

Sharat R Prabhath



Harikatha Exponent | Kathak Teacher & Choreographer | Karnatic Musician | Music Composer | Actor | Founding CEO – Padapa | Artistic Director – Prabhat Arts International | Trainer – SAMUDYATA & Prabhat Pratishthana

Research, Contributions, and Legacy

Sharat R Prabhath's journey through the realm of Indian arts and culture has been nothing short of remarkable. With a passion deeply rooted in his childhood, he has cultivated a profound connection with various facets of India's rich artistic heritage. His research, contributions and his body of work have been inspiring to artists and scholars across various fields.

Education & Training

- Initiated into Karnatic classical music at the tender age of 12 under the expert guidance of Dr. Hamsini Nagendra.
- Continues his musical odyssey under the esteemed Karnataka Kalashree, Tirumale Srinivas.
- An adept in the classical dance style of Kathak, having honed his skills under the famous duo, Smt. Nirupama and Sri. Rajendra, and now continuing advanced training and studies in Kathak under the maestro of Jaipur Gharana – Pt. Rajendra Gangani, Delhi
- **A proficient Harikatha artist, mentored by his father, Acharya Raghvendra J Prabhat, who continues the legacy of his great-grandfather, Venkanna Das.**
- A very well-trained dancer in Natyashastric movements of Karanas and charis

Versatile Artistry

Sharat is a multi-talented artist, excelling as a Harikatha exponent, creative director, music composer, dance choreographer, and actor. His work has graced the direction of cinema luminaries like Sri. Nagabharana, Sri. Dwarkish, and Sri. Dinesh Babu. Notably, his choreography and direction in "Shiva – Science," directed by an international movie director, have earned high praise, with the movie's release slated for 2024.

Harikatha

Daasaacharya Sharat R Prabhat hails from the lineage of Saint Poet Purandara Dasa and Vijaya Dasa. He is one of the very few harikatha exponents who performs the *Naaradiya Katha*, where, the artist sings, dances, enacts and interacts simultaneously. An avid reader, Sharat performs Harikatha on all the ancestral works like Ramayana, Mahabharata, Bhagavata and other Puranas. A favourite among the audiences, Sharat performs Harikatha in Kannada, English, Sanskrit, and Hindi using Telugu, Tamil, and Marathi literature.

Teaching and Workshops

Beyond his artistic prowess, Sharat is a dedicated educator. He imparts his knowledge to numerous Kathak students at his institute, Prabhat Kala Tapovana, and many other centres based in Bangalore. He is also a poet, scriptwriter, and actor who conducts workshops at educational institutions, sharing his artistic journey and experiences with aspiring talents.

Scholarly Pursuits

Sharat holds a master's degree in Sanskrit and has conducted meticulous research on the etymology of the Karanas, earning a perfect score and accolades from the academic community. He also writes poetry and scripts in Sanskrit for devotional albums, dance, and music productions.

Works

Dance Musicals

- "18 Days, Dusk of an Era" - A grand production involving over 50 artists and 50 technicians, reimagining the Kurukshetra war for 90 minutes.
- "Kathaastra, Dawn of the Epic" - A Kannada poem by Kumara Vyasa, integrating holographic techniques, Harikatha, animations, dance, and music.
- "Apaharana" - A fictional narrative weaving characters from Indian epics, with Sharat as the writer, director, and music composer.
- More than 50 Harikatha scripts from Ramayana, Mahabharata, Bhagavata, and other ancestral Indian works.

Direction and Composition

Sharat's creative talents extend to direction and composition, encompassing a diverse array of projects:

- Music composition for a Theatrical Production organized by Green Room and Ranga Sourabha for the work of TP Kailasam.
- Kathak Repertoire for Professional Kathak Exponents in Bangalore.
- Bharatanatyam Margam, written and composed by Sharat in both Kannada and Sanskrit.
- Music Composition for Trivalley Kannada Group from the US - A holographic novel production called Sri Krishnaamrutham.
- Anthems for Kannada Sanghas, Educational Institutions, and Reality Shows.
- "Ashrutham" - A dance production about Devadasis.
- Creation Under His Discretion - A unique concept depicting the creation and destruction process with unconventional syllables and Ragas.
- "Sri Krishna Charitam" - Life story of Lord Krishna (Traditional Music).
- "Punyakoti" - A folklore classic that is a household name in Karnataka.

