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University Chapel Hour: Saraswati Puja

Tonushree Jaggi

Narendra K. Jaggi

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Illinois Wesleyan University

University Chapel Hour

September 13, 2000 • 11 AM • Evelyn Chapel

SARASWATI PUJA:

Worship of Saraswati, Hindu Goddess of learning and the arts, using Odissi dance liturgy

By

Tonushree Jaggi

Tonushree Jaggi, a senior Economics major at Harvard University and daughter of Narendra and Hansa Jaggi, is dance director of the Harvard dance company *Gbungroo*. An accomplished performer of Indian classical dance, she has studied with Neena Gulati and, last year in India, with Ranjana Gauhar. In addition to numerous U.S. performances, Tonushree has danced in India for a documentary on classical Indian dance, which she also helped to write, commissioned by *Doordarshan*, India's national public television network. Ms. Jaggi reprises her 1998 appearance at IWU's Evelyn Chapel.

Photo of Tonushree Jaggi courtesy of Robert E. Handley

Free and open to the public



Wednesday, September 13, 2000 at 11:00 AM

Order of Worship & Explanatory Notes

CARNATIC SACRED MUSIC (please be in silent meditation)

GREETING: Chaplain Dennis E. Groh

"Welcome": Narendra K. Jaggi

Deepam, Achamanam, Ghantanadah: Tonushree Jaggi

Through the ritual use of flame, water and sound, accompanied by the chanting of specific Mantras, the local space is believed to be rid of Rakshas (manifestations of evil). Thus purified, the space is considered sacred enough to invite the presence of the deity.

Gurudhyanam: Tonushree Jaggi

Salutation of the Guru (teacher) as the embodiment of divinity.

"Saveri Pallavi ": Tonushree Jaggi

This *Odissi* dance composition is laced with some of the most lyrical passages of the tradition and suggests deep spiritual joy and a sense of humble surrender to the divine spirit.

At this time, all Bhaktas (devotees) are invited to join the Puja.

Pujasankalpa, Devidhyanam:

Declaring the purpose of today's worship. This includes praying to Saraswati for humility, knowledge, and capacity for detachment from material wealth and blessings of our respective Gurus.

Aavahanam, Asanam, Padyam, Arghyam, Achamanam, Snanyam, Vastram, Gandhalepanam, Akshatah, Pushpam:

Series of offerings: of a seat, drinking water, bathing water, white sari, sandalwood paste, rice and flowers to Saraswati

Shatah Namawali:

Worship by chanting responsively a prayer and offering flowers to each of 108 Puranic names of Goddess Saraswati

*Dhupam, Deepam, Naivedyam, Niranjanam, Pradakshina Namskar:
Tonushree and Bhaktas*

Offering incense, 'seeing' Saraswati with the sacred lamp, offering food, camphor and flowers, followed by stylized circumambulation of the Goddess.

Saraswati Vandana: Tonushree Jaggi

In Odissi style of Indian dance, this elegant composition interleaves paragraphs in interpretive mode (*Abhinaya*) with pure dance sequences (*Nritta*) to worship Goddess Saraswati.

Samarpanam: Tonushree Jaggi

The final surrender of the devotee to the divine,

Those who can are requested to stand during the following part of the liturgy, which lasts about two minutes.

Aarati: All Bhaktas

Communal singing of a contemporary hymn, while "seeing" the deity with the sacred lamp.

Udvasanam: Narendra Jaggi

Asking Saraswati to return to her own heavenly abode.

Shanti Mantra: Narendra Jaggi

Invocation of peace.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Join us for a luncheon conversation immediately following the service. Simply go through the food line of your choice and bring your tray to the Henning Room of Memorial Student Center.

*Next Wednesday, September 20, 2000 at 11:00 a.m., at University Chapel Hour, Chaplain Groh will speak on "Commandments or That Face-to-Face Thing?"

University Chaplain

The Reverend Professor Dennis E. Groh '61, Ph.D.

Associate University Chaplain

Rabbi Theodore Gordon, B.A., M.H.L.

Assistant University Chaplain

Constance DeYoung Groh, B.A., M.T.S., J.D., Ph.D.

Evelyn Chapel Organist

Lou Ann Fillingham '78, M.M., M.B.A.

Music Coordinator and Choral Director

Nikki Carnevale '01



Evelyn Chapel is located at 1301 North Park Street,
Bloomington, Illinois 61701

The Alice and Frank B. Jordan Organ, 1984