

SHISHYA SCHOOL PRESENTS

'PANCHABHUTAM'

The Five Cosmic Elements



*At Princeton High School Auditorium  
on Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023  
at 12.30 pm*

*Buy tickets at [www.shishya-arts.com](http://www.shishya-arts.com)*

*Or*

*Email to [shishya.arts@gmail.com](mailto:shishya.arts@gmail.com)*

## **Shishya School Of Performing Arts LLC.**

Shishya School Of Performing Arts is a dance company formed by dancers and artists. Its sole purpose is to educate and qualify students in the art of Indian Classical dance, music, mythology and dance theater. The word 'Shishya' is of Sanskrit origin and means 'the student'. It was founded by Guru 'Kalashree' Sukanya Mahadevan. Every year her students participate in talent shows, competitions, Poojas and the schools' own annual production. The school's other notable performances are Rotary club, AIA's Gandhi Jayanthi Celebration, Grounds of Sculpture, local senior centers, TCNJ Arts Festival, NJ Tamil Sangham Dance festivals, Raritan and Mercer Community College festival, cultural festival conducted by the Department Of Transportation, the Lawrenceville Main Street Jubilee, , Dishaa conducted by NAAMI, Sofkin, local libraries, Mercer County Heritage Festival, Nrithyotsav at Krishna mandir, AIM Thyagaraja festival, Bridgewater temple and TRIVENI. Every year the school conducts an annual day production with varied themes and on this occasion, the students dance for a cause and donate funds to charity. The recipients of this have been organizations such as NAMI, MANAVI and AIA, the Embrace Kids Foundation, Operation Smile and the American Red Cross. Each of these Annual Day productions also are presented with a theme such as 'STHREE' - women empowerment, 'KAAVYAM' - dedication to poetry and 'VAAHANAM' - the mythical beasts of Gods. These productions bring together traditional dances alongside innovative choreography relevant to the theme presented that year. In May 2022, Shishya school presented their annual day in person after two years of virtual presentation. The theme aptly was called 'NATYA CHITHRA' or celebrating the dancer's canvas.

Shishya students also have placed in competitions like Natyanajali, Naach Utsav and Guru Saroja Abhinandan Awards.. In 2019, a select group of senior students toured India during the prestigious music and dance festival season and performed at the IndiraNagar Sangeetha Sabha in Bangalore and RK Swamy Hall in Chennai with their guru. In 2020, the school was invited to perform at the prestigious Carnegie Hall in New York City, in their invitation-only International Festival. Since the pandemic, students have been presenting and sharing their art virtually for various organizations and also used their art to raise funds for worthy causes. Some of these programs have been on international platforms. Shishya School has an active student run BLOG where both the Guru and Shishyas present their thoughts, opinions and research in dance related topics. The school also has a YOUTUBE channel where programs are presented virtually for a worldwide audience. Shishya school also has their own black box theater setup where they present their own shows such as the one to celebrate Guru Saroja.

Shishya School will be hosting many programs on their Youtube channel and in person this upcoming year and many of them will be fundraisers for worthy causes.

Shishyas will also be heading to Carnegie Hall in New York City and Rome, next year for prestigious International Dance Festivals.

Check out our website to learn more about us, our founder and artistic director, our performances, and all that we have to offer including neo-classical choreographies, online tutorials and theory classes. Also, like us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter to keep up with all things Indian culture. [www.shishya-arts.com](http://www.shishya-arts.com) and contact us at [shishya.arts@gmail.com](mailto:shishya.arts@gmail.com)

## **BharathaNatyam**

*BharathaNatyam is a form of Indian Classical Dance that has a history that goes back over 2,000 years. It is taught according to the guidelines established by Natya Shastra, a book on the science of BharathaNatyam, written by Sage Bharatha. It has evolved a great deal over the years and is one of the foremost dance forms of India today. Its origins can be traced to ancient Sanskrit literature and Temple sculptures. The NatyaShastra defines this dance as entertainment fit for the Gods. It is said that this art form was originally derived from the four Vedas (the great ancient scriptures of Hinduism). This then became the NatyaVeda, the parent of this art form. This dance was performed by DevaDasis (servants of God) for Gods in the temples. Royal Patronage then brought this art form into the kings' courtyard where it was treated with a lot of respect, as any art should be.*

