



# A Story, A Song, and A Dance

**ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE:**

**Grades: K-12**

In this performance, classical Indian dance, storytelling, music, dance, and flamenco artists bring the cultures of India and Spain together in this collaborative and educational cultural performance for audiences and students of all ages. This unique artistic collaboration with a message of hope and light brings vocals, guitar, violin, narration, percussion (mridangam), and classical dancers of India together in a new work of art.

**TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills):**

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	Dance	Social Studies	ELA & Reading	The students will:
K	Std. 11	K.10	K.1, K.11	* Demonstrate appropriate concert etiquette during live performances. * Write literary texts, stories and poems that express their ideas and feelings. * Create dances to retell reading selections and help them understand concepts across the curriculum.
1	Std. 11	1.14	1.1, 1.12	
2	Std. 11	2.12	2.1, 2.12	
3	Std. 11	3.10, 3.12	3.1, 3.12	
4	Std. 11	4.17	4.1, 4.12	
5	Std. 11	5.20, 5.21	5.1, 5.12	
Middle School	1.4, 1.5 2.4., 2.5 3.4, 3.5	6.13, 6.16 7.13, 7.16 8.23, 8.26	6.1, 6.10 7.1, 7.10 8.1, 8.10	
High School	1.4, 1.5 2.4, 2.5 3.4, 3.5 4.4, 4.5	U.S. History 24, 25	I.1, I.10 II.1, II.10 III.1, III.10	

**STAAR (State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness):**

Writing Grade 4, 7 Recording Category 1 (10) Composition: listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking using multiple texts--writing process. The student uses the writing process recursively to compose multiple texts that are legible and uses appropriate conventions.  ELA & reading High School Reporting Category 5 9. The student uses the writing process recursively to compose multiple texts that are legible and use appropriate conventions.  US History High School
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Reporting category 2

24. The student understands the relationship between the arts and the times during which they were created.  
25. The student understands how people from various groups contribute to our national identity.  
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<b>Academic Vocabulary:</b>	
Classical Indian dance	* In every Indian state, there is a unique classical dance form that represents the values and traditions of the people of that state. Sangeet Natak Akademi has recognized eight Indian dance forms as Classical Dances of India: Bharatanatyam, Kathakali, Kathak, Kuchipudi, Manipuri, Odissi, Mohiniattam, and Sattriya.
Expressions in Indian dance	Dances express one of the following feelings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shringar: Love</li> <li>• Hasya: Humorous</li> <li>• Karuna: Sorrow</li> <li>• Raudra: Anger</li> <li>• Veer: Heroism</li> <li>• Bhayanak: Fear</li> <li>• Bibhats: Disgust</li> <li>• Adbhoot: Wonder</li> </ul>
Flamenco (music)	*a style of Spanish music, played especially on the guitar and accompanied by singing and dancing
Flamenco (dance)	*a style of spirited, rhythmical dance performed to flamenco music, often with castanets
castanets	*small concave pieces of wood, ivory, or plastic, joined in pairs by a cord and clicked together by the fingers as a rhythmic accompaniment to Spanish dancing
mridangam	* one of the oldest Indian percussion instruments, originating at least 2,000 years ago. The drum has a low, smooth tone and is capable of great harmonics because of the double, tunable, drumheads—one bass and one treble. The body of the drum is constructed of hollow jackfruit wood, with each end covered by goatskin that is laced to the body with leather straps. The drum is played horizontally while sitting with legs crossed on the floor.
bharatanatyam	*presumably the oldest classical dance of India and regarded as mother of many other Indian classical dance forms. Conventionally a solo dance performed only by women, the dance expresses Hindu religious themes and spiritual ideas, emoted by a dancer with excellent footwork and impressive gestures. Accompanists include a singer, music, and particularly the guru who directs and conducts the performance.

**CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS:**

*Before the performance:*

- Discuss: What do you know about India? What do you know about Indian dance? What do you know about Spain? What do you know about Spanish dance?
- Create conceptual webs to record what you know.

*After the performance:*

- Use information from the performance to create a song, dance, drama, or piece of artwork about dance.

