

Sreepadman School of Dance Presents

Mohiniyattam Arangettam

Smt. Billo Thomas
Disciple of Smt. Bhairavi Nedungadi

Date:
**Sunday,
November 8th, 2026**

Location:
**Dougherty Valley
Performing Arts Center
San Ramon, CA**



Welcome Address



Cholkettu

Ragam: **Atana**

Talam: **Adi**

Composition : **Sri Changanassery Madhavan Nambuthiri**

Choreography: **Dr. Neena Prasad**

Cholkettu is an invocational piece, offering prayers to Lord Ganesha, the remover of obstacles and lord of auspicious beginnings.



Jathiswaram

Ragam: **Kharaharapriya**

Talam: **Mishra Chapu**

Composition : **Sri Changanassery Madhavan Nambuthiri**

Choreography: **Dr. Neena Prasad**

Jathiswaram showcases a seamless blend of graceful adavus and dynamic rhythmic patterns.

Kanchadalayadakshi

Ragam: **Kamalamanohari**

Talam: **Adi**

Composition : **Muthuswami Dikshitar**

Choreography: **Bhairavi Nedungadi**

This composition celebrates Kamakshi as the embodiment of divine beauty, compassion, and grace, the loving Mother who listens to the prayers of her devotees and bestows her blessings upon them.



Padavarnam

Ragam: **Mukhari**

Talam: **Adi**

Composition : **Maharaja Swathi Thirunal**

Choreography: **Dr. Neena Prasad**

This padavarnam paints the anguish and sorrow of Nayika whose heart is heavy with the grief of separation. Sakhi then approaches the Nayaka who is none other than Lord Sri Padmanabha and speaks of the deep torment the Nayika is enduring. "Oh Sripadmanabha, She, your beloved is extremely overcome with grief..." Sakhi then moves on to reminding the lord about the good times he had with the nayika and pleads with the lord to go back to her. The charanam of this padavarnam portrays the story of Ghantakarna, the bell eared demon who refused to hear anything but Lord Shiva's name. One day, disturbed by a devotee praying to Lord Vishnu, he shook his bells loudly, disrupting the worship. When the devotee tried to curse him, Lord Vishnu himself appeared, stopped him, and instead blessed Ghantakarna, showing divine grace to all. Sakhi then pleads to Sri Padmanabha to go with her and protect the Nayika.



Anandanatanaprakasham

Ragam: **Kedaram**

Talam: **Mishra Chapu**

Composition : **Muthuswami Dikshitar**

Choreography: **Bhairavi Nedungadi**

This composition describes the cosmic dance of Lord Shiva, who resides in the golden temple of Chidambaram as Akasha Linga. The composition describes the lord as being effulgent in dance accompanying Goddess Sivakamavalli.



Thillana

Ragam: **Hamsanadam**

Talam: **Adi**

Composition : **Sri Madurai N Krishnan**

Choreography: **Bhairavi Nedungadi**

Thillana, a concluding piece celebrates the joy of movement through intricate footwork, graceful body movements, and dynamic rhythmic patterns.



Smt. Bhairavi Nedungadi

Born into a family of esteemed artists and raised in an environment steeped in art, Bhairavi developed a profound appreciation for the performing arts from an early age. Introduced to dance as an after-school activity, she gradually found in it much more than an extracurricular pursuit. Over the years, dance has become an integral part of her life- a medium for artistic expression and personal growth. Bhairavi is a senior disciple of Guru Padmashri Kalamandalam Kshemavathi and Dr. Neena Prasad, and remains a devoted student, continuing to learn and refine her art under the guidance of both her Gurus. She has performed to diverse audiences in India and US across multiple festivals. She is acclaimed for her versatility as a performer, choreographer and a teacher. Bhairavi founded Sreepadmam School of Dance, a classical dance institute based in Fremont and the school imparts training to students in Mohiniyattam and Bharatanatyam. She is also learning Kathakali under the guidance of Guru Kalamandalam Balasubramanian for the past six years. Bhairavi holds a Master's degree in Structural Engineering and she is also a full-time IT professional.



