



**Usha Venkatraman**

A Mumbai based storyteller who believes in the power of stories and keeps the ancient art of oral tradition alive with stories that transform and inspire.

A versatile teller with a wide repertoire of folk, traditional, literary and beguiling mythical tales, Usha adapts her craft to suit young and older audiences, sometimes using other arts, like puppetry, dance and music. Her songs and tales enchant little ones, while her family sagas of myths, legends and folktales captivate older children, teens and adults.

- Usha has performed across India and the globe. A Storyteller at national and international festivals, events and conferences in India, Singapore, Thailand, Sydney, Malaysia, Iran and the United States.
- She has taught storytelling courses and has presented a variety of workshops to adults, children and families. She has been a speaker on storytelling and is active in the international storytelling community.
- Usha continues to be fascinated by the world of stories - ancient lore, legends both written and told. She loves to bring different voices together, weaving threads of untold stories of women heroes stitching together forgotten folklore, fragments of myth, songs and music.
- Usha has directed and performed in storytelling ensemble shows for the past several years and during the past two years took her shows virtually to San Francisco, Bangkok, Malaysia, Florida and Purdue, Indiana.
- Award winning storyteller, author, classical vocalist, puppeteer and radio show host, Usha Venkatraman is the founder and festival director of Mumbai Storytellers Society, an initiative born out of her zeal to keep the storytelling tradition alive. She curated the first Science storytelling festival SCIFARI in 2019 in Mumbai India.
- Usha hosts Storytellers Café, a weekly radio show on Bharat FM, a Cincinnati based radio station. Usha has authored a children's picture book on animal advocacy, which was written after her year long work with an animal activist organization in the 90's.

