Join our online workshops to learn authentic folk dances from various cultures in the comfort of your own home.

There will be dances from India, Spain, Hungary, Puerto Rico, Greece and more.

Dance workshops will be led by performing dance artists and leaders of New Jersey based folk dance groups.

The leaders of these workshops will start with basic dance steps and gradually build up to teaching you more complex dance movements. In addition to dance workshops, we will also share folk music performances by central New Jersey musicians.

All workshops and concerts were recorded in the Fall of 2020.

Videos recorded for this event will be published here (<https://www.facebook.com/csurfolk/events>) on November 21, 5 PM. You may view any of our published videos on the date of the event or at any time after that.

Enjoy dancing and listening at home!

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Grant funding has been provided by the Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders through a grant awarded from Middlesex County Cultural and Arts Trust Fund.

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**Dance workshops will be conducted by the leaders of the below dance group:**

Csűrdöngölő Folk Ensemble – Hungarian

Nrithyanjali Institute of Dance, Inc – From India

Cimarrones -Afro-Puerto-Rican

Hellenic Dancers of New Jersey - Greek

Alborada Spanish Dance Theater – From Spain

**About the dance groups their leaders:**

(Please scroll down to see the descriptions about all groups.)

**Hungarian dances – Workshops led by Antal Ács (Toncsi) & Adria Kukk**

The Csűrdöngölő Folk Ensemble, Inc. is the organizer of the International Folk Dance Gathering and also one of the participating dance groups.

Csűrdöngölő was established in 1998 and in 2008 became a nonprofit, tax exempt organization dedicated to learning, preserving, and promoting Hungarian culture. Over the years, Csűrdöngölő, whose members are first, second, and third generation Hungarian-Americans, has evolved into one of North America’s leading ethnic folk dance ensembles. The group performs at the local Hungarian national holiday commemorative programs, Hungarian-American social events such as charity balls, spring, harvest, and cultural festivals within NJ and NY communities. We organize children and youth folk programs, participate in cultural educational events at public schools, universities, museums and county festivals. The group presents an annual large-scale performance showcasing Hungarian folklore. Members of Csűrdöngölő instruct the children’s folkdance group at the Hungarian-American Athletic Club (HAAC). Csűrdöngölő organizes numerous dance house events which are open to the public, providing an opportunity to learn Hungarian folk dance and music from various regions. The Csűrdöngölő folk dance ensemble is rooted in the New York-New Jersey Hungarian-American community, and primarily operates in New Brunswick, NJ. Throughout the years, the ensemble has performed in locations as prestigious as The State Theater of New Brunswick and Manhattan’s Town Hall. The members seek and accept performance opportunities at various events, such as Hungarian and international folk festivals, ethnic dance events, school events and more. The choreographies on stage are usually presented with live music played by Életfa, the best known Hungarian folk music band in U.S. Our purpose is the promotion of cultural diversity in the U.S.

The Csűrdöngölő folk dance group represents one of the many cultures within the American society. This dance company is preserving the Hungarian culture through dance, songs, music and costumes.

**Életfa Folk Music Band**

Életfa treats its audiences to a high-energy, entertaining tour of Hungary’s folk music, song and dance culture. The group’s members specialize in and present the authentic, archaic folklore from the villages of present-day-Hungary, Transylvania, Slovakia and beyond, delivered in a style suitable for Western audiences.

At the Multicultural Folk Dance event on Nov. 21, 2020 the Életfa band will present a half hour concert which was recorded in the fall of 2020. We miss the members of the band who could not be present at this concert!

**Dances from India – Workshop led by Ramya Ramnarayan**

 Nrithyanjali Institute of Dance

<http://www.nrithyanjali.org/>

**Nrithyanjali Institute of Dance, Inc.,** is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization with a mission to preserve and promote Classical art forms. Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has recognized Nrithyanjali Institute of Dance (NID) as exempt from Federal Income tax under section 501 (c)(3) of IRS Code. Also it is classified as public charity under section 509 (a)(2) of IRS code. Contributions to the organization are tax deductible under section 170 of the code and are qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfer of gifts under section 2055, 2106, and 2522 of the IRS code.

