

Guru Vandana

A Homage To My Teachers

Guru Vandana is a tribute to Sloka's teachers in the sciences and the arts. Through Bharatanatyam pieces and scientific evidence, Sloka will share the neuroscience of learning and teaching, and explore how engaging in these activities profoundly impacts individuals and society.

Tuesday, December 10, 2024
Aaron Davis Hall

PROGRAM

Ganapati Stuti

Ragam (melody): Ragamalika; Talam (rhythm): Talamalika

We invoke Lord Ganesha: the elephant-headed deity to bless this event and the space.

Kriti

Ragam (melody): Hamir Kalyani; Talam (rhythm): Mishra Chapu

This song describes the devotion of a student to his or her chosen field of study.

Jatiswaram

Ragam (melody): Saraswathi; Talam (rhythm): Rupakam

Intricate sequences of movements (“jatis”) are combined with repetitive musical notes (“swaras” in Carnatic music).

Ananda Tandavam (Padam)

Ragam (melody): Shanmugapriya; Talam (rhythm): Aadi

This piece describes the Ananda Tandava - the dance of bliss, ecstasy, and joy - danced by Lord Shiva.

Thallattu

Ragam (melody): Neelambari; Talam (rhythm): Khanda Chapu

Depicting the timelessness of a mother’s love and the devotion of a devotee, this lullaby is for Goddess Meenakshi. Depictions of the child by the child’s mother and by the devotee are interwoven.

Thillana

Ragam (melody): Parasu; Talam (rhythm): Aadi

Thillanas consist of beautiful rhythmic patterns that are woven together in varying speeds and combinations.

Guru Stotram

We end the event with an ode to our Gurus, describing them as the source of wisdom and reality.



ABOUT THE PERFORMER (SLOKA IYENGAR, PHD)

Sloka (pronounced “Shloka”) is a neuroscientist and practitioner of Bharatanatyam, passionate about relieving suffering through the sciences and the arts. Her dance practice manifests in three main ways: 1. Continuing to learn Bharatanatyam, music, and Sanskrit from her gurus; 2. Creating works on the convergence of the sciences and the arts; and 3. Creating the foundation to use Bharatanatyam for creative aging.

As a scientist consultant, she works in the fields of mental health, the epilepsies, and palliative care. She teaches at The American Museum of Natural History and St. Joseph’s University.

Contact Sloka at:

<https://www.slokaiyengar.net/>

<https://www.facebook.com/slokaiyengar>

https://www.instagram.com/bnatyam_on_the_brain

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/slokaiyengar/>

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GRATITUDE

Gurus in Dance

Guru Smt. Maheshwari Nagarajan
Guru Sri. Nagarajan
Smt. Vanitha Jayan

Gurus in Science

Dr. David Mott
Dr. Gerardo Piroli
Dr. Helen Scharfman

Music

Sri. Jayan Nair (vocals)
Krishna Nair (nattuvangam)
Manav Nair (mridangam)
Sri. Rajendran Nair (bansuri)

Friends and supporters

Margie Sastry
Michael Tanksley
Padma Narayanaswamy
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