*Later, the dance became associated with courtesans, which led to its slow degeneration. Between 1930 to 1940, this dance was revived again when young women from respectable families became interested in it as an indigenous art form. Since then, BharathaNatyam has been recognized as a great ancient art all over the world.*

*BharathaNatyam has three main aspects to it – Nritta (rhythmic movements), Nritya (movements in which Abhinaya or expression is emphasized) and Natya (drama). Adavus (footwork), Mudras (hand gestures) and Rasa (facial expression) all contribute to the drama aspect. The art form today is both sensual and spiritual.*

*We hope that you will be able to see all aspects of this great art form today. It is said that BharathaNatyam is a great exercise for the body, mind and soul.*

## **"PANCHABHUTHAM" – The Five Cosmic Elements**

*Shishya School Of Performing Arts proudly presents this year's annual day recital, titled "PANCHABHUTHAM", celebrating Lord Shiva and the Five cosmic elements that he governs. This project is a labor of love for Guru Sukanya, that has taken more than a year to traverse from concept to production. It required months of rigorous research and some out of the box thinking to pull together a very unique choreography. Finally, very fine music and video editing helped pull together a one of a kind multi media production that promises to be a sensory treat. Our newest addition to choreography this year was Sandhya Mahadevan from Performance Academy who helped with lyrical choreography for the Water and Fire elements.*

*As usual, honoring our motto, Art for Humanity, part of sale proceeds from tickets will be donated to The Promise Clinic. You will hear more about both the production and our charitable cause during our program today.*

*The first part of the program will showcase the regular Bharatanatyam curriculum that students have been working on during the year. After a brief snack break, we will resume with the actual 'Panchabhutham' production itself.*

*The stage is being sponsored by YLDP.*

### SHISHYA SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Growth in number of types of students and new classes in Carnatic vocal and adult classes.
- Sukanya Mahadevan, our Artistic Director is also visiting faculty at Rider University's world dance program with thirty two Arangetrams and counting...
- Several Awards for both students and the Artistic Director including 'Kalashree' title, Dr. Saraswati award, Humanitarian awards, Commendations from Voorhees township, Best teacher/choreographer award from DHONGWA foundation, winners in SOFKIN, DHONGWA, Rotary Club and Naach Utsav competitions, honorable mention in Natyanjali Bharathanatyam competition.
- Community Service at local libraries and senior centers and various dance drama productions.
- Performances at Grounds For Sculpture, AIA Gandhi Jayanthi functions, SOFKIN, Rotary Club, TCNJ Arts Festival, DISHAA for SAMHAI, Mercer County Heritage festival, Department Of Transportation cultural festival, fundraiser for Corzine and US Attorney General's Office.
- Performance at local Indian organizations such as Tamil Sangham, NAAMAM and Thygaraja festivals.
- Performance at Temples such as Bridgewater temple and the Nrithyopasana at Krishna Mandir.
- Workshops with Padmabhushan Guru Saroja Vaidyanathan, Kalaimamani Guru Rama Vaidyanathan and Shri Muralidhar and performance in Sivagamiyin Sabadam dance drama and workshop and performance with Shri Narendra Kumar and NJNS productions.
- Lecture Demonstrations at Rider University, Princeton Ballet School, TCNJ, Mercer Community college and Raritan college.
- Dance dramas like Krishnaarpanam, Ramcharitham and the unique 'Kaa-na-nam' based on the Jungle Book.
- 'GuruVandana' ticketed performance at Chinmaya ,Cranbury.
- India tour at Chennai Festival and Indira Nagar Sangeetha Sabha in Bangalore.
- Invitation only Performance at Carnegie Hall, NY in January 2020 with 30 selected dancers.
- Several virtual fundraisers including SACHA and virtual competitions
- Poetry depiction through dance at the prestigious Vishwa Rang program
- Shishya Students participated in over 13 programs last year alone.
- Invitation to perform at Carnegie Hall in 2024
- Invitation to perform in Rome, at an international festival in 2024

