

Summergarden

The Museum of Modern Art

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CLASSIC HINDU DANCE IN TWO SUMMERGARDEN CONCERTS

MANJU PRASAD performs classic Indian dances in two Summergarden concerts on Friday and Saturday, June 21 and 22 at 8pm in the Sculpture Garden of The Museum of Modern Art. Made possible by a grant from Mobil Oil Corporation, the Sculpture Garden is open free to the public from 6pm to 11pm every Friday, Saturday and Sunday through September 29. Unusual entertainment selected by Ed Bland, Program Director, is presented at 8pm every Friday and Saturday. Entrance is through the Garden gate at 8 West 54 Street and seating is casual. In case of rain at performance time, concerts are at 8pm Sundays.

Manju Prasad presents three styles of classic Hindu dance in authentic costume: Bharata Natyam, originated 2000 years ago; Kathak, an animated Mogul Court dance; and Pradams, based on Indian love songs. The art of teaching these classic Indian folk dances is passed on from father to son in India where she studied Bharata Natyam with Guru Muthiah Pillai, a descendant of the Tanjore family, in the foremost dance school. She studied Kathak with Sitara Davi, to whom the president of India has given the title "Padma Shri", the highest honor a dancer can achieve.

Manju Prasad is currently teaching Indian dance at The New School for Social Research and has taught at New York University and Indiana University. Her performances in New York include Summergarden, 1973; New York University, The Museum of Natural History; Damrosch Park, Lincoln Center; and the International Center. She has performed in concert series and in museums throughout the country.

Next week (June 28 and 29) Summergarden presents The Ambrosian Chamber Ensemble in a program of works by Villa-Lobos, Hindmuth, Telemann, Hayden, Bach and Handel. In two weeks, Michael Cohen leads off a series of three weekends with young songwriters.

Additional information available from Earl Hatleberg for Summergarden and Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y., 10019. Phone: (212) 956-7504 or 956-7501