

of other classical mathematical methods

## Kathak

Kathak is a prominent classical dance form of Northern India. The word Kathak comes from the original Sanskrit word "Kathakar" which literally means a storyteller. Katha means a story and Kathakar means a storyteller. "Katha kahe so Kathak Kahave", which meant "one who tells a story is a storyteller". Traditionally these storytellers were both men and women, a woman storyteller was known as "kathika" and a male storyteller was "kathaka". Who recited the epics



and mythological stories with added element of abhinaya i.e. expressional demonstration who traveled around the country entertaining and educating the people with sacred legends, folklores and mythology? While reciting from the epics etc. they sang, danced and acted. By the 13th century the style of singing by Kathakas had developed its own special features. During the Bhakti (devotional) movement period in medieval India, Kathak was greatly influenced by Krishna-cult. During the turmoil period at the end of Moghul rule and reign of Aurangzeb, the Kathak dancers went back to their village homes in hiding. It evolved from Vaishnav philosophy and Radha-Krishna tales to become a powerful entertainment for the Moghul courts. While the basic graces were retained new idioms were added. Maharaj Bindadin, the greatest of Kathak gurus integrated and refined the form to a representative classical dance form. Kathak today has regained its lost glory, its rightful place amongst the classical arts of India and has inspired a number of artists)

★ (In kathak, each syllable is used not only to represent the sounds of feet and bells but also to harmonise with the strokes of accompanying percussion instruments. During a performance pieces of abstract dance may be recited before actual performance. This recitation or parhant is a mode of communication with the percussionist (s) who have to match

and strike the syllable the dancer recites.) Furthermore, the parhant enables the audience to visualize and appreciate the rhythmic patterns before they are revealed in dance

### Sequence of Kathak

We can divide Katha dance performance in two parts i.e 1, Nrittang (pure dance portion 2, Abhinaya part.) (Kathak dance performance begins with Nritta portion in which Thata, Aamad, Toda, Tukda etc are presented generally. The use of ghungroos in kathak is unparalleled in the world. Each and every syllable played in tabla, pakhawaj is resounded with ghungroos by kathak dancer.) In Abhinay portion Gat nikas, Gat bhava, Thumri, Bhajan is presented, accompaniment is limited. One tabla and one Pakhawaj, one sarangi or Harmonium player, lehra is sufficient, nowadays some instruments like sitar, sarod, flute etc are also used.

### Costume

(Present costume of kathak dance is influenced by Mughals and hindu courts. Gents use to wear chooridar pyjama, angarkha, dupatta and topi or Pagri. Ladies wear either peshwaz, means frock, chooridar pyjama, jacket chunri and topi which is an Islamic costume. ghagra, lehanga, choli and orhni suits ble ornaments on head, nose, ear, neck and hands are also worn.)

### Accompanying Instruments

(Tabla and Sarangi are the main accompanying Instruments of kathak.)

### Exponents

1. (Shambhoo Maharaj, Bindadin, Pt Birju Maharaj, Gopi Krishna, Sitara Devi, Damyanti Joshi, Pt. Durgalal, Uma Sharma, Sobhana Narayan Dr. Puru Dadheech, Dr. Purnima Pandey are the main exponent of kathak.)

### Themes of Kathak Dance

Kathak is usually danced with the following: -

1. Slokas in sanskrit / hindi.
2. Bhajans (devotional songs for hindu gods and goddesses)
3. Classical and light songs i.e thumri, dadra, kajri, hori etc.
4. Darbari and Ghazals (mainly urdu songs based on love, admira-

tion, infatuation, separation etc.

5. Pure classical type i.e Paran, Tukda, Gat Nikas, Jugalbandi (friendly competition) sawaljawab (footwork with tabla or pakhawaj and demonstration of beats.

6. Tarana based on Pagas

7. Dance Drama-topics chosen from epics Mahabharata which was composed by vedvyas and describes the story of Vedic era. The other great composition is the epic called Ramayana written by Tulsidas.

8. Any musical (classical) composition i.e. sitar, sarod, violin, sarangi, israj, dilruba, shehnai, flute, tabla, pakhawaj, taal, dholak.