**Mathematics:**

- Find out how India contributed to mathematics, including the first use of the concept of zero: <https://theconversation.com/five-ways-ancient-india-changed-the-world-with-maths-84332#:~:text=The%20Concept%20of%20Zero>
- Create a lesson that combines mathematics and dance: <https://danceteachingideas.com/mathematics-in-dance/>

**Social Studies:**

- Find out more about the history, geography, cultures, and world contributions of Spain and India.
- Learn to say simple words in Hindi or Spanish: For example: “Good day!” is “Achchha din” in Hindi and “Buenos dias” in Spanish.

**Science:**

- Find out about famous scientists from India, such as Vikram Sarabhai. <https://www.vedantu.com/biography/vikram-sarabhai>
- Find out about famous scientists from Spain, such as Santiago Ramón y Cajal. <https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/medicine/1906/cajal/biographical/>

**Resources:**

**Related Websites:**

**Indian classical dance:**

<https://www.javatpoint.com/classical-dances-of-india>



CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS GUIDE  
Indian Performing Arts Samskriti, Jean Donatto, and  
Solero Flamenco *Performance*

Video:

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=classical+indian+dance+on+youtube&view=detail&mid=F2496F2F5C35568FCEB5F2496F2F5C35568FCEB5&FORM=VIRE>

Video:

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?&q=mridangam+youtube&docid=608026262782434277&mid=EA16CE6EEF6B8260E056EA16CE6EEF6B8260E056&view=detail&FORM=VDRVRV&ajaxhist=0>

**Flamenco:**

<https://www.britannica.com/art/flamenco>

Video:

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=flamenco+dancing+youtube&view=detail&mid=8174FD20FE009CCE56558174FD20FE009CCE5655&FORM=VIRE>

Video:

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=castenets+youtube&view=detail&mid=CF3D2B1910788AD9F3B9CF3D2B1910788AD9F3B9&FORM=VIRE>

Jean Donatto: (reading Haiku)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wv2ceiWRP-w>

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS:

### Jean Donatto:

As a professional, Jean has done numerous commercials, industrial films, and voice-overs. Educationally, she has been performing and facilitating residencies with Young Audiences of Houston for more than twenty years. Her many venues have included the Berkeley Stage Company, Poetry Playhouse, and the American Conservatory Theatre School in San Francisco. In Houston she has provided education and performances for The Houston International Theatre School, The Miller Outdoor theatre, The Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, and the Houston Symphony at Jones Hall. As a teaching artist for Young Audiences, Jean uses theatre as a tool to assist teachers in curriculum enhancement that is subject and grade-level specific and can include “special needs” students.

### Indian Performing Arts Samskriti:

At the Indian Performing Arts Samskriti (a Texas organization dedicated to promoting and preserving Indian performing arts), the legendary tradition of Indian Classical Dance is safely preserved. Since its inception in 1975, the organization has blossomed into a renowned institution, under the direction of its Founder,



## CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS GUIDE

Anjali Dance Theatre, Jean Donatto, and Solero Flamenco

*Performance*

internationally reputed danseuse Rathna Kumar. Rathna continues to perform and receive numerous awards in India as well. Most significantly, the Government of India conferred upon her, one of only two Indian Americans in history, the most prestigious Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for Excellence in Dance, for her prodigious contribution to the preservation, promotion and propagation of the traditional arts of India.” She is a recipient of several Individual Artist Grants for Choreography from the City of Houston through the Houston Arts Alliance. Rathna has worked wonders in simultaneously educating and entertaining diverse Houston audiences of all ages with her performances, lecture-demonstrations, presentations, and her collaborations with non-Indian artists.

### **Solero Flamenco:**

Houston's premier flamenco performance company presents vibrant performances with artistic integrity and trademark passion. Soulful song, enchanting guitar and exhilarating dance converge in this highly improvised art form to present traditional, contemporary and original works. Whether in the theater, concert hall, or other venues, audiences experience the heart, soul and skill of professional flamenco artists. Under the artistic direction of Irma La Paloma (cante) and Jeremías García (guitarra), Solero Flamenco maintains an active performance calendar and enjoys collaborating with local and international artists. As founders and directors of the Houston Spanish and Flamenco Festival in collaboration with San Jacinto College and the Consulate General of Spain in Houston, Solero Flamenco promotes flamenco arts, education and culture.