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Love Lyrics — Essence of Love Explored Through Indian Classical Dance

**Kala Vandanam Dance Company debuts at the 2004 Minnesota Fringe Festival
Howard Conn Fine Arts Center, August 6, 8, 10, 13, 14
Minneapolis, MN**

WOODBURY, Minn. (July 18, 2004) — Kala Vandanam Dance Company, founded by Suchitra Sairam in 2003, will present its debut production, *Love Lyrics*, at the 2004 Minnesota Fringe Festival in Minneapolis, Minn. Presented in the ancient and beautiful South Indian classical dance form of *Bharatanatyam*, *Love Lyrics* explores the essence of love through lyrics and musical compositions from many eras of the South Indian classical music tradition. Love is universal, and love is timeless. From a mother's love for her child, to love between lovers, to love for the divine, experience the range of emotions that love brings to the heart and soul. It is love that evokes all other emotions in the human experience.

"*Love Lyrics* will be performed by a troupe of three dancers," said Artistic Director and Choreographer Suchitra Sairam. "Anasooya Abraham, Vaishalee Ballolla, and myself. As a group, we have many years of Bharatanatyam training in the dynamic *Kalakshetra* style. I am also excited to publicly present my choreography for the first time in *Love Lyrics*."

Bharatanatyam is an ancient classical dance style, with sculptural evidence dating back over 2000 years, and is about 200 years old in its present form. It is a highly spiritual and dedicatory dance and is rooted in the temples of Tamil Nadu, in South India. The dance moved from temples to theaters over time, but has retained its characteristic devotional component and expression of human emotions.

Bharatanatyam is comprised of two main aspects – *nritta*, or pure technical dance, with a sophisticated base vocabulary used to build intricate combinations and rhythmic patterns; and *nritya* (also called *abhinaya*), or expressional dance, using highly stylized gestures, postures and body language to express any mood or story. "*Abhinaya* is one of the things I love most about *Bharatanatyam*," said Sairam. "It's an opportunity to lose yourself in a story and in many characters; mind, body and soul. Our presentation of *Love Lyrics* emphasizes *abhinaya*, to bring forth the moods and emotions found in motherly love, romantic love and devotional love."

Tickets to *Love Lyrics* are available at the door (\$12), or through Uptown Tickets, www.uptowntix.com, for reserved seating (\$10 plus \$2.50 advance purchase fee). The Howard Conn Fine Arts Center is located at the Plymouth Congregational Church, 1900 Nicollet Avenue at Franklin Avenue in Minneapolis, MN.

About Minnesota Fringe Festival



Minnesota Fringe Festival is an annual ten-day festival of live stage performance and visual arts, including theater, dance and performance art, puppetry, spoken word, storytelling and more. In 2004, there are 176 different performing arts companies and individual artists in 21 venues staging about 900 different performances. Minnesota Fringe is a proud member of the Canadian Association of Fringe Festivals (CAFF), an organization of most of North America's Fringes. Additional information about the Minnesota Fringe is available at www.fringefestival.org.

About Kala Vandanam

Kala Vandanam Dance Company was founded in 2003 by Suchitra Sairam, with the vision of sharing the beauty and depth of *Bharatanatyam*, the oldest classical dance tradition of India. Drawing from the *Kalakshetra* style of *Bharatanatyam*, which is known for its precision of technique and subtle expressional dance emphasizing devotion, Kala Vandanam – which translates to Salutation to Arts - looks to expand creativity within the framework of this exquisite dance form. Kala Vandanam carries on the classic works by great masters from the *Kalakshetra* tradition, creates new interpretations within *Bharatanatyam*, and provides training opportunities to new aspirants. Additional information about Kala Vandanam Dance Company is available at www.kalavandanam.com

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