

# RADHIKA KATHAL

BHARATANATYAM DANCER | MUSICIAN



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## INTRODUCTION

Radhika Kathal has been pursuing dance and music since the age of 7. She started her formal training in Bharatanatyam under Dr. Sneha Chakradhar and is currently a disciple of **Guru (Padmashri & SNA Awardee) Geeta Chandran** under whom she presented her Arangetram in 2012 at Natya Vriksha. She was initiated into music by Ms. Mili Maitra and is currently a disciple of **Dr. Soma Singh** under whom she hones her skills in the Gwalior Gharana Gayaki in the Hindustani Music Tradition.

Radhika Kathal is the founder of **KALADHWANI**, which is aimed at promoting classical dance and music among the masses and making arts accessible to all. She imparts training in both Bharatanatyam and Hindustani Music at her institute.

A **graded artist by Doordarshan**, she has been a recipient of several accolades such as Junior Diploma from Prayag Sangeet Samiti, Allahabad in both, Bharatanatyam and Hindustani Vocal Music, the prestigious national scholarship, "**Scholarship to Young Artists**" for Bharatanatyam from The Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India and titles such as "**Nritya Vilasini**" "**Rajat Jayanti Samman**" "**Nrityanand Lahiri**" to name a few.

Being an Artpreneur was a conscious choice by Radhika, who has a strong academic record. An alumni of Jesus and Mary College with a Bachelor's Degree in Commerce, Radhika has a distinction in her Master's Degree in Hindustani Vocal Music from Faculty of Music, University of Delhi.

Across the years, Radhika has performed to diverse audiences across India and abroad-both, as a soloist and as a senior dancer in-group choreography as part of **Natya Vriksha Dance Company**. Some of the acclaimed group choreographies she has been part of are: *Swara Raaga Sudha, Sivam, Seasons (Bharatanatyam performed on Western Classical Music of Tchaikovsky), Pankh, Sankriti, Ganga to Kaveri* and *Anekanta*.

Radhika has been a part of multi-city tours in abroad – 60 years of Indian Republic (a six-city tour in the United Kingdom) organized by ICCR, India in Chile (celebrating 70 years of Indian Independence) organized by Festival of India, Govt. of India and International Festival of Music and Dance organized by ICCR. In January 2015, she had the privilege of performing for Former US President Barack Obama and US Delegations in a cultural evening hosted by President Pranab Mukherjee on the eve of Republic Day at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, organized by SEHER. In February 2016, she represented India at the International Music and Dance Festival in Thailand and also performed for the Prime Minister of Thailand, Hon'ble Prayut Chan-o-Cha, organized by ICCR.

As a young dancer, Radhika has performed at some of the major festivals in India such as Ranakpur Mahotsav, Rasadhara Festival, Ananya Dance Festival, Taj Mahotsav, Kalidas Samaroh, Uday Shankar Festival of Choreographies, Swathi Thirunal Festival, Pravasi Bhartiya

Diwas, International Film Festival, National Festival of Creative Arts, Ganga Mahotsav, Braj Mahotsav, Ajmer Literary Festival and Kumbalgarh Classical Dance Festival as well as in abroad such as International Music and Dance Festival, Thailand.

Besides Dance and Music, she is also trained in the art of Nattuvangam and supports dancers on Nattuvangam and vocals. She has assisted Guru Geeta Chandran and Dr. Sneha Chakradhar on dance and Nattuvangam for Spic Macay Lecture-Demonstrations and Workshop Demonstrations, across India (Uttar Pradesh, Jammu, Chittorgarh, Gujrat, Orissa, and New Delhi to name a few). Radhika was also invited to conduct music and dance workshops for kids as well as adults at Chinmaya Yuva Kendra, Chinmaya Mission and Maitreey Preksha Sewa Mission.

In continuation with her strong passion for Dance and Music, she has extensively worked in the field of Arts Education. Her most challenging project was, as an arts consultant, in building a dance curriculum and teacher training module for blind students in collaboration with UNESCO, National Association for Blind and Saksham NGO.