### We thank our Ad Sponsors for their ongoing support

- Artistic Designs
- Anu Bhat and the Rural Painter
- Cecilia Smitha Jackson and YLDP
- Usha Iyengar and KellerWilliams Realty
- The Rao family
- Kathy Cancel and JewelsToTreasure

# **'PANCHABHUTHAM' 2023 Program Schedule**

**BROCHURE and SPONSORS SLIDESHOW during seating followed by SHISHYA SLIDE SHOW**

**Welcome Speeches by-Guru Sukanya Mahadevan**

## **Prayer invocation**

**Prayers- (Invocation Sloka(vocal) Mrs. Bhuvana Jaganbabu and Padmini Sabanayakan**

**Prayer Invocation Dance - Guru Sukanya**

**Slokas and Chants(Slokas, Saraswati Sloka) Beginners Levels 1,2 and 3 and Adults**

**The Cosmic Dancer (Shiva Sloka) – 'Aangikam Bhuvanam' Intermediate Level 2**

## **Ganesha – The Elephant Headed God**

**The Warm Up Dance – 'Alarippu' - Beginners Levels 2 and 3 and Adults**

**Invoking Ganesha's Blessing – 'Ganesh Pranaam' - Beginners Level 1**

**Praise Lord Ganesha – 'Jai Jai Ganesha' -Adults**

## **Krishna – The Magical Flute Player**

**Come Hither Krishna – 'Swarajathi' - Beginners Level 3**

**I meditate on you – 'Maanasa Sancharare' – Guru Sukanya**

**Krishna Chant – 'Madhava Panchakam' – Performance Academy Level 1**

**I surrender to Krishna – 'Kshanameva Ganyam' – Advanced Academy**

## **The Goddess**

**The wrath of the Goddess – 'Haigiri Nandini' Intermediate Levels 1 and 2**

**Salaam to the Goddess – 'Salaamure' Shishya Alumni and Guru Sukanya**

**Introduction of Shishya Alumni**

**Honoring Chief guest Deputy Mayor Neena Singh**

## **Kartikeya - The God of Valor**

**Spear in Hand – 'Velava Shabdham' – Intermediate Level 1**

**Valli's husband – 'Valli Kanavan Kavadi Chindu' – Guru Sukanya**

## **The Cosmic Dancer**

**The Cosmic Dance - 'Natanam Aadinaar' Intermediate Level 2**

**Shiva and the holy Bull - 'Nrithyathi Nrithyathi' Performance Academy Level 2**

## **Folk, Smiles and Joy**

**Joyful Folk(s) – 'Kummi' Beginners Levels 1, 2 and 3, Adults**

**Smile and Laugh More – 'Sirippu' Guru Sukanya and Sandhya Mahadevan**

**Joy of Freedom – 'Aaduvome' Performance Academy Level 1**

## **Prayer, Peace and Finale**

**Ode to Christ – Graduating senior Dance duet Guru Sukanya and Alma Alex**

**Senior Student Intro by Guru Sukanya**

**Shanti Mantra Tillana Senior Academy**

**INTRODUCTION OF CHARITABLE CAUSE, OUTREACH COMMITTEE**

**INTERMISSION**

**YEAR IN REVIEW AND TROPHIES AND CLASS SLIDESHOW**

**PANCHABHUTHAM DANCE PRODUCTION (after brief intro)**

**Introduction of SPA, student teachers and Shishya Student Run committees**

*Messages to Dancers from their families*



Dear **Shriya**,

We are incredibly proud of the person you have become and the hard work and dedication you have shown towards dance.

We wish you all the best as you pursue your dreams and goals, and we look forward to seeing all the wonderful things you will accomplish in the future.

