



Galaxy Of Musicians

BRINGING A PAINTING TO LIFE

DANCE SHOW

inspired by
Raja Ravi Varma's Painting

The painter has many things in his head, or around him, or in his studio. Now everything he has in his head or around him is already in the canvas, More or less virtually, more or less actually, before he begins his work.



Galaxy of Musicians

Oil painting on canvas by Raja Ravi Varma
Sri Jayachama Rajendra Art Gallery, Jaganmohan
Palace, Mysore, Karnataka.

Indian women dressed in regional attires playing a
variety of musical instruments popular in different
parts of the country.

About Raja Ravi Varma

Raja Ravi Varma was a painter par excellence whose works not only put India on the map but also placed him on the pedestal with other great artists. Born 29 April, 1848 at Kilimanoor in the erstwhile State of Travancore, Ravi Varma's paintings of the Royals, illustrious personalities and contemporary figures were widely sought-after and greatly admired.

An eye for detail, splendid use of colours and rich texture gave his paintings a classy, exquisite look. The reason why his works are priceless even to this day.

His realistic portrayals and interpretations of religious and mythological figures that adorn the households today, captivated and fascinated the country as well as an international audience.



Raja Ravi Varma

Text and Photo c/o :
<http://www.therrvhfoundation.com/index.html>

Galaxy Of Musicians

BRINGING A PAINTING TO LIFE

Art resists confinement. It breaks all shackles and transcends all barriers. It emancipates our imagination, liberates our soul and allows us to view the world anew. We present an attempt to give life to a great work of art by one of arguably the greatest painters of India – Raja Ravi Varma (1848 – 1906). A painting, Galaxy of Musicians, by that great artist depicting female musicians is the theme of our operatic presentation. We intend to lend life to this painting, which by its very nature is still, but we believe it is not unmoving; it is something that evokes positive emotions. This presentation, Galaxy of Musicians Show, is meant to be a tribute to that great soul and his enduring artistic legacy presented in the form of music and dance that finally freezes into a tableau that replicates his painting.

This painting is significant in that it shows women from all the diverse parts of India. There is even an English lady. When we speak about 'Unity in Diversity', this painting will stand out as a prime example. All the different cultural milieu of India is represented on this canvas. It is also noteworthy that the father of Indian cinema Dadasaheb Phalke chose to use this painting as a backdrop, at the beginning of his first film 'Raja Harishchandra'.

The initial scenes show the artist as both body and mind. His body is here depicted by the male dancer. His mind is represented by the Kathakali artiste. While the body prepares to paint, his mind travels in memory around the various states the artist has visited, once again seeing the women who will populate his picture.

