

*The Indian Organization  
of Lancaster County  
Presents*

**Utsav**

*A Celebration of  
Indian Culture!*



The background of the entire page is a dark, grayscale image of the Taj Mahal in Agra, India. The iconic white marble mausoleum is centered in the upper half, with its reflection visible in the dark water of the reflecting pool in the foreground. The image is dimly lit, creating a sophisticated and elegant atmosphere.

# *Indian Organization of Lancaster County*

## **Mission**

To facilitate and promote the richness and diversity of Indian culture and heritage in Lancaster County while integrating into the fabric of the local community.

## **Vision**

To encourage community participation and promotion of culture and philanthropy among all sections of Lancaster's residents irrespective of religious, ethnic, social or economic backgrounds.



Dear Guests,

It is my honor and pleasure to welcome you to UTSAV 2023 – An Indian Arts Gala. Since first hosting this event in 2014, the response and feedback has been genuine, heartfelt and simply amazing. We are thrilled to bring this event to you again and are sure that it will be a truly memorable evening!

The Indian Organization of Lancaster County, IOLC, ([www.iolcpa.org](http://www.iolcpa.org)) is run completely by willing volunteers. As such, it could not exist without the support of our community and board members, sponsors, local businesses and the broader

Lancaster community. My sincere thanks to all these wonderful people! We are proud to be celebrating our 16th year anniversary with you at this event.

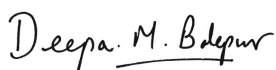
Over the last few years we have launched two very impactful initiatives: The One World Festival <http://oneworldfestivallancaster.org/> which is a beautiful extension of our mission and has enabled us to join hands with other cultural groups to celebrate the common threads that unite all of us.

The Aastha Horizons Fund (<https://www.lancfound.org/aastha-horizons-fund/>) which will create significant impact while addressing community needs and will provide our community members with a channel for collective philanthropy.

Today, we will learn about “An Indian Journey.” To be part of a living ancient culture with a rich, diverse and glorious history. We are so thrilled to have you join us on a magical journey of India's remarkable traditions and heritage.

Thank you all for attending! It is our hope that the evening will exceed your expectations. It is an opportunity to make new friends, reconnect with old ones, and experience a taste of the rich, colorful, Indian Arts, shaped by a history that is thousands of years old.

Sincerely,



Deepa Balepur  
IOLC President

# *Cultural Program*

**Cultural Program – 6:30 p.m.**

**Welcome Address**

Deepa Balepur, President IOLC

**Aastha Horizons**

Dr. Manjeet Kaur

**Ganesh Vandana**

Ganesh Vandana is an invocation prayer to Lord Ganesh - the God of beginnings. Lord Ganesh is known as the Vighnaharta – destroyer of all obstacles. He represents the power of the Supreme Being, that ensures success, and is therefore worshipped before the commencement of all important events and occasions.

**Performers:** Riya Parikh, Shalika Satish, Amishi Singla, Devnah Trivedi

**Cultural Program “An Indian Journey!”**

To be part of a living ancient culture with a rich, diverse, and glorious history. Join us on this discovery of India's traditions and heritage – we'll take you on a magical journey of this remarkable country through music, dance, and food!

**Concept:** Santosh Iyer, Shyam Balepur

**Script Writers and Directors:** Shyam Balepur, Santosh Iyer

**Cast:**

Jay (Santosh Iyer)

Lisa (Kristin Wolanin)

Chaiwalla (Rajesh Dixit)

**School scene:**

Teacher - Ganesh Seeniraj

Students - Ambaree Ganesh, Shanvi Jegan, Kriday Jegan,

Shalika Satish, Devnah Trivedi

**Dance Performances: (in order of appearance)**

**Kathak Dance:** Kathak is one of the most elegant classical dance forms from North India. Based on Hindustani classical vocal music, Kathak involves intricate footwork and precise rhythmic patterns as seen in this performance. The dance begins with a prayer to Goddess Durga followed by Kathak Sargam and Kathak Tarana.

**Performers:** Kinjal Ramani and Daksha Tanna

**Choreography:** Guru Ashwini Tai Sathe



# *Cultural Program*

## **Bhangra Dance**

Bhangra is an energetic, folk dance that originated from the state of Punjab. It was traditionally performed during the harvest seasons and nowadays it is performed in any celebration. The

costumes are very colorful, and the dance is performed to a fast drumbeat.

**Performers:** Aarav Shah, Angad Ghuman, Nikita Ghuman, Riaan Agarwal, Vishesh Jindal

**Choreography:** Deepti Jindal

## **Rajasthani Dance**

This folk dance from the state of Rajasthan which is famous for its traditions and rich culture. From colorful dresses and graceful moves, beautifully swaying to twirling around, everything about this dance form is simply beautiful.