Orchestra

Nattuvangam: **Smt. Bhairavi Nedungadi**

Vocal: **Smt. Asha Ramesh**

Smt. Asha Ramesh, a celebrated Carnatic vocalist, composer, and teacher from San Jose, California, is a devoted disciple of Sangeeta Kalanidhi Sri D. K. Jayaraman and Nanganallur V. Ramanathan, and has received numerous prestigious awards and titles for her musical excellence. With over 35 original Thillanas, numerous bhajans and abhangs, and music composed for dance productions and albums, she has collaborated with artists worldwide and continues to contribute richly to the world of Indian classical music. Founder and Artistic Director of the Ragamalika School of Music since 1992, Smt. Asha has nurtured generations of musicians and remains a cherished pillar of the Bay Area's Carnatic music community.

Mridangam: **Sri Srinath Bala**

Sri. Srinath Bala is a versatile and accomplished percussionist who has trained under renowned maestros including Sri. R. Ramesh and Padma Vibhushan Umayalpuram K. Sivaraman, blending diverse rhythmic traditions into his distinctive style. With over 35 years of concert experience, he has performed extensively across India and internationally, accompanying leading artists as well as participating in Jugalbandis, TalaVadya concerts, and lecture-demonstrations on Layam. A dedicated teacher and recipient of several prestigious awards and titles, he has also nurtured numerous students who continue to contribute actively to the world of Indian percussion.

Violin: **Smt. Sandhya Srinath**

Smt. Sandhya is an acclaimed violinist with over 40 years of performance experience, a Gold Medalist in Music, and an early A-grade recipient from All India Radio, who has imbibed the musical traditions of maestros including Lalgudi G. Jayaraman and Prof. T. N. Krishnan. A versatile performer and recipient of numerous prestigious awards and titles, she has presented solo concerts worldwide and collaborated with leading musicians and dancers through ensembles, Jugalbandis, and fusion performances. Known for her sensitive and captivating artistry, Smt. Sandhya is a sought-after performer and dedicated teacher who continues to nurture violin students across the United States.

Flute: **Sr Srivathsa Pasumarthy**

Sri. Srivathsa Pasumarthy is a seventh-generation flautist from a distinguished family of flutists and flute makers, trained under his father Pasumarthy Venkata Ramana and renowned flautist Shri J. B. Shruthi Sagar of Chennai for over a decade. Inspired by his guru's emphasis on vocal expression and sahityam, he is also a composer and lyricist who has created music for several dance productions, including Bāla Kāndam, AbhēdaPāndurangam, and Rāmanai Thudhi Maname. A dedicated teacher and an A-grade Mridangam artist of All India Radio, Chennai, Srivathsa continues to inspire the next generation while carrying forward his family's rich musical legacy.

Billo has been learning Mohiniyattam for the past nine years under the guidance of Smt. Bhairavi Nedungadi. As a student of Sreepadmam School of Dance, she has had the opportunity to participate in several school productions, recitals, and temple performances, as well as performances in Seattle and Sacramento in 2023. She was also part of Rasa Sayujya, a live musical production with orchestra, in 2025.

Her love for dance and the performing arts began during her school and college years, when she participated in group dances, Thiruvathirakali, Margam Kali, and drama. After moving to the United States, she continued to nurture her passion for dance through numerous semi-classical group performances. Her journey in Mohiniyattam over the past nine years has allowed her to deepen this passion and experience the beauty, grace, and expressive richness of this classical art form.

Billo moved to the United States in 1995 and earned a Master's degree in Computer Science. She began her career in the Bay Area in 2000 and has worked with startups and Microsoft. She currently works as a Program Manager at Google. Billo and her husband Thomas, who works at Oracle, live in the Bay Area and have two children. Their son, Joseph, works at Google, and their daughter, Juhi, works at the University of Washington after completing her Master's in Public Health.

Beyond her professional and artistic pursuits, Billo is passionate about giving back to her community. She is actively involved with the nonprofit organization Solace and volunteers at her church, where she creates the weekly flower arrangements. She also finds great joy in gardening, particularly in nurturing flowers and plants.

For Billo, this Arangettam is a special milestone in her nine-year journey with Mohiniyattam, a celebration of her love for dance and the arts, and of the many creative and meaningful pursuits that have enriched her life along the way.

With gratitude to my guru, musicians, family, friends, and everyone who has supported this journey

