

BIO With over 25 years of experience in south Indian classical dance and a Master's degree in biostatistics from Harvard, Aparna Keshaviah performs, teaches, and researches in a hybrid format. Her work integrates artistic exploration with scientific rigor to study relationships between music and dance, tradition and innovation, and stylistic paradigms. Keshaviah's understanding of dance is enhanced by training in yoga, classical piano, music theory, and voice.

EDUCATION

2001	Harvard University Sc.M. Biostatistics, Epidemiology (minor) <i>NIEHS Environmental / Pfizer Scholarship</i>	Boston, MA
1999	Duke University B.A. Mathematics, Spanish (minor) <i>Cum Laude / Baxter Scholarship</i>	Durham, NC
1993	Bharatanatyam <i>Arangetram/Graduation ('ascent to stage')</i> <i>Advanced study in India</i>	Minneapolis, MN
Allied Art Forms		
2001-06	<i>Indian:</i> <i>Mridangam / Nattuvangam / Carnatic music / Hatha yoga / Pranayama</i>	
1982-99	<i>Western:</i> University courses in music theory, history / Classical piano / Choir <i>MN State honors / awards</i>	

TEACHING

2009	Guest Artist. Devanritya Dance Ensemble Advanced Bharatanatyam & Modern Indian Dance Classes & Performance	Hudson, WI
2005-06	Private Teacher Bharatanatyam - Beginner / Intermediate Technique & Theory	Brookline, MA
2003-05	Dance Faculty. Brookline Community Center for the Arts Bharatanatyam - Beginner Technique Modern Indian Dance (garnered record attendance)	Brookline, MA
2003	World Dance Instructor. Healthworks Fitness Center Modern Indian Dance	Cambridge, MA
2002	Instructor. Orient Dance Camp Bharatanatyam for Dancers - Beginner	Plymouth, MA
		Durham, NC

SERVICE

2007	Festival Guide. Folkmoot U.S.A. <i>Managed, emceed, and translated for the national Puerto Rican troupe at the largest int'l folk dance festival in the U.S.</i>	Waynesville, NC
2002	Choreographic Consultant. Boston Network of South Asian Professionals (NETSAP). <i>Taught and coordinated Indian folk choreography for the musical theatre production "Bend it Like Auntie."</i>	Boston, MA

LECTURES / DEMONSTRATIONS / WORKSHOPS (selected)

2008	"Decoding the Modern Practice of Bharatanatyam" <i>Hollins University, CORD 41st Annual Conference</i>	Roanoke, VA
2007	"Decoding Bharatanatyam: A scientific approach to art" <i>Fulbright Conference</i>	Maharashtra, INDIA
2006	"The cultural formation and re-design of Bharatanatyam" <i>Dana-Farber Cancer Institute</i>	Boston, MA
2005	"The telephone game: Influences on tradition over time" <i>Rivers School (Diversity in Motion)</i>	Weston, MA
2004	"Images of women in Hindu mythology and dance" <i>Indus Women Leaders Conference</i>	Cambridge, MA
	"On the way to Bollywood: Modern Indian dance" <i>Peabody-Essex Museum (India Week)</i>	Salem, MA
2003	"Dancing with nature: Story-telling in Indian dance" <i>Club Passim (Culture for Kids)</i>	Cambridge, MA
1999	"Comparing classical Indian dance forms" <i>Duke University (Indian Dance & Hindu Cosmology course)</i>	Durham, NC

GRANTS / RESEARCH

2006-07 **U.S. Fulbright Grant, Dance (India)**

"Decoding the Modern Practice of Bharatanatyam"

A statistical survey to characterize the nature and extent of diversity in the practice of Bharatanatyam. Surveys were designed to systematically gather data from over 200 teachers and students in 3 major cities. Currently under analysis, the study will provide a comprehensive view of Bharatanatyam in modern-day India and the influences that have shaped the form.

2003 **Kala Bharati Foundation / Canadian Heritage Department**

Summer Residency Course for Bharatanatyam Teacher Training

A summit of Bharatanatyam teachers from the U.S. and Canada selected for an intensive course at the Kala-Bharati in Montreal. Topics included: Teaching Outside the Country of Origin; Dance and the Child; Tradition and Beyond; Mapping the Choreographic Landscape.

PUBLICATIONS (selected)

2009 Keshaviah, Aparna. "Decoding the Modern Practice of Bharatanatyam" *CORD Conference Proceedings*. In press.

2007 Interview (Feature Article). "So, how many bharatanatyam-s are out there?!" *PULSE Dance*. Autumn 2007.

Keshaviah, Aparna. "Tradition vs. innovation: The dangers of binary thinking." *PULSE Dance*. Spring 2007.

2006 Keshaviah, Aparna. "Conference-cum-celebration: Chicago, USA." *PULSE Dance*. Autumn 2006.

2000-08 * 14 additional statistical publications in peer-reviewed journals, including the *New England Journal of Medicine*

CHOREOGRAPHY (selected)

2010 **Source Code**

Stripping Bharatanatyam of the formal, Brahmanical framework inherited from the 20th c., this performance will test whether cultural translation is needed for comprehension. From dynamic, improvisational exchanges between dance and music to austere presentation that brings focus to basal movement, each piece will lay bare the process of dance production.

2007 **Mahishasura Mardini** ("Demon-slaying goddess")

Invoking the fierce goddess Kali, pounding rhythms of war infiltrate this dance, propelled by the pulses of a traditional chant (sloka). Created for the Lebanese Red Cross fundraiser in Boston; re-staged at Folkmoot U.S.A. for dancers from 8 int'l folk dance troupes.