Apart from teaching and engaging with students at Kaladhwani, she is also the Primary Arts Anchor at Shiv Nadar School, Noida where she collaboratively works with the Arts Team and the Academic Team to facilitate Arts Integration into the formal education curriculum.

As a choreographer, Radhika was invited to choreograph commissioned dance-drama productions such as Female Feticide, Surya 108 (a dance-drama on Lord Surya commissioned by Chinmaya Mission), Caligula (commissioned by NSD) and What the Luck Yaar.

Her stage presence and charm to engage the audience has given her various platforms in Music as well. She was invited to perform at music festivals organized by Sangeet Smriti, Global Cultural Foundation, IIT DELHI, Musicons Promateurs and PANIAVISION. She has also recorded playback scores for TV serials on Doordarshan and sung jingles on the radio for the Ladli Yojana Campaign.

***"I am absolutely in a trance, after seeing this beautiful performance by Radhika. It was not just an Arangetram performance, it was a professional performance by her."***

***- Padma Vibhushan Dr. Yamini Krishnamurthy***



## LIST OF PERFORMANCES

### OVERSEAS PERFORMANCES

#### **FESTIVAL OF INDIA TOUR TO CHILE (2017)**

A dance tour by Geeta Chandran and Natya Vriksha Dance Company to celebrate seventy years of Indian Independence at Chile (Santiago and San Antonio), organized by Festival of India, Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India.

#### **INTERNATIONAL MUSIC AND DANCE FESTIVAL, THAILAND (2016)**

Represented India and performed Bharatanatyam based choreographies at The International Music and Dance Festival, Thailand hosted by Srinakharinwirot University, Thailand.

#### **VISIT OF DR. M. HAMID ANSARI TO THAILAND (2016)**

Presented Bharatanatyam based choreographies for Dr. M. Hamid Ansari and Prime Minister of Thailand Hon'ble Prayut Chan-o-Cha organized by ICCR.

#### **UNITED KINGDOM- SO MANY JOURNEYS (2010)**

A dance tour of seven performances by Geeta Chandran and the Natya Vriksha Dance Company presenting Traditional and contemporary choreographies celebrating 60 Years of the Indian Republic of six cities (London, Birmingham, Cardiff, Leicester, Liverpool and Edinburgh).

### RECENT PERFORMANCES IN INDIA

#### 2021

##### **Solo Bharatanatyam Performance**

A Solo Bharatanatyam Performance as part of Natya Vriksha 3.0, New Delhi

##### **Solo Bharatanatyam Performance**

A Solo Bharatanatyam Performance as part of Nruthyollasa Festival organized by Ananya Bengaluru, Karnataka.

##### **Natya Vriksha Dance Company**

Performance as part of Natya Vriksha Dance Company at "Khajuraho Nritya Samaroh" in Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh.

#### 2020

##### **Solo Bharatanatyam Performance**

A Solo Bharatanatyam Performance as part of Aavartan Festival organized by Devi Durga Kathak Sansthan, New Delhi.

##### **Solo Bharatanatyam Performance**

A Solo Bharatanatyam Performance as part of Virasat Series organized by Rag Virag kala Kendra, New Delhi.

##### **Solo Bharatanatyam Performance**

Solo Bharatanatyam Performance as part of Pongal Dance Festival organized by Krishna Gana Sabha, Chennai.

#### 2019

##### **Solo Bharatanatyam Performance**

A Solo Bharatanatyam Performance as part of Raza Foundation's Aarambh Series - A festival showcasing young and upcoming artists, in the field of dance and Music, Triveni Kala Sangam, New Delhi.

##### **Natya Vriksha Dance Company**

Performance as part of Natya Vriksha Dance Company at Lalit Parv Festival, Triveni Sanghralaya, Ujjain.

**Natya Vriksha Dance Company**

Performance as part of Natya Vriksha Dance Company at "Vishwa Yog Diwas" in Rabindra bhavan, Bhopal.

**Solo Bharatanatyam Performance**

Solo Performance at Smarami Deepak Kala Utsav, Tagore Theatre, Chandigarh.

