt Hall

33rd & Market Streets, Philadelphia. Pa. 19104

Co-Sponsored by DEPARTMENT OF PERFORMING ARTS, DREXEL UNIVERSITY.

Dr. Padma Subrahmanyam, an internationally renowned dancer from South India, has perfected a unique dance form, called Bharata Nrithyam. It is a creative blend of the classical dance forms, such as, Bharata Natyam, Kuchipudi, Mohiniattam and Odissi. Padma is especially famous for concerts based on unified themes including the recently choreographed episode from Ramayana set to Tchaikowski's score of "Romeo and Juliet". Soviet Union and Australia have made films honoring her work.

For tickets and more information please contact :

(215) 356-5181
(302) 475-8961

(215) 328-6396
(215) 566-7820

(215) 275-0537
(215) 576-1392

(215) 449-0774

There is a discount on tickets purchased before August 12, 1988.

About the Art

South Indian classical dance has many forms and formats. **Bharata Natyam** and **Kuchipudi** are two of the best known varieties. All the forms owe their origins to a seminal work on dance, "The Natya Sastra". This work attributed to the sage Bharata Muni, is believed to be more than 2000 years old. It is a compendium of all the different forms as they existed then. This work has had a tremendous influence on the development of the art. Many of the sculptures in the South Indian temples depict the classic poses described in this work. The dancers emulate many of these sculptural poses in their performances.

Although classical dance is a very ancient art form, it is still a vibrant living dance style. Through symbolic, expressive and rhythmic gestures, it communicates a variety of thoughts, situation, mood and emotion. Until very recently this art was practised and presented at the temples and royal courts by professional temple dancers. But today, classical dance is learnt by many, both in and outside India. It has thus quickened the aesthetic sensibilities of diverse peoples and nations.

South Indian dance has two main aspects: *Nritta* and *Nritya*. *Nritta* emphasizes the technique of rhythmic footwork and arm movements in close association with the accompanying music, whereas, *Nritya* conveys the mood and message of the songs through suggestive gestures and facial expressions.

In a typical dance performance, the music is led by a vocalist who would intone intricate rhythmic patterns known as *nattuvangam*. The same person or another vocalist sings the songs. The dancer interprets the mood, emotion and the theme contained in the songs while maintaining the rhythmic patterns.

The most common accompanying instruments are the violin, the flute, and the *mridangam* (a percussion instrument). Another common one is *veena* - a stringed instrument with frets. *Veena* is played by plucking at one end and pulling the strings with the other hand or moving the fingers along the frets.

Padmasri Dr. Padma Subrahmanyam

Dr. Padma Subrahmanyam, one of the foremost exponents of classical dance in India today, hails from a family of well known artists. Her mother is a *vaggyekara* and has composed more than 400 *kritis* in Sanskrit. Her father K. Subrahmanyam was a famous director of movies in the forties and fifties. Born in the illustrious family, Padma's dance training started from a very young age and was from the famous **Vazhuvur Ramiah Pillai** and **Gowri Ammal**.

Padma is a highly innovative artist. She has taken the ancient art form to new heights by forging what she calls as ***Bharata Nrityam***, where, she melds the best features of **Bharata Natyam**, **Kuchipudi**, **Odissi**, **Mohini Attam** and other forms of Indian classical dance. She is highly praised for reviving the old 'Banika' style. Here the solo dancer depicts many roles and the individual numbers are connected by a central theme. In Philadelphia, she will perform the most famous of them, namely **"KRISHNAYA TUBHYAM NAMAHA"**. In this, Padma will expound various aspects of the well known Krishna motifs. The other themes she has presented include *Ramaya Tubhyam Namaha*, *Jaya Jaya Sankara*, *Bharathikku Anjali* and *Kamba Ramayana*. Her creative genius in choreography and music has reached beyond the shores of India. While visiting Russia in 1987 as a member of India Festival, she presented an episode from the Ramayana set to the musical score from the ballet "Romeo and Juliet" by the famous Russian composer Tchaikovsky. Her style of dancing exemplifies the judicious mixture of the **Lokadharmi** and **Natyadharmi** techniques. The latter emphasizes the sophisticated aspects of the dance form. Padma is thus able to satisfy the cognoscenti while pleasing the public at large.

Padma is not only a great artist, but also a scholar and teacher. She holds a Ph.D degree and has published a book and many scholarly research papers. Padma, the director of **Nrithyodaya** - a dance school in Madras, India, is currently on an international tour giving performances and conducting camps, where students gather for intensive study and coaching for short periods of time. On her current tour she conducts one such camp at **Arsha Vidya Gurukulum** in Saylorsburg, Pennsylvania. She has received a number of awards including the Indian National award of **"PADMASRI"**. The Soviet Union has made two films on Padma and the Film Australia another one her work.