With love and admiration,

Ronith, Mom and Dad, Aiji, Dada and Amamma

**About YLDP:**

*The mission of the Youth Leadership Development Program is to develop our youth into talent with leadership skills for the workforce and community leadership. The core pillars of YLDP are Trust, Growth, Creativity and Leadership. They teach personal development and workforce development skills such as Public Speaking, Marketing and Development, Entrepreneurial and Leadership Skills, Business Process Management, Emotional Intelligence, and Mindfulness. YLDP is a 501(c)3 (non-profit) organization and donations are tax deductible. Cecilia Smitha Jackson is the Founder of YLDP and you can reach her at 609-647-6050 or at [www.yldp.org](http://www.yldp.org).*



**About our Chief Guest:**

*Deputy Mayor Neena Singh is the first Indian origin immigrant and a Sikh woman to serve as Deputy Mayor at Montgomery Township, NJ. Neena is an operating principal at Keller Williams, and KW Social Equity chair for the Tri-state area. She is a passionate community activist and a big proponent of public service, and believes that we all have a responsibility to give back. Neena ardently believes in Seva (service). Seva is a distinct and unique feature of the Indian culture. Seva means selfless and voluntary service for the benefit of humanity without any personal gain. Neena was recognized for her service, activism and was awarded NJ Governor's Synergy award for her persevering community service. She has an extensive history of service within her county and has led many grassroots community engagement efforts. As an Executive officer at STAND central NJ (a grassroots non-profit) she is focused not only on engaging and educating South Asian voters but also on empowering them to participate in our democracy. She is a passionate advocate of mental wellness and is focused on working to build resilience in our children, encouraging them to participate in civic engagement efforts so they can rise to their full potential. She believes diversity of voices is important to ensure decisions reflect the community she serves.*



**About our charitable cause – The Promise Clinic:**

*This year, we have chosen The Promise Clinic as our charitable cause. This selection process was spearheaded by our student run community outreach committee, led by Sandhya Mahadevan and Leela Biswas. They specifically chose The Promise Clinic, to which, Shishya School will donate part of ticket proceeds to. The Promise Clinic is a student-run free clinic at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. It provides longitudinal primary care for people in New Brunswick who don't have health insurance. Many of the patients are homeless, so this clinic is a real lifeline in terms of primary healthcare. This is a local grassroots organization that relies almost entirely on donations and the hard work of volunteers who help patients navigate a complicated, expensive healthcare system. Our own Leela Biswas, volunteers there as a student doctor. Susan Giordano will represent the cause and is the Program Director for the Homeless & Indigent Population Health Outreach Project (HIPHOP) at the Rutgers RWJMS Office of Community Health. HIPHOP is the umbrella under which the HIPHOP Promise Clinic operates.*

## Participants

<b><u>Choreographer, Teacher, Event Co-coordinator and Artistic Director:</u></b> <i>'Kalashree' Guru Sukanya Mahadevan</i> <b><u>Assistant Choreographer:</u></b> Sandhya Mahadevan		<b><u>Assistant Teachers:</u></b> <i>Jinu T, Sandhya Mahadevan, Idaya Sasikumar, Iniya Sasikumar, Godha Pranathi</i>	
<b><u>Charitable Causes:</u></b> <i>The Promise Clinic</i>	<b><u>Light, Sound and Projection</u></b> <b><u>Managers:</u></b> <i>Vicki Q Agrawal</i> <i>PHS staff</i>	<b><u>Videography and Photography:</u></b> <i>Fotolaya</i> <b><u>Makeup</u></b> <i>Sonali Chanekar</i>	<b><u>Master Of Ceremonies:</u></b> <i>Suhani Goyal and</i> <i>Sukanya Mahadevan</i>
<b><u>Concession Vendor:</u></b> <i>Godavari</i>			

### Post-Arangetram Students:

*Neha Premanand, Vismita Kandasamy, Apurva Iyengar, Amritha Sypereddi, Sandhya Mahadevan, Idaya Sasikumar, Iniya Sasikumar, Sonia Ivancic, Maya Ivancic, Saaisha Nayan, Saiyati Nayan, Saana Dharia, Raina Bhatnagar*

