Guru Shradha is a non-profit organization and dance company established by Niharika Mohanty, a renowned Odissi dancer and teacher. Niharika’s legendary guru, Padma Vibhushan Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra, gave her his blessing to create Guru Shradha to help propagate his illustrious tradition. Guru Shradha is honored to be Guruji’s second establishment globally. Since its inception in 2008, Guru Shradha has developed into a premier Odissi institution in North America, providing a near-immersive Odissi experience to its students and the Bay area community. In addition to classes, Guru Shradha organizes programs, festivals, workshops, and lecture demonstrations in the US and India. More recently, Guru Shradha has taken a new direction in collaborative presentations.

“It was a pleasure to see so many young dancers pursuing the challenging dance style of Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra.” — Manjari Sinha, The Statesman

“Charming, yet very serious in Odissi were Maya Lochana Devalcheruvu (age 11) and Akhil Shrinivasan (age 10) [of Guru Shradha].” — SF Guardian

ODISSI

Odissi dance is from the state of Odisha in eastern India and is one of the oldest surviving Indian dance forms. Like other classical dance forms, Odissi involves both nritta, pure dance, and abhinaya, expressional dance. Its unique grace is expressed through the juxtaposition of fluid torso movements, strong stamping footwork, and postures evoking temple sculptures. Odissi is distinguished from other Indian classical dance forms by its two signature postures: chouka, a square-like stance, and tribhangi, a stance with a deflection of the torso, bend of the head, and bend of the knees.
Guru Ratikant Mohapatra

Ratikant Mohapatra is the son of Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra and Smt. Laxmipriya Mohapatra. In the past 25 years, he has carved a niche for himself in his own right as a master dancer, choreographer, percussionist, teacher, and archivist. Today, he serves as the Director of Srjan (Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Odissi Nrityabasa), while performing and teaching Odissi dance and music throughout the world. Guru Ratikant Mohapatra serves as Guru Shradha’s Chief Advisor, providing guidance and support, especially for the organization’s major performance/festival planning, and developing its curriculum to correspond with Srjan’s.

Guru Sujata Mohapatra

Guru Sujata Mohapatra, disciple and daughter-in-law of Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra, has surrendered herself entirely to Guruji and adheres strictly to his style and vision of Odissi. With numerous accolades and honors from around the world, she is widely recognized as one of the leading female Odissi dancers of our time, achieving a level of technical perfection that is difficult to match. Guru Sujata Mohapatra serves as the Artistic Director of Guru Shradha and is responsible for determining and implementing the institution’s overall artistic vision.

Niharika Mohanty

Niharika Mohanty, who was raised in Canada, took to Odissi dance at the tender age of five and ultimately became a prominent disciple of Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra. Since Guruji’s passing, Niharika has continued to refine her dance under Guru Ratikant and Guru Sujata Mohapatra. Niharika possesses an M.A. in Dance and is the recipient of several grants and awards for her training and choreography. She has performed extensively in North America and internationally as a soloist to notable reviews. Today, Niharika’s primary goal is to continue Guruji’s legacy in North America as Founder/Director of Guru Shradha.

For booking performances, workshops, and lecture/demonstrations, please contact Guru Shradha.
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