

## Indian Classical Dance- KATHAK

DAY	Class Level	Time
THURS	Beginners	5.00pm-7.00pm
FRI	Advance	5.00pm-7.00pm
SAT	Intermediate/Advance	12.00pm-4.00pm



**Kathak** is one of the eight forms of Indian classical dances, originated from Uttar Pradesh, India. This dance form traces its origins to the nomadic bards of ancient northern India, known as Kathaks, or storytellers. These bards, performing in village squares and temple courtyards, mostly specialized in recounting mythological and moral tales from the scriptures, and embellished their recitals with hand gestures and facial expressions. It was quintessential theatre, using instrumental and vocal music along with stylized gestures, to enliven the stories. Its form today contains traces of temple and ritual dances, and the influence of the bhakti movement. From the 16th century onwards it absorbed certain features of Persian dance and Central Asian dance which were imported by the royal courts of the Mughal era. There are three major schools or gharanas of Kathak, the gharanas of Benares, Jaipur and Lucknow. There is also a less prominent (and later) Raigarh gharana which amalgamated technique from all three preceding gharanas but became famous for its own distinctive compositions.

The name Kathak is derived from the Sanskrit word *katha* meaning *story*, and *katthaka* in Sanskrit means *s/he who tells a story*, or *to do with stories*.