

Priya Venkataraman is a leading exponent of Bharatanatyam, one of the oldest classical dance styles from India. Acclaimed internationally for her aesthetic performances, Priya is known for her adherence to the traditional repertoire of Bharatanatyam. Priya has performed widely in the United States, South America, Europe, Africa and Asia. Priya performs solo as well as with her ensemble, and conducts master-classes/ workshops in this ancient art form all over the world.

### "Pratikriti" by Priya Venkataraman & Ensemble'

Program duration: 75 minutes (with intermission); World premiere: Ananya Dance Festival, New Delhi, 2011; Calw, Berlin, Aachen- Germany, 2013; Paris-France, 2013, Madrid, Valladolid- Spain, 2013

The program commences with a short musical invocation as is customary in all classical dance presentations in India. The dance performance begins with:

1. Mallari followed by a hymn in praise of the Lord of dance.
2. "Nrityaharam"- a specially composed piece, Nrityaharam brings out the architectonic beauty of the dance form while playing with melody and rhythm.
3. Padam: This is a love song which highlights the abhinaya or mimetic aspect of Bharatanatyam. A slow moving piece, the item describes the love and longing of the heroine.... Solo by Priya Venkataraman.
4. The grandeur of Shiva's dance is explored in the Muthuswamy Dikshitar kriti "Ananda Natana Prakasham". A vibrant dance wherein the beauty of Shiva's dance is described.
5. Tillana: This is the final item in a Bharatanatyam performance where fast percussive foot work is interspersed with sculptural poses.

### Music

Vocal: Kuldeep M. Pai  
Mridangam & Music Composition: G. Vijayaraghavan

### Choreographer      Sets

Priya Venkataraman      Naresh Kapuria

### "Devi"- a solo production

Program Duration: 60 minutes; World premiere: NCPA, June 2011; ICCR, New Delhi, 2012; Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, 2012; Sri Krishna Gana Sabha, Chennai, 2013; Patna, 2013.

Devi is the supreme being in the Shaktism tradition of Hinduism, while in the Samartha tradition, she is one of the five primary forms of God. In other Hindu traditions of Shaivism and Vaishnavism, Devi embodies the active energy and power of male deities like in the case of Parvati who is the female shakti of Shiva.

Devi the Sanskrit for Goddess is synonymous with Shakti, the female aspect of the divine without whom the male aspect, which represents consciousness or discrimination, remains impotent and void. Devi is represented in a variety of aspects, both good and evil, including the beautiful but menacing Durga, the destructive KALI, and the sexually powerful Shakti.

