

**EVERGREEN
BALVIHAR'S
ANNUAL SHOW
RECEIVES
THUNDEROUS
APPLAUSE**

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Gajendra was enacted by Sindhu Ravuri and crocodile by Neelima Mandava supported by 20 other artists from the school.

The Ballet had spectacular settings, background sceneries and awesome special effects. About twenty two young dancers brought life to the show with their colorful costumes and head gears. The Ballet is about a proud and arrogant Gajendra (King Elephant) whose life gets endangered by a crocodile. Upon praying to Lord Vishnu shedding is pride and arrogance, Lord Vishnu, forgetting everything except his need to rescue the Gajendra, bestows Moksha to him by killing the Crocodile.

The students of Percussion Arts Center, Evergreen San Jose presented a Tala Vadya program 'Laya Vinyasam' during Evergreen Balvihar's 6th Anniversary Celebrations at Mexican Heritage Plaza on Sunday Nov 19th at 4PM. It was a very unique program and the

Vinay Raghuram, which provided the launching pad. A very unique part of the program was the section where the individual students did creative improvisation and collaboration live on stage, which is the hallmark of the Indian classical music tradition. Multiple 'Nadais' were demonstrated by the students including the main 4 beat 'Chatusra Nadai' as well as 3 beat 'Thisra Nadai' as well as the 7 beat 'Misra Nadai' during the course of the Tala Vadya program. Laya Vinyasam has been created and directed by Sri Ramesh Srinivasan, the artistic director of Percussion Arts Center and who is a leading disciple of the legendary Mridangam Maestro Sangita Kalandhi Vellore Sri G. Ramabhadran.

PERFORMERS: *Vinay Raghuraman on violin (disciple of Sri Susheela) Narasimhan, a Bay Area violin teacher), Vivek Sridaran, Aksith Lakshminarasimha, Ram Srinivas Malayala, Balaji Giridaran, Alok Subbarao, Harish Shankar,*



In a spectacular presentation, Evergreen Balvihar's annual show received thunderous applause from about 400 plus audiences on the evening of Nov 19. The show, held at Mexican Heritage Plaza, had a sumptuous mixture of Indian folk dances, instrumental and vocal music and a classical Kuchipudi ballet. It began with the melodious and foot-tapping folk items choreographed by Srividya, a well-know folk dance teacher in the Bay Area. The performers looked exquisite with their colorful, mirror-worked traditional outfits. The folk dances are followed by the Kuchipudi Ballet, *Gajendra Moksham*—a 40-minute visual pleasure. The Ballet is choreographed by Madhuri Kishore, artistic director of the Madhuri Kishore Dance School. The artistic director, Madhuri Kishore played the role of Lord Vishnu exhibiting her experience and talent in the art.

first of its kind in the Bay Area. Laya Vinyasam was an aesthetic presentation of the intricate rhythmic patterns that bring forth the varied layam aspects of carnatic music. It was performed using the Carnatic Music percussion instrument 'Mridangam' which is considered the king of percussion instruments. The mrdangam is one of the most highly evolved percussive art forms in the world of music and its existence is hailed since the vedic times. Laya Vinyasam was performed by 12 mridangam students at different levels of learning. They performed to the 'Adi' talam which is an 8 beat cycle equivalent of the 'teen' tal in hindustani music. The performance was structured along the lines of a typical percussion solo in a carnatic music concert. The presentation had a violin accompaniment, provided by a local violin student

Anand Gurumoorthy, Sanjay Chandrasekharan, Sudeep Raj, Ganapatiraman Vishwanathan, Naveen Venkatesan, Vijay Sudarshan, Artistic Director: Sri Ramesh Srinivasan.

Evergreen Balvihar is a non-profit educational organization that promotes cultural exchange and understanding. Our programs emphasize multigenerational and multicultural collaborations encouraging participants to find rewards in different forms of creativity. We bring artists from different cultures together in a supportive environment where they can get to know each other through the language of art. At the core of our program is the belief that interaction between Indian and non-Indian artists, students and participants enriches the creativity of both groups. Evergreen Balvihar is the first South San Jose organization with the unique focus