### Student Roster:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Class</b>
<i>Apurva Iyengar</i>	<i>Alumni</i>
<i>Amritha Sypereddi</i>	<i>Alumni</i>
<i>Neha Premanand</i>	<i>Alumni</i>
<i>Vismita Kandasamy</i>	<i>Alumni</i>
<i>Leela Biswas</i>	<i>Performance Academy/Alumni</i>
<i>Sandhya Mahadevan</i>	<i>Performance Academy/ Assistant Teacher/Community Outreach Lead</i>
<i>Alma Alex</i>	<i>Performance Academy/Graduating Senior</i>
<i>Sonia Ivancic</i>	<i>Performance Academy/BLOG Coordinator</i>
<i>Mahima Ragupathi</i>	<i>Performance Academy</i>
<i>Idaya Sasikumar</i>	<i>Performance Academy/ Assistant Teacher</i>
<i>Iniya Sasikumar</i>	<i>Performance Academy/ Assistant Teacher</i>
<i>Vedika Deepak</i>	<i>Performance Academy/Student Teacher in Training</i>
<i>Hasini Thupakula</i>	<i>Performance Academy</i>
<i>Sreesha Rajesh</i>	<i>Performance Academy/Student Teacher in Training</i>
<i>Shriya Rao</i>	<i>Performance Academy/Student Teacher</i>
<i>Saaisha Nayan</i>	<i>Performance Academy</i>
<i>Maya Ivancic</i>	<i>Performance Academy/Student Teacher in Training</i>
<i>Raina Bhatnagar</i>	<i>Performance Academy/Student Teacher</i>
<i>Saana Dharia</i>	<i>Performance Academy/Student Teacher</i>
<i>Siyona Jain</i>	<i>Performance Academy</i>
<i>Srishte Arvind</i>	<i>Performance Academy/Student Teacher in Training</i>
<i>Avighna Anand</i>	<i>Performance Academy</i>
<i>Nikita Goyal</i>	<i>Performance Academy</i>
<i>Suhani Goyal</i>	<i>Performance Academy</i>
<i>Godha Pranathi</i>	<i>Performance Academy/Student Teacher</i>
<i>Diya Nagella</i>	<i>Senior Academy/Student Teacher</i>
<i>Tara Kartik</i>	<i>Senior Academy/Student Teacher in Training</i>
<i>Eesha Srinivasan</i>	<i>Senior Academy/Student Teacher /BLOG Coordinator</i>
<i>Swetha Ragupathi</i>	<i>Senior Academy</i>



<i>Viveka Selvakumar</i>	<i>Senior Academy</i>
<i>Anita Alex</i>	<i>Senior Academy/Student Teacher</i>
<i>Sanjana Kamath</i>	<i>Senior Academy/Student Teacher</i>
<i>Illayanila Sathieshpillai</i>	<i>Advance Academy</i>
<i>Dyuthi Anantharam</i>	<i>Advance Academy/Student Teacher</i>
<i>Ishita Vinay</i>	<i>Advance Academy/Student Teacher</i>
<i>Akanksha Radadia</i>	<i>Advance Academy/Student Teacher in training</i>
<i>Gargi Bansu</i>	<i>Advance Academy/Student Teacher in training</i>
<i>Annushka Rawat</i>	<i>Advance Academy/Student Teacher</i>
<i>Rhea Naina Cadambi</i>	<i>Advance Academy/Student Teacher in training</i>
<i>Ria Chidare</i>	<i>Advance Academy/Student Teacher in training</i>
<i>Niveditha Venkatapathy</i>	<i>Advance Academy/Adult Class</i>
<i>Vidya Somasundaram</i>	<i>Advance Academy</i>
<i>Kavita Amin</i>	<i>Advance Academy/Intermediate 2</i>
<i>Ishithasri Harish</i>	<i>Intermediate 2</i>
<i>Avika Sia Tellis</i>	<i>Intermediate 2</i>
<i>Vidhya Belagodu</i>	<i>Intermediate 2</i>
<i>Vedika Krishna</i>	<i>Intermediate 2</i>
<i>Saiyati Nayan</i>	<i>Intermediate 2</i>
<i>Slesha Enuconda</i>	<i>Intermediate 2</i>
<i>Taruneetha Sujith Kumar</i>	<i>Intermediate 2</i>
<i>Navya Palaparthi</i>	<i>Intermediate 1</i>
<i>Maahika Muthunoori</i>	<i>Intermediate 1</i>
<i>Aakansha Rawat</i>	<i>Intermediate 1</i>
<i>Prithika Mitra</i>	<i>Intermediate 1</i>
<i>Akansha Datta Pynda</i>	<i>Intermediate 1</i>
<i>Swecha Enuconda</i>	<i>Intermediate 1</i>
<i>Hasini Ragavendran</i>	<i>Intermediate 1</i>
<i>Ashvika Shastry</i>	<i>Beginners 3</i>
<i>Anika Shastry</i>	<i>Beginners 3</i>
<i>Trisha Kondra</i>	<i>Beginners 3</i>
<i>Reyna Munshi</i>	<i>Beginners 3</i>
<i>Adarsha Datta Pynda</i>	<i>Beginners 2</i>
<i>Shivani Ponvel</i>	<i>Beginners 2</i>
<i>Shreya Prathap Kumar</i>	<i>Beginners 2</i>
<i>Lakshitha Manavazhi</i>	<i>Beginners 2</i>
<i>Vicki Agrawal</i>	<i>Adult Class/Beginners 2</i>
<i>Natasha Agrawal</i>	<i>Adult Class/Beginners 2</i>
<i>Roshini Dhanavanthi</i>	<i>Beginners 1</i>
<i>Aditi Iyer</i>	<i>Beginners 1</i>
<i>Aisha Muthunoori</i>	<i>Beginners 1</i>
<i>Swara Mhetre</i>	<i>Beginners 1</i>
<i>Nikitha Dhaniyala</i>	<i>Beginners 1</i>
<i>Padmini Sabanayakan</i>	<i>Music</i>

