



SAARC CULTURAL CENTRE
COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

www.saarcculture.org

SAARC CULTURAL FESTIVAL ON MUSIC AND DANCE 2019 - INDIA

1. INTRODUCTION

Music and dance are two important forms of artistic expression within the performing arts. These art forms add tangible value to daily life and enrich culture within a society. The culture of music and dance in South Asia encapsulates the expressions and narrations of themes from social to spiritual. With unique aspects of music and dance from the SAARC Member States, they not only exhibit the culture of a country through body movements and the enchanting melody of music, it also transmits the artistic experience that removes borders and brings joy and peace to its people. The qualities of harmony, emotions and rhythm within music and dance, joy and unity which circulates amongst the minds of the people. Being party to such cultural exchange is one of the most powerful ways to understand culture, inherent traditions, people and their lifestyles and above all, to promote cultural development and Regional corporation.

The SAARC Member States have a wide variety of dances and music in its numerous traditional forms such as ritualistic and folk, with experimental, abstract and fusion from the modern period. The SAARC Cultural Festival on Music and dance 2019 is scheduled to be held in the Honoured Host Member State of India, to celebrate the diversity of the culture of music and dance across the Region and bring harmony through the various ethnicities. Subject to confirmation with regard to the dates and the venue by the honoured host Member State of India, the SAARC Cultural Festival on Music and Dance will take place over four days, at the end of June 2019.

2. OBJECTIVES

- I. To provide opportunities for an international platform for Regional music and dance that would highlight the rich characteristics of cultural diversity within the SAARC Member States.
- II. To educate and share among the public, the rich and varied traditions of music and dance in the SAARC Region.
- III. To support, encourage and stimulate talent and artistry in music and dance, particularly amongst the youth, and to share this ability within a public forum with the aim of promoting cultural harmony.

- IV. To encourage tolerance, strengthen understanding, build intercultural bridges and form interpersonal friendships through the medium of music and dance.
- V. To showcase culture, talent and unite a multitude of dancers and musicians from the SAARC Member States
- VI. To promote these cultural traditions and encourage an appreciation and enthusiasm for intercultural music and dance of artistry within the SAARC Region.

3. PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

The SAARC Cultural Festival on Music and Dance 2019 will be held for a duration of 4 days. It will focus specifically on music and dance from the Region with daily performances, as well as interactive workshops for the artistes. The Festival will include the following components.

- I. **Opening Parade** - The Parade will feature all the dancers and musicians from the representing Member States, where all the artistes (Dancers and Musicians), in colourful traditional attire will parade during the inauguration ceremony, giving an opportunity to members of the public, to view and experience the cultures of the SAARC Region.
- II. **Opening Performance** - There will be performances by all participating Member States, which will showcase cultural diversity through music and dance performances from the Region, during the Inauguration Ceremony.
- III. **Other Performances** - Similar performances by all participants at different venues in the vicinity, so that a wider audience will have an opportunity to witness and experience the rich cultural music and dance traditions of the Region.
- IV. **Interactive Workshop** - The SAARC Cultural Centre will conduct an interactive workshop for all the artistes. The primary focus of the workshop will be on music and dance which will be open to all music and dance enthusiasts, including teachers and students.
- V. **Closing Ceremony** - The Closing Ceremony will include a concluding performance by all participating Member States, as well as a unique fusion performance by artistes of all Member States, prepared during the interactive workshops.

4. OFFICIAL NOMINATIONS

- I. All SAARC Member States are invited to nominate a maximum of 6 participants, including dancers and musicians.
- II. The Host Member State of India may nominate a maximum of 12 participants, to include traditional dancers and musicians.
- III. Nominated artistes should have excelled in their field of music and dance.
- IV. Musicians are encouraged to use traditional instruments for their performances and as such, are advised to bring the necessary traditional instruments with them.
- V. All Member States are requested to be prepared with a minimum of 4 dance/musical items to be presented during the SAARC Cultural Festival on Music and Dance 2019.

5. NOMINATION PROCEDURE

- I. All Member States are requested to forward the names of the nominated artistes, together with the relevant biographical information and contact details, to the SAARC Cultural Centre, **through the relevant line Ministry concerned, via the Foreign/External Affairs Ministries of the Member States, to the SAARC Secretariat**, at the earliest possible convenience.
- II. Member States are also requested to send the following information regarding the nominated participants, **directly to the SAARC Cultural Centre**.
 - a) 50-word biography of the nominated participants/troupe
 - b) Brief description of the items being presented
 - c) High-resolution photographs of the nominated participants
 - d) High-resolution photographs of the music and dance troupe in performance, if available and appropriate.
 - e) The appropriate information will be included, at the discretion of the SAARC Cultural Centre, in the official Brochure being prepared for the Programme.

Please email these details directly to:

A. The Culture Specialist (Programmes): programme@saarcculture.org

With a Copy to:

B. The Programme Assistant: programme-assistant@saarcculture.org

6. LOGISTICAL SUPPORT

- I. As per SAARC practice, all airfare for the nominated artistes should be borne by the nominating Member State.
- II. All local hospitality including accommodation for a total duration of 5 nights (arrival the day prior to the Inauguration Ceremony and departure the day following the Closing Ceremony), meals and local transportation (including to and from the airport), will be provided by the SAARC Cultural Centre, for the officially nominated participants, only for the duration of the Programme.

7. DATES, DURATION AND VENUE

As per discussions at the 56th Programming Committee and 10th Governing Board Meeting of the SAARC Cultural Centre, it is suggested that the SAARC Cultural Festival on Music and Dance 2019 should be conducted for a period of four days. **It is proposed the Programme will take place during the end of June 2019.**

However, final confirmation of the dates, duration and venue of the Programme will be provided upon confirmation of the same by the honoured host Member State of India in collaboration with the SAARC Cultural Centre. Until such time, the SAARC Cultural Centre would be grateful to receive nominations for the SAARC Cultural Festival on Music and Dance 2019, at the earliest possible convenience and no later than the specified deadline.

8. DEADLINES FOR NOMINATIONS.

- I. The names of the nominated participants **must reach the SAARC Secretariat no later than the 20th May 2019**
- II. The details of the nominated participants as requested **must reach the SAARC Cultural Centre no later than the 20th of May 2019** in order to be included in the Brochure. (Any material received after this date may not be included in the official Brochure.)