- Multiple projects for colleges, theater groups, dance companies, and schools.

Awards & Recognition

- Uday Shankar Award for excellence in choreography.
- Rajendra Deep Sanman for excellence in Kathak.
- Dasacharya traditional title for excellence in Harikatha.
- "Rajyothsava Award" for Prabhat Arts International, bestowed with the State's highest honor.
- "Kala Prapoorna" title for contribution to the field of art at a young age by Shivapriya and MS Natyalaya.

Notable Performances

Harikatha

- "Purandara Darshana" - A 40-episode series on the life of Purandara Dasaru on Door Darshan.
- "Enrichment via Entertainment" - A special episode on Kasturi TV.
- "The Science of Indian Wedding" - A performance organized for a British couple, exploring the scientific background of Indian weddings.
- "The Significance of Festivals" - Presented before royal families from Baroda and Rajkot.
- "1000th Year Birth Anniversary of Ramanuja Acharya" at Melkote.
- "Serendipity (Goa)" - Dasa Panchama, a special Harikatha about the saintly legacy of India.
- "WFAC – Art of Living" - A special broadcast of Harikatha for over 1 lakh audiences worldwide.

Dance Performances

Sharat has graced a plethora of prestigious stages, including international and national events. A few highlights include:

- Indian Embassy Conclave in Bahrain.
- International Conference on Anti-Terrorism in Delhi.

- 18 Days Production India Tour with five performances in Delhi, supported by the Ministry of Culture under Azaadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- G20 – Bangalore - Multiple performances.
- International Exhibition at Shanghai.
- Nishagandhi Festival, Kerala.
- Bangalore International Arts Festival.
- World Soil Day Conference, GKVK Bangalore.
- World Yoga Day Conference in the presence of PM Narendra Modi, Bangalore.
- Launch of Zee Kannada and Isiri TV channels.
- Mahamastaka Abhisheka, Shravana Belagola.
- Alvas Virasat & Vishwa Nudi Siri, Mudbidri.
- International Ramayana Festival, Chennai.
- Deepotsava, Dharmasthala.
- Vishwa Kannada Sammelana, Belgaum.
- 75th Year of Independence celebrations.

About Harikatha

Karnataka's Haridaasa's cult arouses varied questions in one's mind. The literary works of great saint poets of Karnataka answer questions relating to spiritual experiences, Knowledge of Tantra, Vedic wisdom, Societal Culture, Music, Dance, Theater and the like. But, the prime purpose of Haridaasa literature is to expand one's life and spirit.

Hundreds of thousands such unanswered questions pertaining to creation, sustenance, and destruction are answered using simple words of Haridaasas. And the popular medium which was/is used to propagate the truth was/is "HARIKATHA."

Harikatha, thus is a famous art of storytelling that requires tactful rendering of stories accompanied with music and dance. Harikatha demands from the performer Knowledge of Sanskrit, the epics and puranas, the Vedas, music, dramatics, and dance, besides an overall interest and understanding of culture and philosophy.

This composite art form, popularly known as “One Man Theater” narrates eye opening truths of the universe using colourful stories imbibing all the 9 rasas or qualities. Thus, a Harikatha exponent shoulders the responsibility of transforming the society to a better place.

Bharat, a country that personifies Vedic wisdom, on the other hand also propagates the idea of devotion. This movement of Bhakti grew in the southern part of India, and Karnataka is the state that contributed the most in the movement with Haridaasa kruthis, Abhangs, vachanas, karnatic kruthis and many others.

The land also produced the father of Karnatic music, Saint Poet Purandara Dasaru, who propagated Harikatha and created the rich lineage of Harisaasas. The tradition of Harikatha thus grew and flowed through Vijaya Dasaru, Mohana Dasaru and up to the realised soul Rama Dasaru – who further expanded the territory by indoctrination the famous Harikatha duo Vankanna Das and Venugopal Das, who further extended the lineage by giving deeksha to the brothers, Gopinath Das and Jayasimha Das, who established the renowned art organisation, Prabhath Kalavidaru with their brothers Acharya Karigiri (Eldest) and Dwarkanath (Youngest).

Hailing from the same lineage of Saint Poet Purandara Dasaru, and the illustrious family of Prabhat, Daasacharya Sharat R Prabhat, currently carries on the ancient tradition of Harikatha under the guidance of his father, Acharya Raghavendra J Prabhat.

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