2018

**Natya Vriksha Dance Company**

Performance as part of Natya Vriksha Dance Company as part of the Pravaha Dance Festival at the Tata Theater, National Centre of Performing Arts, Mumbai.

**Swar Raaga Sudha**

A Trio Bharatanatyam Presentation by Dancers Amritha Sruthi, Radhika Kathal and Madhura Bhrushundi as part of Guru Kripa Festival at Sri Sathya Sai Auditorium, New Delhi.

**Santosh Nair Ensemble**

Performance as part of amalgamation of Cchau, Kathak, Odissi and Bharatanatyam at ITC Maurya for Jindal Group of Industries under the guidance of Santosh Nair.

**Natya Vriksha Dance Company**

Performance as part of Natya Vriksha Dance Company at Debadhara Guru Shishya Sanman at India International Centre.

**Natya Vriksha Dance Company**

Performance as part of Natya Vriksha Dance Company in a production titled "GANGA TO KAVERI- connecting rivers through dance" curated by Churchill Pandian at India Habitat Centre.

**Solo Bharatanatyam Performance**

Solo Bharatanatyam Performance at Mandala Pooja Celebrations at Ayyappa Temple, R.K.Puram.

**Natya Vriksha Dance Company**

Performance as part of Natya Vriksha Dance Company at Nadaneeranjam Festival, Tirupathi.

**Natya Vriksha Dance Company**

Performance as part of Natya Vriksha Dance Company at Mahashivratri Sangeet Mahotsav, Varanasi.

**Swar Raaga Sudha**

A Trio Bharatanatyam Presentation by Dancers Amritha Sruthi, Radhika Kathal and Madhura Bhrushundi at Nritya Parv festival organized by Dr. Parul Shah, Baroda, Gujarat.

2017

**Sangati – A Collaborative Presentation**

Performed Sangati – an amalgamation of different dance styles as part of Swathi Thirunal Festival under the guidance of Dr. Jayaprabha Menon, IHC, New Delhi.

**Natya Vriksha Dance Company**

Performance as part of Natya Vriksha Dance Company at Ganga Mahotsav, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.

**Natya Vriksha Dance Company**

Performance as part of Natya Vriksha Dance Company at Hampi Utsav, Karnataka.

**Solo Bharatanatyam Performance**

Solo Bharatanatyam Performance as part of Kalatva collective at IIT Kanpur.

**Natya Vriksha Dance Company**

Performance as part of Natya Vriksha Dance Company at Yog Diwas at Tribal Museum, Bhopal.

**Sangalan : Collaborative Presentation**

Performance as part of SANGALAN –a melange of 3 classical dance styles directed by Smt. Radhika katha in collaboration with Era Dogra and Pragya Ghosh for the Annual Festival “MANJARI 2017” of Daulat Ram College, University of Delhi.

**Natya Vriksha Dance Company**

Performance as part of Natya Vriksha Dance Company at the Nritya Sanrachna Festival organized by Sangeet Natak Akademi, Imphal.

**Solo Bharatanatyam Performance**

Solo Bharatanatyam performance celebrating thillanas composed by Dr. M. Balamurlikrishna titled “Murli Samarpan” at India International Center, New Delhi.

**2016****Natya Vriksha Dance Company**

Performance as part of Natya Vriksha Dance Company titled “ANEKANTA” to celebrate 25 years of Natya Vriksha at Kamani Auditorium, New Delhi.

**Solo Bharatanatyam Performance**

Solo Bharatanatyam performance presenting traditional choreographies at Triveni Kala Sangam, New Delhi.

**Sangalan : Collaborative Presentation**

Performance as part of SANGALANI –a melange of 3 classical dance styles directed by Smt. Radhika katha in collaboration with Era Dogra and Pragya Ghosh for Indian Oil Corporation, R & D Centre, Faridabad organized by Tapaswini Nav Sadhna.

**Solo Bharatanatyam Performance**

A Solo Bharatanatyam performance at Rajat Jayanti Mahotsav, organized by Gahoi Vaish Samaj, Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh.