**OTHER ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:**

Concept and Choreography	- Sukanya Mahadevan
Agenda and Brochure design	- Sukanya Mahadevan
Panchabhutham choreography assistant:	- Sandhya Mahadevan
Stage Sponsor	- YLDP
The Promise Clinic Representative	- Susan Giordano
Chief Guest	- Deputy Mayor Neena Singh
QR Codes for Brochure and Agenda	- Vicki Quintero Agrawal
Community Outreach	- Sandhya Mahadevan
BLOG Leads	- Sonia Ivancic and Eesha Srinivasan
Trophies	- Crown Trophies
Volunteering	- Shishya Parent Association(SPA), Student Teachers and Parents of students
Backstage co-ordination	- SPA committee executives and members, Homeroom moms, Student teachers

**About our Carnatic Vocal teacher**

Smt. Bhuvana Jaganbabu is an avid carnatic musician and also happens to be guru Sukanya's mother. She started learning carnatic vocal music at the age of eight from Shree Aatmanadhan who was a disciple of the famous 'Sangeethakalanidhi' G.N. Balasubramaniam (GNB). She continued singing through her teen years and completed lower exams in Carnatic music. Although never professional, she continued her passion in this for many years, till later in New Delhi, she and her like-minded music friends formed a group called Raga Ranjani. This group eventually became a professional classical music group and performed in various venues and also became graded artists in both All India Radio and Delhi Doordarshan (television).





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### Director's Note

*Dear Friends,*

*I am extremely blessed and grateful to the divine power, my parents, my family and my Gurus for enabling me to be connected with this beautiful ancient art form. I would not have imagined in a million years that teaching, choreographing and performing this dance form would become a full time endeavor. Now that it is a huge part of my life, I would not have it any other way.*

*Most importantly I am extremely blessed to have patrons like you who love the art and support me and most importantly share your beautiful, gifted children with me. For that, I thank you from the bottom of my heart. These lovely souls constantly amaze and inspire me to be a better teacher, choreographer and performer and most importantly a better human being.*

*This year's production – 'Panchabhutham' has been a labor of love for me for the past twelve months. The research I have done for this project has opened my mind to our rich heritage and deep philosophical nature of Hindu mythology and scriptures. From the musical brilliance of Dikshidar to the reference of both science and yoga, to these five cosmic elements has enriched my mind and soul. I hope you can see the 'Panchabhutham' and its significance through my rose colored glasses, so as to speak,*

*Also please join me today in wishing our out-going senior, the very best in life as she moves from one chapter of her life to the next.*

*Alma Alex, may this dance stay with you forever. Be Hard-working, Be Curious, Stay Connected but most of all Be Humble, for that is the true path to enlightenment.*