It caters to the needs of the community at large and specifically the Indian American community for Bharatanatyam learning and empowering the community. It has presented numerous programs to promote and popularize Indian arts in NY, NJ, PA & India. It has presented programs to raise funds for several organizations such as American Redcross, Rotary International, Kids Peace, Valley Health Hospitals, HELP foundation, (karishma), HTCS, Ranganatha Seva Samithi, Arsha bodha and Arsha Vidya gurukulams with their fund raising activities.

NID has presented lecture demonstrations as well as full length performances in Universities, Libraries, Museums, Malls, Girls Scouts, United-way, etc.

NID presents programs of artists of high caliber. If you would like to perform for our shows send complete details of your dance company, profile of dancers, dates available to perform etc. to us.

NID sponsors extremely talented musicians from India and provides musical support for dance performances and Arangetram throughout USA. Contact us by email for further information.

It has been a result of the relentless efforts that have been invested towards the propagation of the Bharatanatyam Dance art form to the community in the tri-state area & Pennsylvania by Ramya Ramnarayan, the artistic director. With Ramya's vast experience in having interacted with her tutors in the traditional Guru Sishya Parampara for many years, Nrithyanjali provides a forum for a systematic and authentic way to learn Bharatanatyam in a very traditional setting.

Ramya and other staff members of Nrithyanjali have been training students since 1990 and several students have graduated (trained and performed Arangetrams). Nrithyanjali imparts immeasurable knowledge to aspiring dancers in the years to come. Currently there are around 150 students receiving training at various skill levels in the traditional Guru Sishya Parampara.

**Cimarrones – Concert, talk and dance performance led by Nelson Baez**

<http://www.cimarronesnj.com/Site/Home.html>

Cimarrones led by Nelson Baez

Genre: Afro Puerto Rican Bomba & Plena

Cimmarones is a NJ based Afro-Puerto Rican Bomba and Plena group whose mission is to promote the beautiful music and culture of Puerto Rico. We play traditional bomba and plena and create fusion with other genres of the Caribbean and jazz.

Cimmarrones is one of the most sought after Bomba and Plena ensembles in New Jersey. Cimarrones has performed and instructed in very diverse venues which include, K-12 schools, colleges and universities, corporate events, weddings, sweet sixteen parties, graduation celebrations, cultural festivals, libraries, night clubs, street fairs, fund raisers and churches.

One of the reasons that Cimarrones is so well sought after is their ability to engage the audience, create high energy and educate them at the same time. At our performances we believe that we are not there to entertain but to build community with our audiences. Our audiences are expected to either sing, dance or play an instrument, which is the essence of Bomba and Plena.

**Hellenic Dancers of New Jersey – Workshop led by Nick Vosinas**

<http://www.hellenicdancersofnj.org/>

**F**ounded in 1972, The Hellenic Dancers of New Jersey, is a group of 40 young adults who are first, second, or third generation Greek-Americans, and are dedicated to perpetuating their heritage through enthusiastic performances of the regional folk dances of Greece.

Under Master Instructors Eleni Chakalos and Nick Vosinas more than 300 dances, songs, and related traditions have been preserved. These are indigenous to mainland Greece, its islands, and Asia Minor, and have been passed on to two generations of Greek Americans and the American public. Their traditional music and folk dance is representative of a cross-section of these diverse regions, past and present. Performed in authentic ethnic dress, the Hellenic's wardrobe represents the 20 regions from which the dances originated, including: Macedonia, Thrace, the Peloponnese, Epiros, Roumeli, Crete, Cyprus, the various island groups; and Pontos, Cappadocia, and Ikonion in Asia Minor.

The troupe has performed at Presidential rallies and inaugurations, for the royalty and ambassadors of several nations, the NJ State Ethnic and Diversity Festival, won first prize at the Garden State Arts Center intra-State Competition, sent dancers for the Closing Ceremonies of the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens, Greece, as well as many other Greek and culturally diverse festivals and special programs.

The Hellenic Dancers of NJ is an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

**Alborada Spanish Dance Theater – Workshop led by Lisa Botalico**

<http://www.alboradadance.org/aboutthecompany.html>