**Duet Bharatanatyam performance**

Bharatanatyam presentation of traditional choreographies with Dr. Sneha Chakradhar at Shri Gurupurnima Mahotsav, Patna, Bihar.

**Solo Bharatanatyam Performance**

A Solo Bharatanatyam as part of Nritya Sewa organized by Krishna Shrine, Ashok Vihar, New Delhi

**Natya Vriksha Dance Company**

Performance as part of Natya Vriksha Dance Company at 21st Uday Shankar Ballet and Nritya Festival at Jaipur, Rajasthan.

**Sangalan: Collaborative Presentation**

Performance as part of SANGALAN –a melange of 3 classical dance styles directed by Smt. Radhika katha in collaboration with Era Dogra and Pragya Ghosh for Bareilly Premier League organized by Future group of institutions.

**2015****Natya Vriksha Dance Company**

Performance as part of Natya Vriksha Dance Company titled “Natya Vrinda” as part of Kalidas Samaroh, Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh.

**Solo Bharatanatyam Performance**

A solo Bharatanatyam recital at the festival of classical dances “NRITHANRITYATHI” organized by Nrithyathi Kalkshetram at Kala Mandir, Bhilai, and Chattisgarh. Awarded the title “Nritya Vilasini” for contribution to the arts and promoting the arts.

**Solo Bharatanatyam Performance**



A solo Bharatanatyam recital at NATYANJALI- A Maha-Shivratri Dance Festival organized by S.N.G.D.S Devaswam in collaboration with Nrithyathi Kalakshetram at Sree Narayana Guru Dharma Samajam, Bhilai, Chattisgarh.

2014

#### **Solo Bharatanatyam Performance**

A solo Bharatanatyam performance at the Indian National Science Academy for a South-Asian Conference held by Regional Centre for Biotechnology.

#### **Natya Vriksha Dance Company**

Performance as part of Natya Vriksha Dance Company the Ganga Mahotsav organized by Uttar Pradesh Tourism at Ravi Dass Ghat, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.

#### **Trio Bharatanatyam Presentation**

Presented "TRIYATRA" an evening of Bharatanatyam based choreographies organized by Desmania Foundation at the Atelier, Lado Sarai to mark 40 years of dancing career of Padmashri Geeta Chandran.

#### **Solo Bharatanatyam Performance**

A solo Bharatanatyam Performance at Amity University, Noida on the occasion of International Conference of Psychology and Applied Sciences on the theme of "Concept of Nurturing Values".

#### **Solo Bharatanatyam Performance**

A solo Bharatanatyam Performance as part of the Summer Sewa at the Sri Radha Raman Temple in Vrindavan, organized by Sri Caitanya Prema Samsthana, Vrindavan, Uttar Pradesh.



### "Devi Durga Kathak Sansthan – Aavartan Festival"

Radhika Kathal, a Bharatanatyam disciple of celebrated Dancer Geeta Chandran has carved her own niche with thorough training under her guru. Well versed in Hindustani Music and nattuvangam, Radhika has commendable anga saushthava. Her Alarippu in Tishram explored the four directions in the sitting posture with perfect araimandi. It was a pleasure to see Alarippu with such perfection. Of late few dancers, perform it. Geeta Chandran's nattuvangam with complicated rhythmic patterns and Radhika's pirouettes were noteworthy.

The choreography of Natanam adinar wove in various Karanas, including subtle suggestive sanchari of Kamadeva turned into ashes when Lord Kamdev turned into ashes when Lord opened his third eye were executed by Radhika with aplomb and finesse. The rock steady stand with Dandapada Karana left an indelible impression.

Dr. Sunil Kothari, Classical Claps, September 10, 2020

### "Footloose and Fancy Free" on Debadhara Guru Shishya Sanman Festival

"...The finale by Geeta Chandran and her Natya Vriksha dancers was Vanajaksha varnam in Bihag raga. Geeta performed Krishna and **Radhika**, Amrita and Madhura performed the roles of gopis. The incomparable beauty of Krishna, his lotus like eyes described by gopis one after another from different angles, Geeta as Krishna standing in one corner of the stage, Vrindavan was created in a trice. Sung in melodious raga the varnam stood out for its complexity, performed by the dancers with commendable command over the technique. Their joyous dancing and excellent expressions were a treat..."

