

vibhaav

Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Australia held a pure classical Bharatnatayam dance performance of over 90 minutes at the Tom Mann Theatre, Surry Hills Sydney by internationally renowned Bharatnatayam dancer Sneha Chakradhar.

Sneha Chakradhar performed the following items in traditional Bharatnatayam dance style :

- 1. Ganesh Stuti:**An auspicious beginning with a prayer to Lord Ganesha, the God of success and the destroyer of obstacles.
- 2. Pushpanjali and Shlokam:** Pushpanjali. is an invocatory dance piece, which literally means 'the offering of flowers with folded hands'. Pushpanjali is followed by a short verse; *Shlokam*, portraying the magnificence of Lord Shiva, the Lord of dance.
- 3. Varnam:**Varnam, which means 'different shades of colour' is the most elaborate piece in the repertoire. Unfolding the state of the heroine, who is intensely in love with Lord Karthikeya, this Varnam is set in Raagam Poorvikalyani and Taalam Adi.
- 4. Meera Bhajan:**An expression based piece illustrating the lyrics of Hindu mystical poetess Meerabai's prayerful song on Lord Krishna. The Bhajan is based on Raagam Behag and set in Taalam Adi.
- 5. Tillana:**The Bharatanatyam repertoire ends with a Tillana, which is the dance of joy. Tonight's Tillana is set in Ragam Vrindavani and Taalam Adi.
- 6. Mangalam:** Traditional concert-ending.



Sneha Chakradhar has performed extensively in India and has participated in numerous group choreographies as senior dancer with the Natya Vriksha Dance Company. Sneha has travelled with her dance overseas and performed at prestigious venues in London, Australia, Kenya, Mauritius and will be performing in New York in July 2007. Sneha, an empanelled artist with the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) was awarded the 'Natya Ratna' (Dance-jewel) at an early age of 19 and was awarded the 'Dandayudhapani Award 2001' for outstanding contributions to the Dandayudhapani style of dancing by the former President of India Mr. R. Venkataraman.

Sneha has been pursuing her training in the classical dance form of Bharatanatyam under the most eminent Gurus in the field for the past 15 years. She was initially trained by Kalaimamani Guru K. N. Dakshinamurthi, under whom she presented her Arangetram performance. She is currently a disciple of Padmashree Geeta Chandran, Founder-President of Natya Vriksha, New Delhi.

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Abattoir Heritage Building B, 1 Herb Elliott Avenue, Olympic Park
www.bhavanaustralia.org Ph: 02 9267 0953 info@bhavanaustralia.org