



Bharatanatyam Arangetram of

**Tharusha James**



## Message from Parents

Our dearest daughter Tharusha today as you graduate, we are flooded with memories. We remember the little girl at her first dance lesson, the nervous excitement before every performance, and the countless hours of practice. All that hard work, passion, and discipline led you to this moment, and our hearts are overflowing with pride.”

You’re proof that dreams become reality when you believe in yourself and put in the work”. Your hard work paid off, and we couldn’t be prouder of you”. This is a stepping stone to even greater achievements. The future is endless, and with your passion and perseverance, you’ll continue to make a lasting impact”. The real journey begins now, and we can’t wait to cheer you on as you chase your dreams”.

Congratulations on your graduation! This is a huge accomplishment, and we are so proud of all your hard work, dedication, and resilience. We are so excited to see what you do next as you continue to dance your way toward your dreams. Remember, we will always be your biggest fans and here for you, every step of the way. “ We have always known you were meant for great things, and watching you chase your dreams with such passion has been the greatest joy of our lives. Continue to shine brightly Tharusha.” We Love you!





## Message from Guru

I can still remember the very 1st time I met Tharusha. A little girl who always seemed so quiet but blossomed loudly as a dancer. Fast track over 10 years later and shes grown into a beautiful, powerhouse of a woman.

This journey has had many hurdles but Tharusha has taken it by the horns and proven that nothing is impossible when you're passionate and disciplined. As a guru, you can only hope that one day you see the same flame burning within you; burn equally in your student and I am so proud to say that Tharusha is that very student.



I am so proud of you my darling, you make my heart swell with pride every time you dance and as you take the stage on such a momentous occasion of your debut, I wish you an infinite amount of Namashivayas' blessings. May the heavens sing as you dance and may the universe light up with the striking of each bell. You are such an inspiration and will always be my darling child. I love you endlessly.



# Message from Tharusha James

Vannakum, Namaste, Namaskaram and Good Afternoon to one and all. My heart is filled with immense joy, love and gratitude as I stand here today at such an auspicious occasion of my bharatanatyam Arangetram.

To me Bharatanatyam is not about the glits and the glammer, even though the beautiful bright colored outfits and the dazzling jewelry that is worn for performances are important, they are merely just assessories.

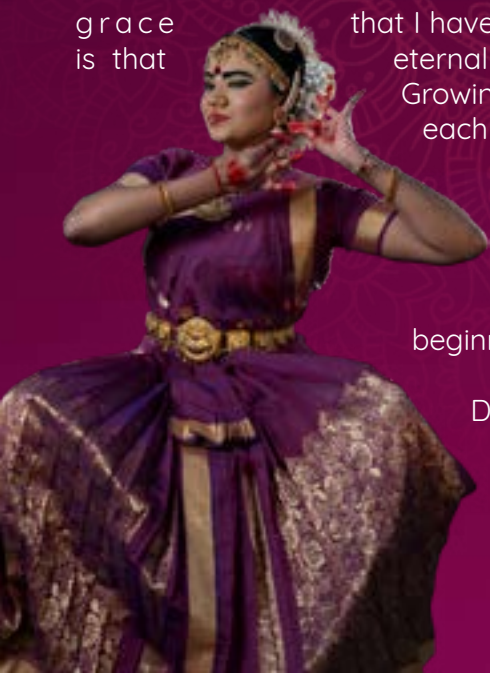
Bharatanatyam is an ancient, spiritual artform where music meets movement. It is the bridge between me as a dancer and the divine. It's a spiritual gateway that allows me as dancer to be more freely and more boldly me.

Bharatanatyam is not just dance but healing. It's the opportunity to portray myself authentically when words are not sufficient to express what I truly mean.

I am filled with so much of emotion and gratitude as I didn't just choose bharatanatyam but Lord Nataraja himself had written in my story that I am meant to be a bharatanatyam dancer. It is with my Parents, Guru and Lord Shiva and Kaliamman's blessings, protection and grace that I have come this far and it is the almighty that eternal flame that will forever burn within me. Growing stronger, more powerful, more vibrant each and everyday.

I bow to the almighty and pay my respects to them as they have not brought me to the end of my journey but the end of my first chapter and the beginning of the rest of my life.

Dance is not simply to move, to me bharatanatyam is to breathe. To live. Fearlessly and Unapologetically.





# Program

## Pushpanjali

**Raagam:** Gambheera Nattai    **Thalam:** Aadi

Pushpanjali is the first item performed in a Bharatanatyam margam. It is an invocation piece performed in respect and devotion towards Lord Ganesha, the remover of Obstacles, the lord who gives you the strength to overcome challenges and Lord Nataraja, the Lord of dance and destruction, the one who is the eternal flame burning within. Pushpanjali is made up of 2 words; 'Pushpam' meaning flower and 'Anjali' meaning with folded hands.