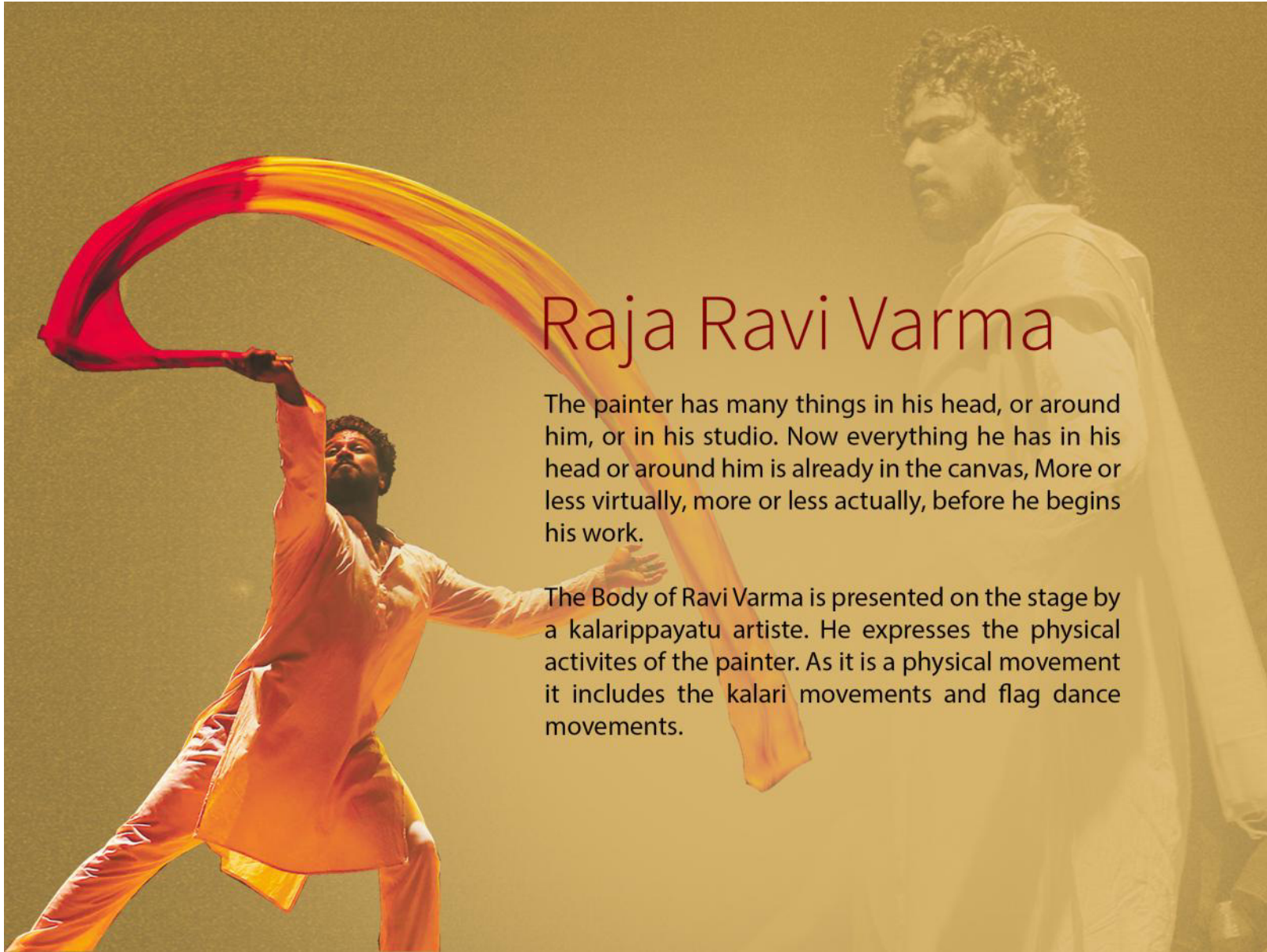
The presentation will focus in turn upon each of the regionally diverse women presented in the painting. They will each execute a brief dance representing their provincial styles after which the painter will appear to express his intention. Then the figures will all come together to the positions they occupy in the canvas.





Kathakali

Kathakali is easily the most easily identified art form of Kerala. The green painted face that adorns all literature about this state is globally recognized. With their face-paint and magnificent costume, the artist dominates the stage and the minds of the viewers. This sophisticated dance-theatre is highly stylized and replete with symbolism. It includes elements of the older form of costumed dance – Koodiyattam as also the martial art - Kalaripayattu.



Raja Ravi Varma

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The Body of Ravi Varma is presented on the stage by a kalarippayatu artiste. He expresses the physical activities of the painter. As it is a physical movement it includes the kalari movements and flag dance movements.



Mohiniyattam

Mohiniyattam is one of the eight Indian classical dance forms. The dance is languid and sensuous. The dancer's movements have been compared to the graceful swaying of a coconut palm. It is truly the dance of the enchantress as its name implies.



Odissi

Also referred to as Orissi in older literature, is a major ancient Indian classical dance that originated in the Hindu temples of Odisha – an eastern coastal state of India



Kothas

In the Indian musical tradition the sarangi moved away from being a humble accompanying instrument used by mendicants and wandering minstrels rendering folk tunes and ditties at fairs, wayside temples and gurudwaras or joining camel caravans across the desert recounting ballads of brave warriors. By the 1850s, as the sarangi outgrew its vagrant character, it settled into the kothas of professional women singers. The players were ushered into royal courts for accompanying recitals of the courtesans. But this association, too, was short lived when the nautch tradition was banned in the 19th century.

Kathak

The origin of Kathak is traditionally attributed to the traveling bards of ancient northern India known as Kathakars or storytellers.