Dr. Sunil Kothari, Narthaki.com, 27 May 2018

### "Tradition of Dance" on Nritya Parv Festival

"...Nritya Parv 2018 concluded with the brilliant Bharatanatyam presentation "Swara Raga Sudha", by Natya Vriksha Dance Company of Guru Geeta Chandran, who had very thoughtfully conceived, imaginatively choreographed and melodiously composed the music, lending her own well-groomed voice at times. The chiselled dancers Amrithasruthi, **Radhika** and Madhura did their Guru proud..."

Smt. Manjari Sinha, the Statesman, 22 February 2018

### "An Honoured Tradition" on Debadhara Guru Shishya Sanman Festival

"...Guru Geeta Chandran and disciples Amritha Sruthi, **Radhika** and Madhura took the festival to its climax with their breath-taking Bharatanatyam Varnam "Vanajaksha..." soulfully sung in raga Bihag by Sudha Raghuraman to match the myriad hues of the captivating choreography..."

Smt. Manjari Sinha, the Statesman, 24 May 2018

### "Debadhara's guru shishya format a unique blend of art"

"...One wonders how many more versions of the excellent Behag Varnam "Vanajaksha nine nammiti" Bharatanatyam dancer and Guru Geeta Chandran can pull off... This time, the choreography for a group presentation was composed with great skill, the entries, exits and, the excellently rendered jati interludes and the sahitya part taking on varying dramatic situations, the formations constantly changing with a single dancer or two or three or the entire group. The presentation led by Geeta Chandran had well trained students of Natya Vriksha- Amritha Sruthi Radhakrishnan, Radhika Kathal and Madhura Bhurshundi. That notwithstanding the late hour not a person in the audience left the auditorium says a lot for the performance..."

Smt. Leela Venkatraman, the Asian Age, 22 May 2018



### “Young Dancer Skilfully Perform Old Padams”

Radhika is a young dancer, a senior disciple of Guru Geeta Chandran and one of the senior dancers of her Natya Vriksha Dance Company. Radhika, through nritya, depicted the attributes of the goddess Matangi, her kind look (kataksh) as Kalyani, lotus-eyed, the musical instruments she rejoices in and her companion, the parrot. Radhika's dancing had pace and her movements covered the stage. There were squats, stretches, and one-legged stances as well. Radhika executed the varnam in Raag Behag with very powerful dancing as her nritta has a lot of pace and energy. The nritya portion was also rendered well. Radhika performed three different padams that day. She ended the performance with Natanam Adinar. It was a dynamic presentation by Radhika as she emerged as a very promising dancer.

Shveta Arora, Kala Upasana, February 24, 2017

### “Footloose and Fancy Free” on Nritya Parv Festival

...Geeta Chandran's three disciples from Delhi presented three Bharatanatyam numbers, choreographed by Geeta under the dance title Swara Raga Sudha. Amrithasruthi Radhakrishnan, Radhika Kathal and Madhura Bhrushundi are well trained young dancers with more than ten years of experience and exposure having performed solo as well as in group along with Geeta Chandran. This heightened understanding of Geeta is further complimented by three dancers giving thought concept which is 'abstract', a 'concrete' shape, the way three of them hold their arms and palms, standing rock steady on one leg, other bending backwards in vrischika karana, a scorio bend. Their horizontal arm movements, creating various geometrical patterns are a visual treat, along with mnemonic syllables, jathis and enchanting music. These explorations set apart Geeta's choreographic vision that transforms in her disciples' dancing. Tillana was like a flash of lightning. The three dancers performed it with uniform movements, symmetrical and scintillating. There was that joyous abandon in periya adavus, covering the stage. No wonder they received standing ovation from the audience who sat through, though it was rather late when the program concluded...

