



100 Years  
of Great  
Performances

THE UNIVERSITY MUSICAL SOCIETY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

## Yakshagana

### *Directors*

B. V. Achar  
Martha Bush Ashton  
Handadi Subbanna Bhat

### *Dancers*

Sakkattu Laxminarayana, Haradi Mahabala Ganiga, Cherkadi Madhava Nayak,  
Birithi Balakrishna, Haradi Sanjiva Ganiga, Belthur Ramesha,  
Dayananda Balegara, Haradi Sarvottama Ganiga

### *Musicians*

Januvarukatte Gopalakrishna Kamath: *Singer*  
Hiriadka Gopala Rao: *Maddale (horizontal drum)*  
Brahmavara Ananta Rao: *Chende (vertical drum)*  
B. V. Achar: *Sruti (drone)*

MONDAY EVENING, APRIL 9, 1979, AT 8:30  
RACKHAM AUDITORIUM, ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

### P R O G R A M

*(Performed without intermission)*

Yakshagana, a South Indian dance-drama, traditionally begins with rituals performed outside and in the *chauka* (the dressing-room). Drums and cymbals are played to invite the audience to attend the spectacle. Then a prayer is sung to the elephant-headed god (Ganapati puja), asking him to bless the performance. These are heard as the audience enters the hall to be seated.

### *Procession of Musicians and Lamp Bearers*

#### Rangasthala Abbara

Announcement by the musicians that the ritual songs on the stage are about to begin.

#### Hare Ramana Govinda

Song in praise of various gods, performed by dancers representing Lord Krishna and Balarama.

BELTHUR RAMESHA      HARADI SARVOTTAMA GANIGA

#### Gajamukha

A song in praise of Lord Ganapati (the elephant-headed god).

BELTHUR RAMESHA and HARADI SARVOTTAMA GANIGA

#### Radha Lola

A song in praise of Lord Krishna, danced by a female character.

DAYANANDA BALEGARA

## Prasanga Pithike

Drums and cymbals announce that the play is about to begin.

JANUVARUKATTE GOPALAKRISHNA KAMATH (tala)  
HIRIADKA GOPALA RAO (maddale) BRAHMAVARA ANANTA RAO (chende)

### *Abhimanyu's Battle*

This story is from the great Indian epic, the Mahabharatha. The princely clans—the Pandavas and Kauravas—fight for supremacy for eighteen days on the battlefield of Kurukshetra. Abhimanyu's battle takes place on the thirteenth day.

Oddolaga (introductory dance of the major characters)

On the battlefield of Kurukshetra, the dejected Kaurava, with his warriors, Karna, Shalya and Dushshasana, considers ways and means of defeating the Pandavas. At this juncture, Drona, the most senior warrior of the Kaurava army approaches his king, Kaurava. He assures the king that he has a plan for defeating the Pandavas, provided Arjuna, a Pandava prince, is drawn away from the battle. His plan is to arrange the army in a circular formation which has an entrance but no exit. Only a superior warrior can find a way out.

<i>Kaurava</i>	HARADI MAHABALA GANIGA
<i>Karna</i>	CHEKADI MADHAVA NAYAK
<i>Shalya</i>	HARADI SANJIVA GANIGA
<i>Dushshasana</i>	HARADI SARVOTTAMA GANIGA
<i>Drona</i>	BIRTHI BALAKRISHNA

Oddolaga of Samasaptaka (Introductory dance of the Demon king)

Kaurava has summoned his ally, Samasaptaka, the demon king of Trigarta. The demon king shows himself brushing his teeth, washing his face, bathing and putting on ritual make-up. He then worships Lord Shiva by bathing the linga (the phallic symbol of Lord Shiva), decorating it with flowers, waving the sacred flame, taking a flower blessed by the God, and putting it on his headdress.

Samasaptaka goes to Kaurava. Kaurava asks Samasaptaka to fight Arjuna. Arjuna comes and defeats Samasaptaka in battle.

<i>Samasaptaka</i>	SAKKATTU LAXMINARAYANA
<i>Arjuna</i>	HARADI SARVOTTAMA GANIGA

Oddolaga of Abhimanyu (Introductory dance of Abhimanyu, the young warrior son of Arjuna)

Abhimanyu decides to join the Pandava Army and fight the Kauravas. He goes to his mother, Subhadra, to receive her blessings. Subhadra tries to dissuade her son by telling him that he is too young. But the prince says that he is determined to go. Reluctantly she gives her blessings and he proceeds to the battlefield.

The next scene is the Kaurava army—Drona, Kaurava, Dushshasana, Shalya and Karna arrange themselves in a circular formation. Jayadritha guards the entrance. Abhimanyu arrives and defeats Jayadritha and enters the formation. He fights the Kaurava warriors one by one, and defeats them.

Kaurava scolds his warriors for the defeat. Drona becomes angry and says: "Collectively we will fight Abhimanyu. By standing behind him, Karna will destroy Abhimanyu's bow." And thus, Abhimanyu's bow is taken. He uses his sword but loses it and begins fighting with his shoulders and hands. At an opportune moment, Karna cuts off Abhimanyu's arms. The young prince rolls over on the ground and dies.

<i>Abhimanyu</i>	BELTHUR RAMESHA
<i>Subhadra</i>	DAYANANDA BALEGARA
<i>Jayadritha</i>	SAKKATTU LAXMINARAYANA

Mangala (A prayer of thanks to the gods for the successful completion of the play.)

DAYANANDA BALEGARA

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All interested persons are cordially invited to attend a free lecture-demonstration by the Yakshagana troupe, to be held tomorrow, Tuesday, at 4:00 P.M. in this auditorium.

*Note: In next year's season, soon to be announced, all Asian events will be included in the Choice Series.*

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## UNIVERSITY MUSICAL SOCIETY

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