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## 'Portrait of India' show set for April 2 at Miramar Cultural Center

By Chris Guanche, Forum Publishing Group

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A performance showcasing Indian culture and music is coming to [Miramar](#).

The "Chitram: Portrait of [India](#)" show will take place at 7 p.m. April 2 at the Miramar Cultural Center, 2400 Civic Center Place. Produced by the [Pembroke Pines](#)-based Association of Performing Arts of India, the show is a broad overview of Indian culture and music, said founder Bharti Chokshi.

"India is like a diverse culture," Chokshi said. "Every region has variety."

The "Chitram" show by composer Kanniks Kannikeswaran has been performed in several states, but Chokshi said the Miramar show will be its first performance in South Florida. The 80-minute show features more than 60 dancers and singers from Broward, [Miami](#)-Dade and Palm Beach counties.

For a small organization like APAI, staging a large show involves a lot of work. While dancers are practicing at their own dancing schools, singers have been rehearsing every week at Chokshi's house. It's also the first time the group is using the Miramar Cultural Center as a venue.

"This is the first time using as many local artists as I have," she said.

The show will feature a tour of India's countryside, highlighting the different styles of dance and music across the subcontinent. Some pieces will include a mix of music and yoga, while another will cover the country's history from British rule up to the present. There's also a multimedia component to the show — as dancers and musicians perform on stage, monitors will play video.

"There will be visuals of parts of India on a big screen, whatever is related to that region," Chokshi said.

Chokshi said it's been a goal for several years to perform the "Chitram" show, but only recently has it been possible due to a pair of grants: one from the Broward Cultural Council, the other from [Fort Lauderdale](#)-based Funding Arts Broward.

"Without the grants, this wouldn't have happened," Chokshi said.

Once the "Chitram" show is over, Chokshi is turning her attention to APAI's next event, a May 7 concert in conjunction with the South Florida Hindu Temple in [Southwest Ranches](#).

Tickets for "Chitram" range from \$18 to \$65. For tickets and information, visit <http://www.apaiart.com> and <http://www.miramarculturalcenter.org> or call 954-602-4500.

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