

Title

**Embodiment of AUM TAT SAT, the Mantra evoking the Supreme Absolute Truth
with Nritya and allied art forms, in the Light of Sri Aurobindo**

Author

Arnab Bishnu Chowdhury

Senior researcher, Sri Aurobindo Ashram Trust, Puducherry
Composer, music therapist, trainer,
founder, Know Your Rhythm training program, <https://www.ninad.in>

Arnab is 3rd generation musician, Maihar Gharana,
grand-nephew of violinist Pandit Rabin Ghosh who was a disciple of Baba Ustad Allaudin Khan,
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rabin_Ghosh

email: arnabninad@gmail.com

cell: 98940 29256

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Abstract

How can we invoke, embody, communicate AUM TAT SAT, the universal Mantra, which evokes the Supreme Absolute Truth via Nritya and allied art forms?

If Yoga can be described as the process about the union of a person's own consciousness and the universal consciousness, can we humbly attempt to offer a collective experience which braids the Yoga found in Nritya, Mantra, Ragas, Talas, Asanas, Kalaripayattu and contemporary body movements expressing the universality of that Mantra ?

What will be our pedagogical approach to produce such as composite matrix?

Can our performance generate a spiritually transformative and healing experience for both the performers and the members of the audience?

These core questions inspired us to immerse ourselves into Sri Aurobindo's visionary experience and interpretation of the Mantra, AUM TAT SAT found in His books 'Essays on the Gita', 'Record on Yoga' which in turn refer to Mantras from Upanishads and Bhagavad Gita.

Subsequently, a 3-act script in English with the relevant Mantras emerged with the title 'AUM TAT SAT – Nritya Yoga in the Light of Sri Aurobindo'. Intense training and collaboration happened with a Mantra chanting sangha of international indophiles at Auroville and a Raga-based orchestral music consisting of 30 international and national musicians across India, Russia, USA and Europe across 3 years. The script and orchestral music were created by the author.

Subsequently, our rich audio tapestry gradually found embodiment with 20 performers, was choreographed by Smt Madhumita Patnaik, senior Odissi teacher, Sri Aurobindo Ashram; Smt. Devasmita Patnaik, senior Odissi teacher, Auroville and Grace Aroha, senior contemporary dance teacher, Auroville.

‘AUM TAT SAT’ was performed celebrating Sri Aurobindo's 150th birth anniversary, performed at Sri Aurobindo International Centre of Education, Puducherry on 25th August and Amphitheatre, Matrimandir, Auroville on 30th August, 2023. On December 23rd 2023, it was performed again as the concluding event at ‘Life and Works of Sri Aurobindo’, a 2 day national conference, at Kamarajar Manimandapam auditorium, organised by Department of Art and Culture, Government of Puducherry.

Our film is based on our performance offered at Amphitheatre, Matrimandir, Auroville. The Amphitheatre as symbol represents Human Unity, and has as its focal point a marble-clad urn containing soil placed in it by representatives of the 124 nations and 23 Indian States that participated during Auroville's inauguration ceremony in 1968.

Film trailer (2:31 minutes): <https://youtu.be/ATHiBLRVwoA?si=li74mxxhYKA2B7c>

Entire film (63 minutes): <https://youtu.be/LOQ615jiVCQ?si=jcfMSrUtUif9u1hI>

Our paper offers to sift through the various processes leading to the co-creation of ‘AUM TAT SAT – Nritya Yoga in the Light of Sri Aurobindo’.

Keywords: Nritya, AUM TAT SAT, Sri Aurobindo, Natya, Mantra, Raga orchestral music composition, Kalaripayattu, Asanas, Odissi, Auroville.

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