Pre-Concert Diwali Celebration

Sunday, November 8, 2026 | 2:00 PM
Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall

This pre-concert engagement marks the first Diwali Celebration hosted by the BSO's Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Advisory Council. Diwali (also known as Deepvali or Dipavali) means "row of lights." This is one of the most important festivals celebrated in India and the South Asian diaspora. The dates are based on the Hindu lunar calendar, typically falling in late October or early November. The festival is spread over a period of five days and marks the new year observed by Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, and Buddhists. While the holiday's origins vary among different regions, all of them follow an underlying theme of good triumphing over evil and light over darkness.

Our performances feature artists and youth performers from cultural institutions based in the DMV area. Experience a shared presentation of classical music and dance. And don't forget to stop by our tables for family-friendly activities and community resources.

Performance Partners

Emcee: Raz Patel
The Raz Patel Show

Pranava Natyam
School of Kuchipudi Dance and Yoga

Naach Performing Arts

KalpaVriksha
Centre for Performing Arts

Rhythmaya Dance

Table Partners

BSO's Asian American and Pacific Islander Advisory Council

Howard County Chinese School

Inside Edge Consulting Group

KalpaVriksha
Centre for Performing Arts

Baltimore City
Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs

AAPI Advisory Council

Bo Li,
BSO Fourth Chair Cello,
AAPI Program Advisor
Mao Asukata
Geeta Daniel
Yumi Hogan,
Honorary Member
Karina Hou
Howard County Chinese School (HCCS)
Youngja Kim
Roger Lam
Dr. Ping Lu
Dhaval Shah
Ricci V. Tan
Helen Won
Dr. Albert Wu

The Raz Patel Show | Raz Patel

Based in the Washington, DC metropolitan area, The Raz Patel Show is a platform for meaningful conversations exploring leadership, resilience, wellness, culture, and personal transformation. Its founder and host, Raz Patel, is an author, professional speaker, emcee, and confidence coach who connects people through authentic dialogue and shared human experiences. Beyond the show, Raz engages audiences through keynote speaking, event hosting, and coaching grounded in integrated health and performance strategies. Her work bridges mind, body, and spirit to strengthen confidence, inspire personal growth, and empower individuals to navigate life's next chapter with purpose and possibility.

Pranava Natyam | School of Kuchipudi Dance and Yoga

Dr. Subha Maruvada, founder and artistic director of Maryland-based nonprofit Pranava Natyam, is an accomplished Kuchipudi artist and teacher. Trained under legendary guru Padma Bhushan Dr. Vempati Chinna Satyam. She holds the distinction of being the first U.S. student to complete a Rangapravesam under Dr. Vempati Chiinna Satyam and the first Kuchipudi dancer to perform at the Pentagon for their first Diwali Celebration. A certified yoga instructor, she seamlessly integrates yogic principles into her Kuchipudi teaching. Bridging the worlds of art and science, Dr. Maruvada holds a Ph.D. in Acoustics from Penn State University. She is an Assistant Director at the FDA, where she leads the Medical Acoustics Regulatory Science Program within the Office of Science and Engineering Labs in CDRH.

Naach Performing Arts

Naach Performing Arts is a premier Bollywood dance academy serving the DMV area, including Maryland and Virginia. Our mission is to celebrate Indian culture through the art of dance while inspiring creativity, confidence, and a love for performing arts. We specialize in Bollywood, Semi-Classical, and Indian Folk dance styles, bringing the vibrant energy and rich traditions of India to audiences through engaging performances and cultural events.

KalpaVriksha, Centre for Performing Arts

KalpaVriksha Centre for Performing Arts is a vibrant Odissi dance school founded and led by Arpita Rakshit Sabud, based in Potomac, Maryland, and Chantilly, Virginia, welcoming students across the DMV region. Their community brings together dancers from early childhood through adulthood, fostering a nurturing, inspiring environment where students learn Odissi with discipline and joy. Learning a classical dance form like Odissi is a holistic experience. The rigor and discipline of training help students build stamina, increase focus, and maintain physical fitness. The essential mind–body coordination cultivated through

practice brings grace, alignment, and precision to their movements. Through this dance, students also experience the timeless tradition of storytelling rooted in Indian mythology.

Rhythmaya Dance

Rhythmaya Dance is a premier South Asian performing arts and cultural organization that has served the Washington, DC metropolitan area for more than 20 years. With more than 700 students across six locations throughout the DMV, Rhythmaya provides training and performance opportunities in Bollywood and Indian classical dance forms, bringing together tradition and contemporary expression. What began as an Indian dance academy has grown into a thriving cultural community committed to developing confident young performers while celebrating the richness and diversity of South Asian culture. At the heart of Rhythmaya's mission is ensuring that our students and audiences see their cultures reflected, celebrated, and shared through music, movement, storytelling, and dance, while inviting people of all backgrounds to experience and connect with South Asian performing arts.

Rhythmaya's students and performance troupe have taken that mission to prestigious stages locally, nationally, and internationally. Most recently, Rhythmaya traveled to Lisbon, Portugal, to perform at an international cultural festival and will return to Walt Disney World for the fourth consecutive year to celebrate Diwali with a parade through Magic Kingdom. Performance highlights also include multiple appearances with the Washington Wizards, opening for Wolf Trap's Bollywood Ball and Children's Theatre programming, the Kennedy Center, Smithsonian's National Zoo, Washington Nationals, Macy's, the Association of National Olympic Committees, New York City's Holi Festival, and more than ten National Cherry Blossom Festival celebrations throughout the DMV.

Howard County Chinese School (HCCS)

Founded in December 1998, Howard County Chinese School (HCCS) is a nonprofit educational institution. Guided by non-political and non-religious principles, HCCS provides high-quality Chinese language education and diverse extracurricular activities to students and families in the local community. Recognized for its teaching excellence and community contributions, HCCS serves as a leading Chinese educational and cultural organization in Howard County. The school promotes traditional Chinese culture, actively participates in community service, fosters cultural exchange among diverse ethnic groups, and strengthens the Chinese community's positive impact on the region.

Baltimore City Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs

The Baltimore City Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs (MIMA) strives to ensure the community well-being and inclusion of Baltimore's foreign-born residents and their

families. MIMA partners with City agencies and community-based organizations to strengthen their capacity for providing services and resources that are sensitive to the needs of immigrant Baltimoreans. Through its initiatives, MIMA confronts systemic barriers unique to immigrant residents. Our office works to advance local institutions and culture toward a future in which immigrants can fully participate in the social, economic, and civic life of Baltimore.