**Performers:** Amina Arif, Riya Parikh, Anika Ray, Shalika Satish, Amishi Singla, Devnah Trivedi

**Choreography:** Mrs. Rasmita Amin, Director of Natyashala Dance School

## **Chari Dance - Rajasthan**

Chari meaning Pot is a folk dance belonging to the Saini community of Ajmer and Gujjar's of Kishangarh. The women dance while balancing brass chari on their heads, along with a lighted lamp in it to celebrate a birth of a child or a festival. The dance is accompanied by sounds of dholak, harmonium and nagada (percussion instrument). This dance is choreographed by Bansari Hanna and performed by students of Shree Academy Of Arts - Vardini Subhash, Simi Nair, Smitha Nair, Soumya Vijay, Pramita Shenoy, Asha Sahu, Priya Iyer and Madhu Anand.

Accompanied by SIMA Harrisburg - Mugdha Date, Prajakta Gune, Yashashree Chiplunkar as vocalists, Kishan Patel on Dhol/Dholak, Ashirwad Dhungana on Harmonium.

# Cultural Program

## Gujarati Dance Medley

This medley of lively, colorful, and energetic folk dances reflects the distinctive culture and tradition of the western state of Gujarat. It comprises of various dance forms like Garba, Matki, Tippani and Supdi dances.

GARBA is a community circle dance performed at religious and social events in Gujarat.

MATKI is a dance by the Rabari and Bharvad communities of Gujarat performed using pots.

TIPPANI is a dance by the women construction workers of Gujarat performed using long sticks.

SUPADI is a festive dance performed with 'Supadi' – a tool used to segregate grains after harvest.

### Performers:

Ambaree Ganesh, Jasmin Ghimire, Shanvi Jegan, Anika Jhaveri,  
Arya Kapadia, Clio Sanyal  
Mina Itle, Ashka Kapadia, Rima Pasupuleti, Aruna Sanyal, Esha Surti  
Jheel Bhonde, Pahal Bhonde, Eva Kumar, Ravya Kanth, Nivaz Kaur,  
Lakshita Paidipati, Cyra Sharma, Ina Sharma, Reya Shah,  
Jagruti Thimmapuram, Sandhya Adusumilli, Swapna Deshpande,  
Sheetal Gade, Sukeshi Iyer, Ragasudha Jegan, Kishori Kulkarni,  
Mrinalini Meesala, Palak Mehta, Vatsala Parchuri, Reema Parikh,  
Madhumitha Rajakittu, Manasi Trivedi

**Choreography:** Mrs. Rasmita Amin, Director of Natyashala Dance School

## Maa No Garbo - Gujarat

Garbo is a folk dance form honoring womanhood and respect to the nine forms of mother goddesses originating from the state of Gujarat.

**Choreography:** Bansari Hanna.

**Performing the dance “Maa No Garbo”** are students of Shree Academy of Arts -  
Sruthi Satheesh, Darsa Sudarsan, Karthika Nair, Chandana Vivek, Resmi Anoop,  
Rekha Teru, Sridevi Palakurti, Jamuna Deshpande, Meera Dileep,  
Geetha Subramanian.

Accompanied by SIMA Harrisburg - Asha Sahu, Mugdha Date, Prajakta Gune,  
Yashashree Chiplunkar as vocalists, Kishan Patel on Dhol/Dholak, Ashirwad  
Dhungana on Harmonium.



# Cultural Program

## **Bharatanatyam - South India**

Bharatanatyam is a theater dance form primarily from South Indian state Tamil Nadu. Its repertoires span from intricate rhythms and footwork to highly emotive pieces that tell a story. Today Shree Academy of Arts presents Nrityanjali - an intricate piece with complex rhythms and movements.

**Choreography:** Dr. Anita Vallabh

**Performers:** Saisha Jindal, SriRaaga Chilakapati, Madhavi Reddy, Bansari Hanna.

## **Sambalpuri Dance - Odisha**

Sambalpuri dance is a folk-dance originating from the western part of Odisha called the Sambalpur district. Shree Academy Of Arts brings one of the most popular presentations of Sambalpuri dance "Dalkhai" performed during the festival of Dusshera in praise of goddess Dalkhai.