Kathak is found in three distinct forms, named after the cities where the Kathak dance tradition evolved – Jaipur, Banaras and Lucknow.

Stylistically, the Kathak dance form emphasizes rhythmic foot movements, adorned with small bells (Ghungroo), and the movement harmonized to the music.





Mysore Nautch

The home of the dancing girl is the only place in India where the birth of a male child is not an occasion for rejoicing. Daughters are brought up to follow the profession, and are taught dancing, singing, and the arts of dressing and make-up.

The girls dance slowly, rhythmically, swaying their bodies from side to side.



Garba

Garba is a Gujarati folk dance celebrated in Navratri, a celebration lasting nine nights. Garba songs typically revolve around the subjects of the nine goddesses. Garba styles vary from place to place in Gujarat.



Flamenco

Flamenco is a Spanish art form made up of three parts: guitar playing ("guitarra"), song ("cante"), and dance ("baile"). Flamenco originated in the southern regions of Spain, but it's thought to be influenced by many world cultures.

When the gypsies arrived in Andalucia from India around 1425, they brought with them many song and dance styles that have strong Indian connections.



Bharathanatyam

Bharatanatyam is a classical dance form originated in Tamil Nadu, India.

Bharata Natyam comes from the words Bhava (Expression), Raga (Music), Tala (Rhythm) and Natya (Classic Indian Musical Theatre). Today, it is one of the most popular and widely performed dance styles and is practiced by many dancers all over the world.



Indo persian dance

Solo dances usually includes reconstructions of Safavid and Qajar Court Dance. These often are improvisational dances and utilize delicate, graceful movements of the hands and arms, such as wrist circles.

The image features a woman in traditional Rajasthani attire performing the Ghoomar dance. She is wearing a vibrant, multi-colored sari with intricate patterns and jewelry, including a large necklace, bangles, and a headpiece. The background is a soft, golden glow, and the overall composition is centered around the dancer. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

Ghoomar

Ghoomar is a traditional folk dance in Rajasthani communities. It was ranked 4th in the list of "Top 10 local dances around the world". The word ghoomna describes the twirling movement of the dancers and is the basis of the word ghoomar. Ghoomar is often performed on special occasions, such as at weddings, festivals and religious occasions. which sometimes lasts for hours.



Lavani

Lavani is a combination of traditional song and dance, which is particularly performed to the beats of Dholki, a percussion instrument. Lavani is noted for its powerful rhythm. In Maharashtra and southern Madhya Pradesh, it is performed by the female performers wearing nine-yard long saris. The songs are sung in a quick tempo.



The Beginning



The Fusion



The conclusion



The team - Galaxy of Musicians

Kalamandalam Sujatha

The Choreographer

Kalamandalam Sujatha, the well-known artiste, has earned a name for herself as a performer and choreographer, as well as Bharathanatyam dance teacher at Kerala Kalamandalam Deemed University. She has exhibited her exceptional skill as choreographer in the Malayalam movie "Kamaladalam".

She trained under well-known mentors in the art – Padmasree Smt. Kalamandalam Kshemavathy, Sri. Muthuswami Pillai and Sri. Payyannur N.V Krishnan. She has acquired Diplomas with First class from Kerala Kalamandalam in Bharathanatyam and Mohiniyattam.

In 1997 she was appointed as Bharathanatyam Teacher in Kerala Kalamandalam in consideration of her significant talent in the art form. She was honoured with the "KALASAGAR" award in 2013 for her memorable achievements in the art. At present she continues in the above post at Kerala Kalamandalam.





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Kalamandalam Gopalakrishnan The Coordinator

Kalamandalam Gopalakrishnan is the son of the prominent 'freedom fighter' Sri. P Sankaran Nair and the grandson of the well-loved Malayalam Poet P Kunjiraman Nair.

After completing school he joined Kerala Kalamandalam to study Kathakali. He was awarded Scholarship and Junior Fellowship by the Ministry of Culture, Govt. Of India.

