

Namaskar,

I am Nagendra Tirumali and I am the current President of Kalakendra, Society for the Performing Arts of India, founded in February 1987 in Portland, Oregon with a mission to introduce, promote and enhance awareness of the various performing arts of the Indian subcontinent through music concerts, classical dances and lecture-demonstrations.

Kalakendra 's programs are drawn from centuries-old, culturally diverse performing art forms of India. Kalakendra arranges programs, by that culture's finest, internationally acclaimed performing artists, including some who have established themselves as teachers and performers in this country, as well as younger artists of outstanding caliber. Kalakendra encourages locally available talent through offerings of concerts with local community participants and workshops. Though the majority of the audiences are from the Portland metropolitan area, several travel from the communities of Corvallis, Eugene, Vancouver, and coastal cities of the Northwest.

Kalakendra has received support from the State of Oregon with some regional grants. We are now in our 36th year of existence offering top value for the money, subsidizing the cost for the general audience with the support of a few generous Friends of Kalakendra. Kalakendra has made a name for itself over the years that it has become an organization most sought after even by the top artists of India to come and perform. It is the largest such organization in the entire Pacific Northwest.

The Board Members of Kalakendra are very happy to note that the Oregon Legislature is planning to recognize the Indian community on the occasion of India's 75th year of Independence. On behalf Kalakendra, I would like to request all of your support to this Resolution.

With best regards,...Nagendra Tirumali, President, Kalakendra