**Choreography:** Bansari Hanna

**Performers:** Vardini Subhash, Simi Nair, Smitha Nair, Soumya Vijay, Pramita Shenoy, Asha Sahu, Priya Iyer, Madhu Anand

## **Cooking videos:**

### **Chefs:**

Anjan Mittal (Preeti Mittal by audio)

Ameet Parikh (Reema Parikh by audio)

Shyam Balepur (Deepa Balepur by audio) and Sanjay Pandey

Raja Deshpande (Swapna Deshpande by audio)

Rao Sankarmanchi (Padma Sankarmanchi by audio) and

Sunil Ramachandra (Meena Ramachandra by audio).

**Video production:** Anjan Mittal

## **Naatu Naatu Finale Dance Performance:**

The finale dance is based on this very lively and popular Indian song Naatu Naatu, which became the first Indian film song to win an Oscar for Best Original Song at this past 95th Academy Awards. It is a very joyous and energetic dance, where all the participants come together for a celebration.

**Music:** M. M. Keeravaani

**Choreographers:** Dilesha Tanna and Pritesh Tanna

**Performers:** Pritesh Tanna and all Utsav participants

**Special thanks to Rachana Jhunjhunwala for the beautiful selfie station and Taj Begum for the energetic audio dance list.**

# *Our heartfelt thanks to our Utsav 2023 sponsors:*

## **Silver Sponsors:**

Lancaster County Community Foundation  
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*Thank you  
for making*

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**2023**  
**a great success!**

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event possible*

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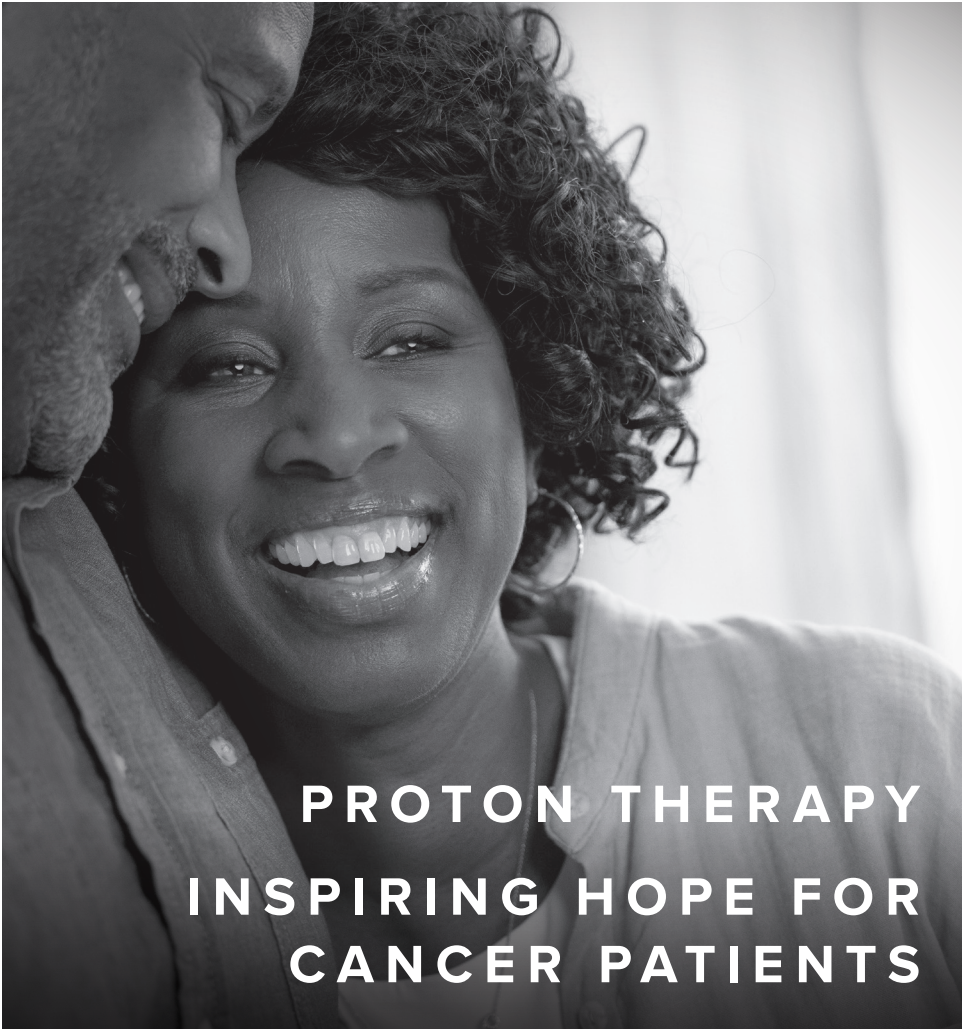
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Why we choose to lend a hand is different for everyone. For us, it's because we're committed to making a positive difference in the lives of everyone who makes a home here. That's why we dedicate our time and resources to the organizations that make the community an even more special place.