Dr. Sunil Kothari, Nartthaki.com, 24 February 2018

### “The melody of the murali remembers Dr. M. Balamurlikrishna”

The next tillana was in raag Vrindavani. **Radhika Kathal**, who is a disciple of Guru Geeta Chandran, performed it. Radhika is a dancer whose nritta is very powerful. Her neck and eye movements and her balancing stances were rendered with a lot of grace, the squatting stances and footwork were performed at a fast pace and her abhinaya too had a lot of grace. “It is a very lyrical tillana and all the movements have a lot of musicality about them,” said Radhika.

Shveta Arora, Kala Upasana, February 24, 2017

### अधीर मनोभावों का मार्मिक चित्रण

राधिका कठल ने अपने नृत्य की शुरुआत अल्लारिपू से की. कल्पना में जिस तरह कमल का फूल खिलकर अपना रंग बिखेरता है, उसी प्रकार परंपरागत नृत्य में राधिका अंग संचालन, नेत्राभिनय और लयात्मक गति में रंग भर रही थीं. भगवान शिव की आराधना में कीर्तनम पर उनका भक्तिपूर्ण नृत्य रोचक था।

रवींद्र मिश्र , राष्ट्रीय सहारा, 13 सितंबर, 2020

### पायो जी मैंने राम रतन धन पायो

यही नहीं, समारोह को चार चाँद लगाए दिल्ली से पहुंची भरतनाट्यम नृत्यांगना एवं गायिका राधिका कठल ने | राग मांड पर आधारित मीरा के भजन पर मनमोहक नृत्य ने सभी का दिल जीत लिया वही दोपहर में अपने सुरों का जादू बिखेरा और मीरा के भजन पायो जी मैंने राम रतन धन पायो गाया।

सिटी रिपोर्टर , दैनिक भास्कर

### नाट्यांजलि में दर्शक हुए भाव-विभोर

महाशिवरात्रि के अवसर पर आयोजित शास्त्रीय नृत्य के कार्यक्रम नाट्यांजलि के अंतिम दिन नई दिल्ली से आयी राधिका कटहल ने शास्त्रीय नृत्य प्रेमियों को भाव-विभोर किया।

सिटी भास्कर , भिलाई

### भरतनाट्यम की मनोरम प्रस्तुति

वर्णम को वेंकटेश्वरन ने बहुत ही मनोयोग और मधुरता से गाया और उसके अनुरूप राधिका ने भावों को नृत्य अभिनय के ज़रिये निपुणता के साथ दर्शाया। साथ ही, जतिस की प्रस्तुति के क्रम में विभिन्न अडवुओं में भ्रमरी और उत्प्लावन का सम्यक प्रयोग में उनकी स्फूर्ति और तैयारी सहज रूप में दिखी।

शशिप्रभा तिवारी

### फलक पर चमकती तारिकाएं

राधिका ने राग हंसध्वनि और त्रिपुट ताल में निबद्ध मल्लारी को शुद्ध नृत्य के चलन में शुद्धता और कुशलता से पेश किया। अंग संचालन, नृत्य के आकार, विविध मुद्राएं, सटिक पद संचालन से लेकर विविध दिशाओं में लय की गति में राधिका ने जो चमकीले रंग बिखेरे वे वाकई में दर्शनीय थे। आदि कवी कालिदास द्वारा रचित मातंगी, मधुशालिनी कटाक्षम कल्याणी में देवी के रूप और अनेक अस्तित्व की प्रसंगिकता की नृत्य और अभिनय के ज़रिये व्याख्या बड़ी सार्थक और तर्कपूर्ण थे। वर्णम में, नायिका के अंतर्मन में कृष्णा के लिए उपजते उत्कंठित भाव को राधिका ने भाव-विभोर होकर सरसता से स्थायी और संचारी में प्रस्तुत किया। नट्टुवंगम पर उपस्थिति गुरु गीता चंद्रन की जतियों के चलन, सरगम और ताल के आवर्तन विविधतत्पूर्वक लयात्मक गति पर राधिका का नृत्य और नृत काफी सूझ भरा और आकर्षक था।

रवींद्र मिश्र , राष्ट्रीय सहारा , 4 दिसंबर , 2016

THANK YOU