*Fondly*

*Sukanya Mahadevan*

*Founder and Artistic Director*

*Shishya School Of Performing Arts*



*Alma Alex*

## 'Kalashree' Sukanya Mahadevan – Teacher, Choreographer, Founder and Artistic Director

Guru 'Kalashree' Sukanya Mahadevan, a prominent performer, teacher and choreographer has been involved in this art form since the age of 6. She performed her Arangetram in New Delhi at the age of 14. She has performed at leading theatres in Delhi and received scholarships in the field too. She remained a leading performer with rave critic reviews despite stiff competition. Her performances include the Doordarshan and sabhas in cities like New Delhi, Chennai and Lucknow. She was a proud performer at the prestigious fourth Yuva Mahotsava conducted by Sahitya Kala Parishad, an organization supporting art in India which culminated in a breakfast with then prime minister of India, Shri Rajiv Gandhi. She has also performed in the major sabhas in Chennai both during and after the December festivals. These include places like Mylapore fine Arts and Narada Gana Sabha. She had the privilege of being taught by maestros such as Shri Bhaskar, Smt. Indira Krishnamurthy, Padmabhushan Dr. Saroja Vaidyanathan (her own aunt) and late Kalaimamani Dr. Saraswati Sundaresan. She was given the title 'Kalashree' by Ganesa Natyalaya for propogating the art form to the next generation. Voorhees Township also awarded her a commendation for propogating this ancient art in the local communities here in the US. Sukanya is the Founder and Artistic Director of Shishya School Of Fine Arts and has almost 80 students currently under her tutelage.

Trained to teach and choreograph this dance form, she has been teaching Bharatha Natyam since 1997 in various places such as the Voorhees middle school CER program, the West Windsor Plainsboro dance company, Rider University, Princeton Ballet School, TCNJ, local libraries and schools and the Mercer County Teen Arts Festival. Sukanya also published an article for [www.waternoice.com](http://www.waternoice.com) on the 'Guru-Shishya Parampara' – the teacher-student relationship. Guru Sukanya loves to choreograph both traditional items and fusion items which include 'Kathak-Bharathanatyam' Jugalbandhis' and Bharathanatyam-Ballet duets for several productions. Mrs. Mahadevan works with leading artists from the other respective dance fields to pull together these items. In her many years of being in this art, she has had the good fortune of interacting with maestros like Dr. Balamurali Krishna, Guru Rama Vaidyanthan, Shri Narendra Kumar and the famous singer O.S. Arun. Besides being an accomplished dancer and performer, she is a passionate teacher. She likes to push herself and her students to achieve more and caters choreographies to bring forth the strengths in them as a dancer.

In the US, she has performed all over the tri-state area, including the prestigious Guru Vandana program at Chinmaya mission and the Brahmotsav at Bridgewater temple. and is a sought after performer and choreographer. She has recently created and choreographed productions for Bharathanatyam called 'Krishnarpanam', 'Ram charitham' and also put together a unique dance drama with costumes and multimedia projections based on 'The Jungle Book', a unique dance drama performance perspective on a modern day classic. She is not only a well-known teacher, but also an author and software engineer with a Masters in Computer Science. However dance will always continue to be her primary passion. She is currently a visiting faculty at Rider University's world dance program.

Guru Sukanya was awarded the prestigious 'Dr. Saraswati Award' by Vipanchee Natyalaya and Dr. Balamurali Krishna music therapy trust fund in Chennai during the music and dance festival and she and her students performed at the festival. She and her group was also invited to perform at the Invitation only International dance festival at Carnegie Hall. In 2020, when Covid hit, Guru Sukanya and her students were invited by SACHA to perform a virtual dance show for raising money for frontline workers. She also performed virtually for the prestigious Vishwa Rang in 2020 where she curated a beautiful Hindi poem to Bharathanatyam. Guru Sukanya, instills in her students not only the love of this art form but also the motto 'Art for Humanity'. Using dance and music to give back to society either through fundraisers or teaching and imparting the art comes naturally to the students.

She also was one of the judges in the international virtual competition called 'Guru Saroja Abhinadan award' conducted by NIICD, India. Sukanya has been invited with her dance troupe, to perform at Carnegie Hall and Rome in 2024.