It is his earnest desire to promote the arts of Kerala that led to the formation of this institution. His skill as an organiser has made him very popular at cultural events around the world. This benefits our students since they are exposed to various forums early in their careers. He was also a member of EXPERT COMMITTEE (Kathakali Dance) for selection of awardees for scholarship, Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India – 2010-2013.

The latest and brightest feather in his cap is the coordination of 5000 artistes at the Opening and Closing ceremony - National Games - 2015 at Thiruvananthapuram.

Sumesh K.S. The Director

Sumesh K S is an artist residing in the picturesque village, Pallam, in Thrissur District. He is the nephew of Rajan Krishnan, a well-known painter who has achieved international fame with works that depict the wounded earth. Like his uncle, young Sumesh has art in his soul and is committed to the inclusion of nature in his works. He has found his vocation as a graphic designer, architectural visualizer and website designer and has completed a number of significant works in his native state of Kerala. He has executed the architectural visualization of Archeology museum, Trivandrum and Guru Gopinath National Dance Museum, Trivandrum, Wayanad Heritage Museum and also designed a number of websites.

He has exhibited his paintings in group shows in Kerala. Among other works, he has also directed and performed in several shows incorporating live painting and other art forms.

He has worked as an 'assistant at large' with Kalamandalam Gopalakrishnan, Director of Kathakali School. In this capacity he has travelled all over India with the troupe. His lasting interest in the visual arts has been expressed through photography and painting.

He works from his own studio – Crow Creative Crew at Vallathol Nagar (Cheruthuruthy), located quite close to Kerala Kalamandalam.

Contact: 09895682557, valleyofcolours@gmail.com



GALAXY OF MUSICIANS
bringing a painting to life
Duration: 50 Minutes

Concept, Visualization and Direction
Sumesh K. S.

Dance Choreography
Kalamandalam Sujatha
Riti Sachdev, (Flamenco Dance) New York

Assistant Director
Rajshri Deshpande, Mumbai

Music
Arun Das and K.J. Jomon

Lyrics
Murali Sankar (Swaram eka swaram...)

Content Writing
Unni Menon
Dr. Sangeetha KKP

Lighting
Muralidharan

Singers
K.J. Jomon (Swaram eka swaram...)
Ragesh I.G.
Baijan Krishnan (Hindustani)
Riti Sachdev (Flamenco)

Art Director
Vimesh

Property
Vijayan Arangod

Make up
Kalamandalam Nidhin
Saritha Prajith

Assistants
Musthafa, Gokul UdayaKumar
Kalamandalam Aravind, Sarath, Akhil
Shibu, Salim

Dancers

Ravivarma's Mind	Kalamandalam Mukundhan
Raja Ravi Varma	Shaiju
Kerala Lady	Kalamandalam Riya
Tamil Nadu Lady	Kalamandalam Anju
Utter Pradesh Lady	Kalamandalam Athulya / Kalamandalam Krishna
Foreigner	Erina, Germany / Kalamandalam Anjali
Maharashtra Lady	Kalamandalam Ahalya
Kotha (Maharashtra Lady)	Kalamandalam Abhirami
Orissa Lady	Kalamandalam Aathira
Mysore Lady	Kalamandalam Sangeetha
Persian Lady	Kalamandalam Lakshmi
Gujarath Lady	Kalamandalam Reshma
Rajasthan Lady	Kalamandalam Vindhuja / Kalamandalam Pooja
Mohiniyattam	Kalamandalam Aswathi / Kalamandalam Bhagyalakshmi

Supported by

Kerala Kalamandalam

Achu Ullattil

Kalamandalam Gopalakrishnan

Ragini Krishnan

Rashid – Ali's Scanna

Thanks to

Kerala Kalamandalam

Bharat Bhavan Kerala

Kathakali School

Crow Creative Crew

Kaliswari Hotel

Jaiva Builders

Pramod Payyanur

Unni Menon

Dr. Sundaresan

Dr. Sangeetha KKP

Dr. Prakashan PP

Khalid Kalathil

Midhun Mohan

Swathy Mohan

Nidheesh

Shoukath Sahajotsu

Vinay Menon.

Photography & Video

Balakrishnan, Shiji Studio

Thulasi Das, Krishnan Nair studio

Pradeep, 3dots

Praveesh, Kazhcha Studio

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