

CONTINUUM PROGRAM NOTES 1

June 18 2022 7pm

Knock on Wood - Dancers: Jane Morris and Mihaela Dirlea

Solo performance - Dancer: Aarti Anand; Musicians: Santosh Naidu (Tabla), Joanna de Souza (Harmonium/Recitation), and Ian de Souza (Electric Bass)

M-DO has been a registered Charitable Organization, in good standing with Revenue Canada, since 1988.

The dance/education organization takes its name from the Tibetan word (hmdo) for meeting point, and is a place where cultures come together, traditions are honoured, and new creative ideas are born.

Supported by our informed teachers and facilitators, we offer artistically rich kathak dance classes, workshops, and performances, that contribute to a vibrant arts community, locally, nationally and internationally.

Over a 25 year period, we maintained dedicated studio spaces in downtown Toronto that not only supported our work, but acted a hub for other artists and groups to teach, create, rehearse and present their works. We continue to rent spaces on an on-going basis, that serve the GTA's desire for culturally specific kathak dance classes at the highest artistic level.

CHHANDAM, the professional dance company associated with M-DO, has performed locally, and toured nationally and internationally. In 2018, with funding from the Canada Council for the Arts, Touring Office, Chhandam collaborated with Saskatchewan's Misty Wensel, and presented their contemporary theatre/dance work BARDO in a five city cross-India tour. M-DO/KathakToronto continues to curate their partnerships and collaborations with like-minded organizations, that increase access to local, national and international artistic excellence, and unprecedented learning opportunities.

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AARTI ANAND

was born and raised in Delhi. She was introduced to melody and rhythm at a young age, as she watched her mother sing at Carnatic Music concerts and conduct music classes at home. She also trained in Bharatanatyam dance as a child, and while growing up, taught herself to play the keyboard to have a better understanding of melody. In her school and university years, she sang and danced on stage on various occasions. Performing on stage gave her immense joy and exhilaration.

After completing her Masters degree in Law, she moved to Toronto. She always had a strong interest in Kathak dance, and when she came across a video of Joannadi performing, she immediately signed up to learn from her. And since then, Joannadi's musicality, technique, agility and passionate teaching of the art form have constantly inspired her.

Continuum is a dream-come-true for Aarti and she is excited to share her work with you all tonight.

Aarti is going to present traditional Kathak solo work. Based on tempo or Laya, the work is divided into 3 sections: Vilambit Laya (slow tempo); Madhya Laya (medium tempo) and finally, Drut Laya (fast tempo).

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JANE MORRIS

has loved nature since she can remember, and kathak since 1993 when she began classes. It is a delight to put them together with her duet partner Mish and her teacher/ mentor Joanna de Souza. In addition to continuously studying Kathak and occasionally performing, Jane loves teaching beginner and intermediate classes for our school.

MIHAELA DIRLEA

has been privileged to be part of this beautiful Kathak community since 2011. She is honoured and grateful to be able to share her love for Kathak with you tonight. This work represents her first experimentation in co-creating original choreography with her duet partner Jane under the invaluable mentorship of Joanna de Souza.

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JOANNA DE SOUZA

Twice Dora Award nominated Joanna de Souza, received a Master's Degree in kathak dance through Prayag Sangit Samiti, Allahabad, India. Her study began in 1978, under her guru, the late Pandit Chitresh Das. Joanna is respected internationally as a dancer, choreographer, and is a much sought-after teacher.

Named one of the "leading Indian classical dancers in Canada" - INDIA TODAY Magazine, she has represented Canada at the World Performing Arts Festival in Lahore, Pakistan, and the Romerias de Mayo festival in Holguin, Cuba.

In Toronto, she co-founded M-DO/KathakToronto which is home to dance classes, master classes and workshops, at the highest artistic level. Her dance company Chhandam, continues to tour nationally and internationally, bringing their innovative approach of Kathak, to a wide audience, and in 2018 Chhandam in collaboration with choreographer/dancer Misty Wensel, toured India with their collaborative work BARDO.

She was a musician and dancer with the acclaimed Toronto Tabla Ensemble from 1993-2010, and has taught across Canada, Trinidad, the US and India.

In 2015 she was recipient of Angikam's Dr. Maya Rao Award, for recognition of her body of innovative kathak choreography.

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SANTOSH NAIDU

Santosh Naidu is a Canadian 'Platinum' recording, Juno & Dora nominated artist who has been in the music industry for over 30 years. At the tender age of 5, he embraced the study of classical tabla and, in his teens, became a co-founding member of the Toronto Tabla Ensemble.

Santosh is now an accomplished musician in various genres and cultural styles, namely Urban, Latin & Brazilian.

In 2001 he joined, Juno winning, Grammy nominated K-OS as his lead percussionist, writing and performing with him ever since.

Santosh has also recorded internationally and now owns and operates a recording studio in Toronto. Expanding his recording talents, they include scoring music for Film, TV & commercial/advertising. He is one half of the dynamic duo The GuruBros.

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IAN DE SOUZA

Uganda born, Toronto bred bass player and producer, Ian de Souza is the recipient of a Juno Award (2007), National Jazz Award (2009) and has been twice nominated for a Dora Mavor Moore Award (2009 & 2017).

Over his 40-year career as a musician, Ian has recorded and performed widely on over 4 continents, North America, Europe, Asia and Australia with artists as diverse as Jeff Martin, Jane Siberry, Carole Pope, Denzil Sinclair, Stephen Paige and Colin James (Canada), Bill Frissell, Cyro Baptista, Ursula Rucker, Paul Schaffer (US), Yograj Naik and San Page (India), Wayna, Aaron Nitunga, Jean Christophe Matata (Africa).

He is a founding member of the Jazz/Canadiana/improv quartet, Sisters Euclid and is a long time collaborator with electronic duo LAL, and torch-folk singer, Andrea Koziol.

A first call bass player for session work, Ian's work can be heard on Oscar winning director, Hubert Davis' Invisible City soundtrack as well as over 100 TV and radio commercials (jingles) for clients ranging from General Motors and Ford to Johnson and Johnson and CBC Radio's Metro Morning.

Between 2008-2012, his composition 4 Shows Nightly was used as the theme for the CBC National's popular radio show, Dispatches. In 2012, Ian composed the soundtrack for filmmaker, Vikram Das Gupta's internationally acclaimed, multi award winning short film, Calcutta Taxi.

In addition he composes music for dance, including for choreographer, Nova Bhattacharya's Red and Yellow, and for dancer/choreographer Joanna de Souza's Chhandam Dance Company.

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THANK YOU!

Thanks to Sucheta Heble for her gracious introductions of tonight's program. Special thanks to Mihaela Dirlea for her lovely graphics, T.P. Chai for all our on-line connectivity needs, to Vibhu Sharma and Anita Katakkar for the live-stream coordination and Swati Nirnanjan, Will Morris and Iliana Anaili for front of house. Thanks to Kala Kendar for their generous support.

Special thanks to Ed Hanley and Toby Proctor for tonight's video and audio. Without the help of our many volunteers, none of our artistic programming would be possible.

Your donations go a long way in helping us bring great art to our city!

Thank you!

Charitable receipts available for amounts over \$25.

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