**We're proud to support Indian Organization of Lancaster County and all you do for all of us.**

**Let's talk about your why.**

**Contact Rahwa Teklai, SVP & Market Leader,  
at 717-735-5872 or [rahwa.teklai@pnc.com](mailto:rahwa.teklai@pnc.com), or visit [pnc.com/privatebank](http://pnc.com/privatebank).**

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- Lori, RN  
*Professional Care Manager*



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Smt. Rasmita Amin  
Director of Natyashala

"Our goal, at Natyashala, has been to pass on our Indian heritage and culture of dance and yoga to the next generation of youth, so that they can be proud of their cultural heritage."

-- Smt.Rasmita Amin

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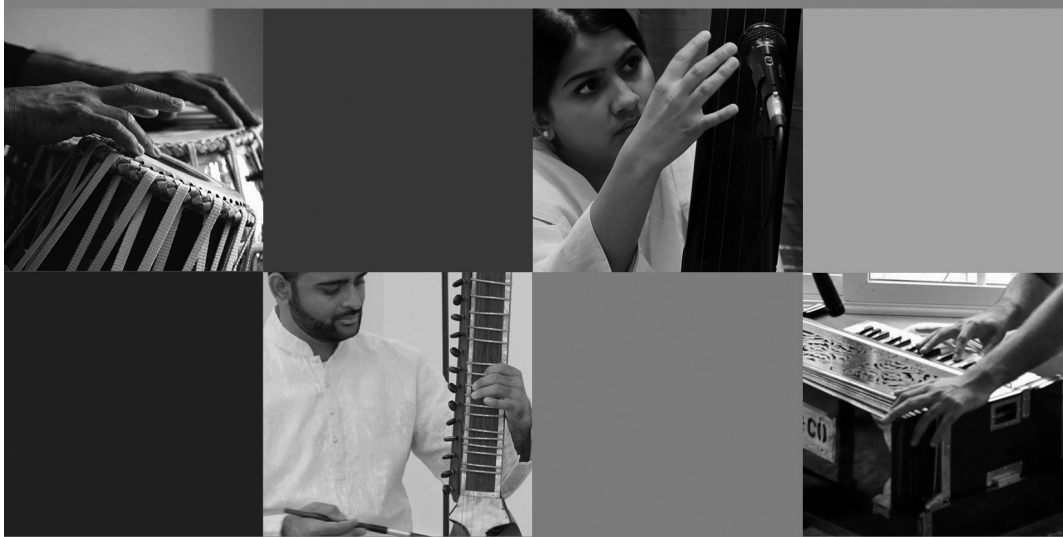




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# **“Ashwini Sathe’s Indian Classical Kathak Group**

India is a land that is known for its vibrant culture, and among the many cultural staples of India is the Kathak dance. Kathak is a North Indian classical dance form, derived from the word Katha, meaning story. The stories told are all in the dancer’s rhythmic foot movements, hand gestures and facial expressions. This performing art incorporates stories from Indian legends and epics, and the most famous and often told tales are about the life of Lord Krishna.

We are very fortunate to have Mrs. Ashwini tai Sathe bring this art form through her students to the Utsav program today. She is a renowned Kathak dance guru and artist from Mechanicsburg, PA and has received her formal training in Kathak classical dance from Maharashtra, India. With encouragement and blessings from her gurus, she has been teaching and performing for more than thirty years.

Ashwini tai has been very involved in the Central Pennsylvania community for many years as EC and Board member for HARI temple and AIACPA, not only sharing her talents but also volunteering and coordinating various and numerous cultural events. She is very organized and disciplined in teaching her students of all ages, following a syllabus from Pandita Guru Rohini tai Bhate’s Kathak Institute in Pune, India. Ashwini tai also teaches Indian folk dance and is very passionate about instilling a love for Kathak in her students and wanting to pass this beautiful classical dance style to the next generation.



The Indian Organization  
of Lancaster County  
would like to extend its  
sincere appreciation to  
**Taj Mahal  
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for catering tonight's event!

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To learn more, please see [www.iolcpa.org](http://www.iolcpa.org)  
or contact any of the following individuals:

**Manjeet Kaur (717-715-7335)**

**Nishit Trivedi (717-368-2227)**

**Rao Sankarmanchi (717-471-3125)**

**Rakesh Popli (262-994-5228)**

**Deepa Balepur (717-808-3531)**





**Many thanks to all our  
community members who  
were instrumental in creating  
UTSAV**



**[www.Facebook.com/IOLCPAORG](https://www.facebook.com/IOLCPAORG)**