

Prasanna Kasthuri...

Artistic Director & Guru of Indian Classical Dance & Music, Soorya Performing Arts "Everyone is an artist when they are children"

Guruji is a renowned St Louis gem whose reputation transcends the entire country and the world at large. A Bharathanatyam & Kathak artist, with a strong flair for story telling through gestures, music and (occasional) dialogues. He is also a passionate organizer of Indian performing arts – which he does through the St. Louis Indian Music and Dance Festivals, held every year in the St. Louis region.

He will be presenting *Swati Nartana* – a dance based on the compositions of *Swathi Thirunal* Maharaja.

Swathi Thirunal Rama Varma – famed Maharaja of Travancore (1829-1846), covering modern day Kerala. Born into the Kulasekhara dynasty royal family, his majesty was a forward thinking and progressive king who had a deep interest in music and literature.

Bharathanatyam, **Kathak** – Indian classical dances with centuries old ancient roots originating in the south and north (respectively). There are eight recognized dance forms.