



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
February 19, 2021

## **The Story of the Goddess Parāśakti is Celebrated in Brand New Production of Indian Classical Music and Dance Filmed on the Chan Centre Stage**

**Vancouver, BC — The Chan Centre for the Performing Arts** at the University of British Columbia presents **Parāśakti: The Flame Within**, part of the virtual Dot Com Series. Recorded in February 2021 in the Chan Centre's Chan Shun Concert Hall, the exclusive performance will premiere on Friday March 19, 2021 at 7pm PST with a virtual watch party and live chat, and will remain available for on demand viewing until May 31, 2021. In addition to the performance, there will be a **Q&A with the artists** of Parāśakti, filmed on the Chan Centre stage and moderated by Indian Summer Festival Founding Artistic Director Sirish Rao.

Six talented Canadian artists will combine Indian classical movement, mime, vocals, and instrumental music to create a dynamic artistic narrative. Dancer **Arno Kamolika** and Hindustani vocalist **Akhil Jobanputra**, co-directors of the piece, will be joined by Carnatic vocalist **Srividhya Sairam**, percussionist and mridangist **Curtis Andrews**, sitar player **Sharanjeet Singh Mand**, and tabla and dilruba player **Satpreet Singh**.

Parāśakti—the Mother Goddess, the Absolute Divinity—plays a timeless, archetypal role across geographic and socio-cultural barriers in Hindu traditions, acting as a reflection on the human condition and presenting paths for attaining enlightenment. This ensemble of artists will explore the Goddess' many narratives and iconographies across three chapters, taking audiences on a musical and theatrical journey through traditional Bharatanatyam dance technique, improvisational solos, rhythmic ensemble pieces, and hypnotic chanting.

“What a joy it was to transform our concert hall stage into an incredible celebration of Indian music and dance for this new production” says Pat Carrabré, Director of the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts. “The artistry of each of the ensemble members is breathtaking from scene to scene. Together they weave a fascinating story full of sublime movement, evocative iconography, exciting rhythms and dynamic percussion sounds. We're thrilled to have collaborated with some wonderful community partners including the Indian Classical Music Society of Vancouver, the Asta Alliance Association, Indian Summer Festival, and the Centre for India and South Asia Research at UBC to bring this virtual performance to our audiences.”

Vancouver-based dance artist **Arno Kamolika**'s work seeks non-traditional storytelling through the traditional framework of Bharatanatyam, while she explores her Bengali heritage and skillfully draws from a variety of dance forms. Born and raised in the Lower Mainland, Hindustani vocalist **Akhil Jobanputra**'s artistry is introspective and personal, while reaching ever outward to the metaphysical. **Srividhya Sairam** is a Carnatic vocalist from Chennai, India, an alumna of the notable Kalakshetra Foundation. Percussionist and mridangist **Curtis Andrews** learned Carnatic music from legendary Vidwan Sangita Kalanidhi Sri Trichy Sankaran, though his playing is also informed by extensive work in

jazz, African, and other musical forms. Sitar player **Sharanjeet Singh Mand** was the first non-western classical musician to make CBC's "30 Hot Classical Musicians Under 30". **Satpreet Singh** is an accomplished tabla and dilruba player.

### **About the Dot Com Series**

The Chan Centre Dot Com Series launched in September 2020 in light of restrictions on gatherings due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Delivered 100% online, the series features a wide range of remarkable performing artists, both locally and internationally based, bringing Chan Centre audiences exclusive performances filmed both at the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts and elsewhere around the world. Past performers include Jeremy Dutcher, PIQSIQ, Cristina Pato, Brendan McLeod, and the Amir Amiri Ensemble.

### **About the Chan Centre for Performing Arts at UBC**

Since 1997, the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts has earned an international reputation for its striking design, stellar acoustics, and exceptional programming. Artists, critics, and patrons alike are unanimous in their praise of the facility, winning it a place among North America's top-rated performing arts spaces. Featuring three unique venues—the Chan Shun Concert Hall, the Telus Studio Theatre, and the Royal Bank Cinema—the Chan Centre is a vital part of UBC campus and community life where artistic and academic disciplines merge to inspire new perspectives on the world around us. Past performers and speakers include Wynton Marsalis, His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Renée Fleming, Dan Savage, Yo-Yo Ma, Jane Goodall, Herbie Hancock, Lila Downs, and Anoushka Shankar.

#### **LISTING INFORMATION**

Dates:

Online Ticket Prices:

Address:

Ticket Office:

Website:

Link to Artist Photos:

#### **Parāśakti: The Flame Within (online only)**

Watch online from March 19, 2021

\$0/\$10/\$20 (Supported/General/Supportive)

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