

S U F I K A T H A K
A Spiritual Dance form evolved by
MANJARI CHATURVEDI
Kathak Danseuse

KATHAK TO SUFI KATHAK

Raas Lila tradition of Kathak is based on the divine love of Radha and Lord Krishna, which symbolizes the torment of separation and ecstasy of union of Man from God. In fact, the Indian concept of Nirvana is similar to the Sufi thought of Fana and the concept of merging of individual soul with the universal soul is common amongst both the Hindu mystics and the Sufi's.

In an effort to innovate Kathak from its classical form I incorporate the mystique of Sufism the dance of the moving meditation. In my newly evolved dance form of Sufi Kathak, the concept of the beauty of the image less Beloved becomes the guiding factor for me. The image becomes the act itself, the creative form. The state of love finds an image in the Beloved...the image acquires dimension...dimensions acquire reality. Human body outlives its form and the surrender becomes dance.

A secret turning in us
makes the universe turn
Head unaware of feet,
and feet head. Neither cares.
They keep turning

Rumi

The Sufi poets of the subcontinent have inspired thoughts of this nature in the culture in which it existed. They found sensitive parallels to devotion and love, to separation and union.

I feel Sufi Kathak is one such art form, which draws inspiration from these sensitive expressions and the soul dances. This expression has its own maze of thoughts, its own way of interpretation of music and poetry and its own way of surrender, represented in my dance.

“ My dance form spans from earthly romance of Hindi folk to the evolved Sufi imagery of love in Persian poetry depicting a beloved in flesh and blood to the abstract presence of the Almighty, from a form to formlessness.”

My own quest for the inherent spirituality in dance led me to this style and form, Something ... Some force...Someone that makes me dance.

I dance in surrender
to Him, to His Glory, to His Love, to His World
with a lilting melody and a strong rhythm...
a dance of separation and union...of hope...
a pattern of light and shade...
the fire of the eternal dance of moth,

“ Sufi Kathak is an ecstatic dance and the synchronization of movements with music and the beats are joined with clapping of human hands, in praise of the Beauty of the Soul.”

The Sufi spiritual thoughts universalize the beloved into the creator- the eternal lover, breaking manmade boundaries of caste, religion and nation through poetry, music and dance, creating a universal communication.

Qawwali is typically mystical Sufi devotional vocal music form which inspires me to dance and elevates the soul and takes both performer and the audience to the same plane of confluence ... with the Almighty.

Sufi Kathak brings out the nuances of Sufi Qawwali through the language of the body in order to enthrall the audience into Sufi ambiance. The dance gradually becomes ecstatic...the synchronization of movements with music...the beats are joined with clapping of hands...in praise of the Beauty of the Soul ...the form.

Making it the dance of the soul...of the one enflamed with love and longing, enamored with the desire to approach the God and be consumed in His Glory...one who lost herself in union with Him...

MANJARI CHATURVEDI
www.manjarisufikathak.com
manjarisufikathak@rediffmail.com
Mobile +91 – 9810345081

MANJARI
**is a leading exponent of the Indian dance form of Kathak. She has combined the
mysticism of Sufi tradition with her dance to create a stunning new school of
performance called Sufi Kathak.**

Manjari Chaturvedi, classical Kathak danseuse and a performing artist for over a decade, is an extraordinary young dancer, adding subtle innovations to the Kathak repertoire while preserving the tenets of the classical style. Manjari, with her enchanting stage presence has earned acclamation for her intense, sensitive and graceful Kathak dance presentations

A danseuse representing Lucknow gharana of Kathak and postgraduate in Environmental Sciences, Manjari embodies the Awadhi ethos, bridging the gap between tradition and modernity. Her performances preserve the doctrine of classical temple and darbari forms, yet they are accessible to audiences across the world. Her ability to explain the intricacies of Kathak in fluent English at International Cultural Festivals are appreciated by a large foreign audience, in more than two hundred concerts.

Manjari is trained in classical Kathak by Guru Pandit Arjun Mishra, she developed the detailing of abhinaya –expressions under Smt. Kalanidhi Narayan and Smt. Priyadarshini Govind, and has worked at Nrityagaram in association with Guru Protima Bedi and Guru Kumudini Lakhia.

In her efforts to rediscover Kathak from its classical form Manjari has introduced the mystique of Sufism. Akin to the moving meditation of the whirling dervishes in the Sufi tradition, her unique dance style called Sufi Kathak is representative of the great Sufi traditions of the sub continent. Sufi Kathak thus conceptualised and created by Manjari, brings out the nuances of Sufi music through the language of Kathak which expresses the rapturous heights of spiritual ecstasy.

LIST OF COLLABORATIONS

Manjari, in her peerless journey, seamlessly blends her dance with diverse cross cultural music . With her own efforts Manjari has made the Kathak form richer by adding new dimensions to the dance form with varying music creating a wide repertoire, which was earlier never a part of Kathak.

1. MUSIC FROM IRAN music by the rumi group
The serene sufi music of iran
1. QAWWALLI from awadh, from ajmer, from jaipur– sabri brothers
2. MUSIC FROM KASHMIRI - namtahallis
3. MUSIC FROM RAJASTHANI- manganiars the haunting rustic music of rajasthan creates a dance of controlled ecstasy.
4. MUSIC FROM TURKMENISTAN- BY SAAMAL GROUP

MANJARI CHATURVEDI
www.manjarisufikathak.com
manjarisufikathak@rediffmail.com
Mobile +91 – 9810345081