

# 2026 VERY ASIAN YOUTH CONCERT

COCA'S Staenberg Theatre  
May 24<sup>th</sup> | 2:00pm

Presented by Asian  
American Civics Scholars



Logo Created by Grace Dai (Marquette 26)





# PROGRAM

**TABLA PERFORMANCE - VEDANT MAITI**

**LEFT RIGHT - WU DANCE STUDIO**

**SYNCOPATED CLOCK / ARIRANG  
RHAPSODY - ST. LOUIS YOUTH  
AMBASSADORS**

**PUSHPANJALI - DANCES OF INDIA**

**VENKATESA NATHAM - BHAVYA KOYA**

**THE SAME HAIRPIN - ST. LOUIS  
ACADEMY OF DANCE**

**KRISHNA AND THE GOPIS IN  
SPRING - UPASANA SCHOOL  
OF DANCE**

**QĪNGSĪ - LILY WANG**

**STUDIO GHIBLI STRING QUARTET**

**GANESHA - NARTANA  
PREMACHANDRA, DANCES OF INDIA  
GUEST PERFORMER!**





## AACCS HISTORY

Asian American Civics Scholars is a organization dedicated to raising awareness around AAPI communities and empowering young people to be engaged with their communities!

Website: [Asian American Civics Scholars](#)

## THE VERY ASIAN YOUTH CONCERT

To fundraise for the May Book Project, AACCS has decided to host a Very Asian Youth Concert to raise awareness and funds for schools in need of new books

Website: [Concert Planning Team](#)



## THE MAY BOOK PROJECT

The Very Asian Foundation, in partnership with We Need Diverse Books, launches The May Book Project to help schools and libraries build and maintain robust Asian American youth literature collections for all readers. We are raising national awareness of the need to create inclusive libraries, give readers access to up-to-date Asian American youth literature, and provide funding to donate books to at-need libraries.

The project is inspired by St. Louis high school students who asked their schools for more Asian American literature during Asian Pacific American Heritage Month and were ignored.

# ABOUT THE PIECES

**Tabla Performance** - The Tabla is an Indian classical drum whose origins extend deep into ancient history. It consists of two distinct drums that are played simultaneously to produce complex, bell-like rhythmic patterns.

**Left Right-** K-pop dance is a vibrant dance style performed to Korean pop music. These dancers from the WUDance studio will perform Left Right from the girl-group XG.

**Syncopated clock/ Arirang Rhapsody** - Syncopated clock is a playful song that incorporates rhythms and sound effects to create a cheerful, humorous, and energetic song. Arirang Rhapsody A musical arrangement based on Arirang, Korea's most famous folk song. The music expresses both gentle beauty and deep emotion.

**Pushpanjali** – Classical Indian Dance from a Dances of Indian student

**Venkatesa Natham-** Classical Indian singing by students of Guru Mala of Sangeetha School of Classical Indian Music

**The Same Hairpin** - This is a Chinese traditional round fan dance choreographed Weiwei Fu, danced by students of the Chinese Fusion class at St. Louis Academy of Dance.

**Krishna and the Gopis in Spring** - Andhra Natyam dance form depicting Lord Krishna and the gopis celebrating spring. As spring time sets in, the beloved Lord Krishna engages in joyful mischief with the gopis, the cowherd maidens. They play with vibrant colors and dance to divine melodies, while celestial beings shower them with flowers from the heavens.

**Qīngsī** - Qīngsī is a classical Chinese dance that features a fan and sword choreographed by Weiwei Fu.

**Studio Ghibli String Quartet** - String quartet musicians performing a Studio Ghibli Medley

**Ganesha-** Classical Indian Dance in the style Bharata Natyam. Performed by Dances of India Artistic Director and President, Nartana Premachandra



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@COCA's Black Box Theatre |  
May 24th | 2:00pm

**Featuring Asian American Dancers from STL!**

**WUDance Studio**



**St. Louis Academy of  
Dance**

**Dances of India**



**Upasana School of Dance**

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**St. Louis Youth  
Ambassadors**



**Guru Mala  
Sangeetha School of  
Classical Indian  
Music**



# OUR PERFORMERS

**Tabla Performance performer: Vedant Maiti  
- 9th Grade Burroughs**

**Left Right dancers: Iris Yuan Shi, 15, Grade 9, Ladue High School, Luna Zhuo,  
14, Grade 8, Ladue Middle School  
Joycie Xiahuan Liu, 14, Grade 8, Ladue Middle School  
Sophia Luo Miao, 13, Grade 7, Ladue Middle School  
Moss Lathrop, 16, Grade 10, Fort Zumwalt North School  
Autum Ploch, 17, Grade 10, Home School**

**Syncopated clock/Arirang Rhapsody Group: Jean Park, Marquette High  
School 10th; Ian Chung' Parkway West HS, 10th; Jane Cho, Parkway West  
MS, 8th; Noah Van Vrancken, Ladue MS, 8th; Lael Noh Hoech, Middle  
School, 8th; Ian Choe, Parkway Southwest MS, 8th; Ian Cho, Parkway  
West HS, 10th; Samuel Noh, Ritenour High School, 11th; Celina Kim,  
Francis Howell North HS, 10th; Grade Grace M. Yeom, Clayton HS, 10th;  
Paul Yoo, Marquette High School, 11th**

**Pushpanjali Performer: Sahasra Mandalapu,  
12<sup>th</sup> Grade Ladue High School**

**Venkatesa Natham performers: Bhavya is a 1st  
year student in SLU, Gauri Ashtath is a 9th grader  
in Parkway central High School, Kirthi is a 11th  
grader in Liberty High School, Sreeramrutha is a  
1st year student in SLU**

# OUR PERFORMERS

**The Same Hairpin Dancers: Iris Shi, 9th Grade, Ladue High School; Maggie Zeng, 9th Grade, Clayton High School; Cindy Liu**

**Krishna and the Gopis in Spring Dancers: Aadhya Mamidi, Parkway Northeast Middle School, Grade 6; Aadhya Boppana, Wydown Middle School, Grade 8; Yuktha Boppana, Chesterfield Elementary School, Grade 5; Sahasra Marama, Academy of Innovation at Remington, Grade 7; Avignya Maram, Academy of Innovation at Remington, Grade 6; Aanya Gorrella, Barnwell Middle School, Grade 8**

**Qingsi Performer: Lily Wang: 10th Grade Marquette High School**

**Studio Ghibli String Quartet musicians- Eric Chang 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Burroughs, Kylar Wang 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Parkway West High School, Haowen Liu 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Clayton High School, Gergo Szilaygi 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Clayton.**

**Ganesha (GUEST) performer: Nartana Premachandra, President Dances of India**



# OUR INSTRUMENT PETTING ZOO



**Pipa**



**Erhu**



**Sáo Trúc**



**Rainstick**



**Mbira**



**Guzheng**

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# **AACS 2026 VERY ASIAN YOUTH CONCERT PLANNING TEAM**

**Eric Chang**

**Samuel Noh**

**Anneliese Nguyen**

**Genevieve Nguyen**

**Lily Wang**

**Averill Yi**

**Maggie Zeng**

**With much appreciation to:**

**Audrey Kwong**

**Min Liu**

