

## Workshop and symposium 15 – 24 July 2005

Workshop-title for participants from Kerala (in Malayalam):

Vaimozhi Parambaryathile Vangmaya Savisheshatakal (\*)

English translation: Intangible aspects in oral tradition of learning

(\*) Vaimozhi oral; Parambaryathile tradition; Vangmaya intangible; Savisheshatakal aspects

### Introduction

The early art forms from which today's music, dance and drama of central Kerala are derived were not based on shastra treatises or lessons found in printed textbooks. Instead, they were developed and transmitted with the help of oral training methods. These arts also relate to the various activities of the region's daily life, social customs and the seasonal cycles on which the sowing and harvesting of various produces still depend. Even the rhythms and body movements associated with the rowing of boats on the many waterways of Kerala are reflected in some of the popular art forms. Not surprisingly, therefore, the gurukulam personalized way of teaching an art is still said to be the most effective and enjoyable method of learning an art and exploring its creative scope in various ways that enrich modern life.

### Aims

This workshop aims at bringing the some of the proven teaching methods and learning strategies within the reach of performers and educationists, particularly those not contented with the impersonal, often ineffective, mass education prevailing today. The experience conveyed by renowned exponents and scholars in the course of a ten days artistic immersion programme is therefore meant to be documented and disseminated as widely possible for the benefit of all.

"*Sam - reflection, gathering together!*" is therefore the appropriate motto for this special event at Natanakairali, a centre where arts have been researched, propagated and taught in their proper context for three decades.

### Concept

The idea of *kali* "play" is found in theatre and dance, for instance in the name *Kathakali* for Kerala's most popular dance drama, and also in games played for fun, such as the *pandukali* ball game performed by Mohini (see frontispiece from a temple murals and p. 35, *Wall Paintings in North Kerala/India* by A. Frenz and K. Krishnakumar Marar, Arnoldsche Art Publishers, Stuttgart, 2004).

*Tiruvadurakali* ritualistic dance elements are also of special interest in this workshop. Assignments presented in educational sessions are based on *vaitari* syllables, *kriya* hand gestures and *kolam* floor patterns; *bhava* theatrical moods and the story characters associated with them.

The presenters of these sessions explore the scope for introducing some typical artistic elements in school classroom as well as adult education and for the benefit of groups with special needs (e.g. the physically or mentally handicapped and persons following a specific rehabilitation programme).

**Venue:** Natanakairali, Ammannur Chakyar Madhom, Irinjalakuda, Kerala 680 121

## Workshop schedule

(revised 26.06.05 and subject to changes as required)

### Fri 15 July 2005

05:30 AM *Ganapathi homam* (ritual)

07:30 AM *Nangiarkoothu Purappad* by Kum Kapila

Inauguration by Guru Ammannur Madhava Chakyar

11:30 AM *Rgvedam Brahma* by Sri Oravangara Achuthan Namboothiri

*Samavedam Brahma* by Sri Maamanna Vasudevan Namboothiri

03:30 PM Workshop sessions

### Sat 16 July 2005

06:30 AM *Indigenous talas in Sopanam style* by Sri Thrikkamburam

Krishnan Kutty Marar

11:30:00 Folk Songs lecture-demonstration by "Vayali" Folk Song Music Troupe  
(Wadakkaancheri)

05:30 PM Public Meeting on the occasion of Natanakairali's 30th Anniversary

08:30 PM Folk song performance by "Vayali" Music Troupe (Wadakkaancheri)

Introduction by Sri Dr. C.R. Rajagopal

### Sun 17 July 2005

06:30 AM *Indigenous Talas in Sopaanam music* lecture-demonstration by

Sri Thrikkamburam Krishnan Kutty Marar

11:30:00 *Yajurvedam* lecture by Animangalam Raman Namboothiri

03:30 PM *Tiruvadurakali* performance by Smt Nirmala Panicker and students

### Mon 18 July 2005

06:30 AM *Vaitari rhythmic syllables in Koothu and Koodiyattam*

lecture-demonstration by Sri Ammannur Kuttan Chakyar

*Classical talas for mridangam* lecture-demonstration by

Sri Paarassala Ravi (Rtd. Principal, RLV college Music, Thripunithira)

