

DAKSHINANJALI

Report

DAKSHINANJALI : An obeisance to the Guru through Odissi Dance by Ms Prapti Gupta at C D Deshmukh Auditorium, India International Centre, Max Mueller Marg, Lodhi Estate, New Delhi on the 24th February 2019 (Sunday) where Prapti Gupta senior disciple of Guru Smt. Alpana Nayak presented Odissi dance.

Traditionally an Odissi dance recital starts with **Mangalacharana**, where the dancer dedicates herself to the Almighty and begs forgiveness from Mother Earth for stamping feet on her. Begs apology from the audience of any shortcomings and pays obeisance and seeks blessings from her Guru. In Mangalacharana, Prapti, the dancer of the evening will begin with a prayer to Guru who is considered as Brahma, Vishnu & Maheshwar through the shloka "Gurur Brahma Gurur Vishnu Gurur Deva Maheshwar....."

The next item is **Saveri Pallavi**. The word "Pallavi" has been derived from the Sanskrit word pallava, which means the bud of a leaf, or the shoots of a tree which are very tender. As a small seed grows gradually into a large tree, in Pallavi, a tune is sung in a particular raga and it develops gradually into different varieties. In this item equal importance is given to dance as well as music and rhythm. The movements in this item are extremely graceful and lyrical. Today's Pallavi is based on "Saveri Raga".

The next item is **Pancha Nayika**.

"Panchanaayika" composed by the celebrated Oriya poet Kavi Samrat Upendra Bhanja in the 16th century CE, depicts the various moods of a 'naayika' or woman. It describes Radha's love for Krishna, her anger on the instances of separation, her longing and her happiness upon being reunited with him, in great detail.

The music director of the item being presented today is Shri Prashanta Kumar Behera. The dance choreography has been done by Guru Alpana Nayak.

The first "naayika" in today's performance is known as "**Basakasajjika Naayika**" and portrays the happiness and excitement with which a woman dresses up for her lover. She puts on her best clothes, puts flowers in her hair, lines her eyes with kohl and fills the bower with beautiful flowers in anticipation of Krishna. While thinking of him Radha sings "**Malli Maala Shyama ku debi**". "I'll put garland of Jasmine flowers around his neck to enchant him with the lovely fragrance; if he feels hot and sweaty because of the Sun's intense heat, I'll rub sandalwood paste to cool him; I'll use my saree to fan him; I'll kiss him to make him forget about everything. If he gets angry I'll offer him betel leaves". And nurturing such thoughts she waits for her lover.

"**Basakasajjika Naayika**" Radha waited and waited but Krishna did not come. Troubled by the absence of her lover, now "**Virohatkanthita Naayika**" asks her friend "What am I being punished for? Why is it that my lover has fallen for another enchanting woman? Why is it that he has forgotten me? O my friend! This beautifully decorated bower holds no meaning

without him. This lamp which I had lighted for him, its light hurts my eyes, it pains me. O my friend, my sakhi, you tell me, what should I do? Where should I go?"

With the first rays of the morning sun upon seeing her lover, her joys know no bounds. But then as her eyes fall on the nail marks left by another woman on his body, she is consumed with rage. "**Khanditaa Naayika**" depicts the woman who wishes no relationship with her lover. She makes up her mind that she will never forgive him for this shameful act of infidelity. She says:

"You traitor go back to the woman who pleased you last night. Go back for I cannot bear to look at the marks she has left on your body. I do not wish to see these. Go from here. Go away....."

But Radha's mellow heart cannot bear to forsake Krishna's love. "**Kalahantaritaa Naayika**" depicts the repentance that she experiences after sending him away. She confides in her friend and says: "O my friend! Blinded by rage, what have I done? He was at my feet, begging for my forgiveness. He was standing at the door for such a long time, just to see me and with a hard heart I sent him away. I didn't look at him even once. O my Sakhi, what have I done?"

But when there is such love between two souls how can they stay away from each other? "**Swaadheena Partrikaa Naayika**" portrays the ultimate divine love between Radha and Krishna. She forgets her anger and loses herself in the joy of being one with her lover. She rejoices in their union and dances with him. She forgets everything as she loses herself in the ecstasy that Krishna's love brings to her.

Choreography: Guru Smt. Alpana Nayak

Music Composition: Shri Prasanta Behera and Shri Prafulla Mangaraj