A Pushpanjali sets the spiritual tone for a Bharatanatyam margam by offering flowers to the feet of Lord Nataraja, therefore, creating a sacred connection to the divine with the intention of seeking his blessings as you embark on a journey of spreading love and light through movement.

## Hasta Alarippu

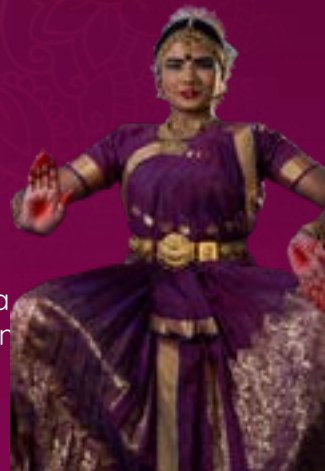
**Thalam:** Aadi

Alaripu meaning 'Flowering bud' is said to be 'the blossoming of a dancer'. A Hasta Alaripu is one in which intricate footwork accompanied by Shiro bhedha Viniyogaha (head movements) and Drishti bheda Viniyogaha (eye movements) and Asamyuktha (single) and Samyuktha (Double) hand gestures are used to bring a dance piece to life.

## Jathiswaram

**Raagam:** Vasantha    **Thalam:** Rupakam

Jathiswaram is an item of pure Nritta (Dance); that does not include abhinaya (emotion) or storytelling. It combines 'jathis' which are rhythmic syllables and 'swaras' which are musical notations. The absence of abhinaya allows for the audience to appreciate the movements and bodily control of the dancer. It is a piece portraying a dancer's technical prowess, rhythm and grace.





## Varnam -

## Nee Manam Irrangi

**Raagam:** Lattangi    **Thalam:** Aadi

A Varnam is the most elaborate piece using both Nritta (Dance) and Abhinaya (expression) and is the heart and soul of a Bharatanatyam Margam. It signifies the dancer's full potential by testing her strength, stamina and command in expression and technique with the use of various divisions of adavus learnt during the course of his/her training period. The Varnam

'Nee Manam Irrangi' is an invocation piece to Lord Muruga, the son of Lord Namashivaya and Adhi Shakthi. This varnam is made up of various stories from the Skanda purana starting from Lord Murugas birth to his marriage with both Devasena and Valli. He is the God who is the originator of Pranava (Aum), the one who is the fruit of knowledge and the warrior who slayed Tarakasur and Surapadman.

## Keerthanam - Sri Chakra Raja

**Raagam:** Malika    **Thalam:** Aadi

A Keerthanam is an item consisting mostly of abhinaya and simple jathis. The Keerthanam 'Shri Chakra Raja' is an item composed in praise of all forms of divine Shakthi, namely, Goddess Lakshmi, Saraswathi, Adhi Shakthi, Durga and Bhadrakali who are the emodiments of strength, power, knowledge, wisdom, wealth, prosperity and divine love. Shakthi is Jagath Janani; the mothers of the Universe, Raja Rajeshwari; the Queen of queens and Akhilandeswari; the ruler of the 3 realms. This Keerthanam symbolises the relationship between devotee and the divine mothers through both light hearted and intense abhinaya, grace and devotion.



# Padam – Natana Manohara

**Raagam:** Malika    **Thalam:** Aadi

A padam is a significant component of a margam consisting of intricate footwork, mudras, abhinaya and nritta all intertwined in bhakthi and emotional depth. 'Natana Manohara' is a padam in praise of Lord Shiva/ Nataraja , the lord of dance and destruction, the one who resides in music and rejoices in movement, the one who has no beginning and no end, the one who is the eternal fire burning within. The saptaswaras (seven notations of music) portrayed in this padam are said to have been derived from the sounds of different animals and are connected to various grahas (planetary systems) aswell as to the 7 chakras (energy centres).

## Thilana

**Raagam:** Mohana Kalyani    **Thalam:** Aadi

A thillana is a high energy piece driven by fast movements and grace boasting intricate footwork with It's joyous and dynamic jathis celebrating rhythm and movement. This Thillana briefly introduces a shloka dedicated to Lord Muruga and his consort Mother Valli. A thillana is the climax in a Bharatanatyam Margam

## Mangalam

A dancers gracious stage exit after completing an entire repertoire, giving thanks to the almighty, their audience and mother earth. This is the closing piece in a Bharatanatyam Margam.