11:30 AM *Sopana Sangitam* lecture-demonstration by Sri Pazhoor Maniyan Marar

*Idakka music* lecture-demonstration by Sri P. Nandakumar

*Sopana Sangitam* lecture-demonstration by Sri Kalamandalam Jayaprakash

03:30 PM *Sopana Sangitam* performance by Sri Pazhoor Maniyan Marar

*Idakka music* performance by Sri P. Nandakumar

*Sopana Sangitam* performance by Sri Kalamandalam Jayaprakash

05:30 PM *Asokavanikamkam* Koodiyattam performance by Sri Sooraj Nambiar

### Tue 19 July 2005

06:30 AM *Indigenous talas in Kathakali* lecture-demonstration by

Sri Kalamandalam Narayanan Nair (Nelluvaya)

11:30 AM *Mural paintings* lecture by Sri Krishnakumar Marar (Tellicherry)

03:30 PM *Mohiniyattam and its classical aspects* lecture-demonstration by

Smt Nirmala Panicker

**Wed 20 July 2005**

06:30 AM *Indigenous talas in Ottan Tullal* lecture-demonstration by  
Sri Kalamandalam Prabhakaran

11:30 AM *Tullal* performance by Sri Kalamandalam Prabhakaran

03:30 PM *Panchavadyam* performance by Sri Kalanilayam Prakash

**Thu 21 July 2005**

06:30 AM *Indigenous talas in Koodiyattam* lecture-demonstration by  
Sri Kalamandalam Eswarunni

10:00 AM *Kathakali music* lecture-demonstration by Sri Sadanam Jyothi

11:30 AM *The Method of singing a "canon" song* lecture-demonstration by Sri  
Emanuel Wuethrich (Switzerland)

03:30 PM *Idakka Thayambaka performance* by Sri Kalanilayam Unnikrishnan  
*Gita Govindam Mohiniyattam* performance by Smt. Nirmala Panicker &  
Kum. Kapila

06:30 PM *Kathakali Purappad and Melapadam* performance by Sadanam Jyothi &  
Kal. Narayanan Embrandiri

**Fri 22 July 2005**

06:30 AM *Indigenous talas in Mizhavu* playing by Sri Kalamandalam  
V.K.K. Hariharan

10:00 AM *Indigenous musical instruments of Kerala* lecture by Sri L.S. Rajagopalan

11:30 AM *Improved voice training methods for Indian music* lecture-demonstration  
by Fr (Dr) Paul Poovathingal (Director, Chetana Sangeet Natya Academy,  
Thrissur)

03:30 PM *Mizhavu Melam* performance by Sri Kalamandalam Rajeev & party

**Sat 23 July 2005**

06:30 AM *Indigenous talas in Koodiyattam* lecture-demonstration by  
Sri Smt. Kalamandalam P.K. Narayanan Nambiar

11:30 AM *Mohiniyattam and its desi (regional) aspects* lecture-demonstration by  
Smt. Kum. Nirmala Panicker & Kum. Kapila

**Sun 24 July 2005**

10:00 AM Symposium:

*Intangible aspects in oral tradition of learning*

*Vaimozhi Parambaryathile Vangmaya Savisheshtakal*

06:30 PM *Vikramorvasi* Koodiyattam performance

**For participation contact:**

G. Venu, Director, Natanakairali, Ammannur Chakyar Madhom, Irinjalakuda, Kerala  
680 121, India

E-mail: [natanakairali58@yahoo.co.in](mailto:natanakairali58@yahoo.co.in)

Tel. +91-(0)480-2825559