2005 **Matrabandh** ("Union of elements")

This piece deconstructs Bharatanatyam into its core components of footwork, gesture, and expression, and then reunites them. Bare, powerful stamping is contrasted with fluid hand gestures. When the two unite, they become punctuated by sharp isolations of the neck, eyes, and shoulders. Matrabandh allows beginners to feel the language of Bharatanatyam even while learning the alphabetic steps.

2004 **"Bharatanatyam: A Step Apart"** (Cambridge, MA)

Choreographer/Director/Producer/Dancer

A two-hour production that infused the customary Bharatanatyam repertoire with contemporary analysis. Staged in 8 months time by a troupe of 7 dancers, the performance was accompanied by a full south Indian orchestra and received excellent reviews. Proceeds were donated to Himalayan Institute Hospital Trust for health & rural development projects in India.

2003 **Bollywood Medley**

Gujarati and Punjabi folk dance is interwoven with American hip-hop to create a globalized Indian dance, set to a custom mix of techno-bhangra, garba, and popular Bollywood music. First taught at the Brookline Community Center for the Arts, the piece was expanded into a World Dance class and brought to other venues due to its immense popularity.

PRESS / REVIEWS (selected)

2006 "Demystifying the confusing history of Bharata Natyam" Fulbright research feature. *India New England newspaper*

2004 "A Step Apart is a step forward" performance review. *Lokvani.com e-magazine*

"Out of Bollywood" Review of Peabody-Essex museum workshop. *Middle-Eastern Dance in New England magazine*

2003 Featured in photo exhibition of Cambridge dancers. *Citizens Bank*.

2002 Himalayan Institute Hospital Trust (INDIA) performance review. *Swami Veda Bharati (D.Litt.), Spiritual Guide*

Club Passim performance review. *Karim Mohammed, New England Conservatory of Music faculty, freelance artist*

Orient Dance camp workshop and performance commentary. *Morocco, Casbah Dance Company*

SOLO PERFORMANCES (selected)

Schools / Colleges / Universities

2003, '06	M.I.T. <i>"Lebanese Red Cross fundraiser;" "Raaga-Taala fundraiser for Association for India's Development (A.I.D.)"</i>	Cambridge, MA
2006	Stonehill College <i>"Asian American festival"</i>	Easton, MA
2005	Rivers school <i>"Diversity in motion"</i>	Weston, MA
2004	Emerson College <i>"Cultural and diversity week"</i> Beaver Country Day School.	Boston, MA Chestnut Hill, MA
2003-04	Brookline Community Center for the Arts <i>"Winter solstice concert series;" "Serpentine night;" "Summer gala faculty performance"</i>	Brookline, MA
2003	Cambridge Center for Adult Education. <i>Cambridge, MA</i>	Cambridge, MA
2001	Harvard School of Public Health <i>"International night"</i>	Boston, MA
1995-99	Duke University <i>Senior piano recital</i> <i>"Diwali: Festival of lights"</i>	Durham, NC
1995	University of MN. <i>State honors concert (winner of state piano contest, Senior A Level)</i>	

Cultural / Community Events

2007	Folkmoot U.S.A.	Waynesville, NC
2005	Club Passim <i>"Arabesque Mondays"</i>	Cambridge, MA
2003	Pravda New England <i>Kannada Koota "Ganesh Chaturthi celebration"</i>	Boston, MA Andover, MA
2002	Orient dance camp	Plymouth, MA
1994	Asian-American renaissance at Penumbra Theatre <i>"Cabaret"</i> MN state fair	St. Paul, MN St. Paul, MN
1993	MN Indo community center <i>"Minneapolis Indo summer fest"</i> Hindu society of MN <i>"Diwali festival"</i>	Minneapolis, MN Minneapolis, MN

Conferences / Companies

2007	Fulbright conference (Aurangabad) Dana-Farber Cancer Institute <i>"Arts week"</i>	Maharashtra, INDIA Boston, MA
2004	Fleet Bank <i>"Asian heritage night"</i>	Boston, MA
2002	Himalayan Institute Hospital Trust <i>"International conference on science and meditation"</i> North American <i>Sankethi Association Annual convention</i>	Uttaranchal, INDIA New Windsor, MD
1995	The Himalayan Institute 20th annual congress <i>"Techniques and practices for self transformation"</i>	Chicago, IL

GROUP PRODUCTIONS (selected)

2003	Navarasa Dance Theater <i>"When earth sings: Plantation talas" – Soloist</i>	Boston, MA
2000-02	The Longwood Players – <i>Featured Company Dancer/Singer</i> <i>"Pippin"</i> <i>"Singing in the rain"</i> <i>"West-side story" (Francesca)</i>	Boston, MA
1999	Duke University chorale – <i>Soloist</i> , International tours	CHINA, ITALY
1997	Payal Dance Academy <i>"Jai Shiva Shankar" – Featured Dancer</i>	Raleigh, NC
1992-95	Ragamala Music and Dance Theatre – <i>Company Dancer/Soloist</i> <i>"The puppet master" Southern Theater</i> <i>"Canticle of Mary" O'Shaughnessy Auditorium, The College of St. Catherine</i> <i>"Pushpanjali - An offering of flowers" St. Olaf College</i> <i>"Dawn" Southern Theater</i> <i>"Cycles of life" O'Shaughnessy Auditorium, The College of St. Catherine</i> <i>Soloist – "The Ten Incarnations of Vishnu" Walker Art Center</i> <i>"Ragamala, A painting in motion, whose poetry breathes music" Southern Theater</i>	Minneapolis, MN
1990	Nritya Jyoti Dance Inc. <i>"Valli Kalyanam" – Lead Dancer</i>	Minneapolis, MN