FROM TEXT TO PERFORMANCE: A BIBLIOMETRIC EXPLORATION OF LITERATURE'S ROLE IN PERFORMING ARTS

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DOI

10.29121/shodhkosh.v5.i1.2024.328

Funding: This research received no specific grant from any funding agency in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.

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ABSTRACT

This study explores the significant role of literature in performing arts through a comprehensive bibliometric analysis using Scopus as the primary database. Literature provides the foundation for performing arts, offering narratives, themes, and characters that inspire theatrical, musical, and dance expressions. The analysis, conducted using Biblioshiny and VOSviewer, examines key aspects such as annual scientific production, most relevant authors, and prominent sources. Results reveal an increasing trend in scholarly output, with an annual growth rate of 7.33% from 1968 to 2023. The United States leads in research contributions, followed by the United Kingdom and Australia, while emerging players like Indonesia highlight growing global interest. A co-occurrence analysis of keywords identifies six thematic clusters, emphasizing interdisciplinary connections with health, education, and cultural heritage. Trend topics have shifted from foundational discussions on drama and music to modern themes such as mental health, creativity, and higher education. The thematic map underscores motor themes like dance and creativity, as well as niche areas like corporate theatre and music therapy. Collaboration analysis reveals strong international partnerships, with Western nations serving as major hubs and growing contributions from Asian countries. This study highlights the enduring impact of literature in advancing performing arts and its evolving relevance across diverse research domains.

Keywords: Literature, Performing Arts, Bibliometric Analysis, Biblioshiny, VOS viewer

1. INTRODUCTION

Literature serves as the foundational bedrock of performing arts, offering stories, themes, and characters that inspire theatrical, musical, and dance performances (Long, 1977; Urmson, 2017). It provides the narrative substance and emotional depth that breathe life into performances, bridging the written word and the lived experience (Stuckey & Nobel, 2010). From the ancient Greek tragedies of Sophocles to the poetic plays of Shakespeare, literature has been the muse that drives dramatic expression, shaping the cultural and artistic evolution of societies (Urmson, 2017).

The interplay between literature and performing arts is a dynamic process that transforms static texts into immersive, multi-sensory experiences (Lihamba, 1985a). Through adaptation and interpretation, literary works are reimagined on stage and screen, connecting audiences to timeless human experiences. For instance, epic poems like Homer's *Iliad* have transitioned into operatic masterpieces, while novels such as Victor Hugo's *Les Misérables* have inspired globally acclaimed musicals. This synergy highlights literature's ability to adapt across mediums, retaining its core essence while embracing new artistic forms (Urmson, 2017).

Moreover, literature enriches the performing arts by serving as a repository of cultural heritage and moral inquiry (Milner, 2005). Playwrights, poets, and authors delve into societal norms, ethical dilemmas, and existential questions, which performing artists bring to life through their craft (Arendt & Gottlieb, 2007). This collaboration not only entertains but also educates and provokes thought, encouraging audiences to engage with the deeper issues presented. Whether it is the subversive themes in Bertolt Brecht's works or the introspection in Samuel Beckett's plays, literature and performance together foster a reflective and transformative experience.

In modern times, literature continues to influence the performing arts through innovative interpretations and contemporary reimaginings (McCarthy, 2001). Digital technology and multimedia platforms have expanded the scope of these adaptations, allowing literature to inspire virtual performances, film adaptations, and immersive theatre (Nyoman Darma Putra, 2008). This evolution demonstrates the timeless relevance of literature as a source of creativity and a catalyst for artistic exploration. By continually inspiring the performing arts, literature remains a vital force in celebrating and exploring the human condition.

The interplay between literature and performing arts has been a rich field of scholarly inquiry, exploring how narratives, themes, and characters from literature shape theatrical, musical, and cinematic expressions (Davies, 2011; Lihamba, 1985b). With the increasing availability of academic databases and advanced bibliometric tools, analyzing the scope and trends of research in this area has become more systematic and data-driven. Bibliometric analysis provides valuable insights into the intellectual structure, emerging themes, and influential works or authors in the intersection of literature and performing arts (Agbo et al., 2021; Ali et al., 2022; Bota-Avram, 2023). Tools like Biblioshiny and VOSviewer enable researchers to map citation networks, identify key publications, and explore collaborative trends, offering a comprehensive overview of the field (Husain & Mustafa, 2023; Kumar et al., 2023).

Biblioshiny, an R-based tool, facilitates an interactive and visual exploration of bibliometric data, allowing researchers to analyze publication trends, author productivity, and thematic patterns (Komperda, 2017; Racine, 2012; Salim et al., 2018). Similarly, VOSviewer excels in visualizing bibliometric networks, such as co-citation and keyword co-occurrence, making it a preferred choice for identifying relationships between concepts and actors in the research domain (Abbas et al., 2021; McAllister et al., 2022; Van Eck & Waltman, 2010). Applying these tools to literature's role in performing arts reveals how academic interest in this topic has evolved over time, highlights cross-disciplinary connections, and uncovers research gaps. Such analysis not only enriches the understanding of the field but also guides future investigations by pinpointing underexplored areas.

This study conducts a bibliometric analysis of scholarly works addressing literature's influence on performing arts, utilizing Biblioshiny and VOSviewer to extract and visualize trends from relevant academic publications. By analyzing parameters such as the most-cited authors, influential journals, and dominant keywords, the study aims to present a detailed landscape of research activities and their progression. The findings are expected to demonstrate the growing complexity and interdisciplinarity of the field, emphasizing the enduring significance of literature in shaping diverse performing arts practices. This approach underscores the utility of bibliometric tools in advancing a structured and impactful understanding of academic research trends.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

We gathered the scientific publications related to the investigation from the Scopus database (Gavel & Iselid, 2008; Harzing & Alakangas, 2016; Kawuki et al., 2020). We conducted a search using specific keywords such as "performing arts" and "literature". The search was not restricted to any particular language, and the data included articles from peer-reviewed journals, books, book chapters, and conference papers. We collected 477 articles from 406 different sources, spanning 1968 to 2023. To ensure accuracy, we screened the Scopus records to remove any duplicates. The results were saved as a "CSV" file, and we performed bibliometric analysis on the data using VOSviewer and Bibloshiny software.

3. RESULTS AND FINDINGS

a. Main Information of the investigation

Table 1 provides a detailed overview of the bibliometric analysis of literature's role in performing arts, highlighting key aspects of the dataset. The analysis spans a considerable timeframe from 1968 to 2023, capturing trends and

developments over more than five decades. A total of 477 documents were analyzed, sourced from 406 different types of publications, including journals, books, book chapters, and conference papers. The annual growth rate of publications is 7.33%, indicating increasing scholarly interest in the topic. The average document age is 8.46 years, with an average of 11.3 citations per document, demonstrating the relevance and impact of these studies within the academic community. Collectively, the documents reference an impressive total of 26,288 sources, reflecting the breadth and depth of research in this field. In terms of content, the dataset includes 1,180 Keywords Plus (ID) and 1,369 Author's Keywords (DE), signifying a wide variety of themes and research focus areas. The analysis involves contributions from 917 authors, with 224 authors contributing single-authored documents. Collaborative efforts are evident, with 2.03 co-authors per document on average and 8.176% of the works involving international co-authorships, highlighting a significant level of global academic collaboration. Finally, the document types are dominated by journal articles (327), followed by books (71), book chapters (51), and conference papers (28). This distribution emphasizes the central role of journal articles as a primary medium for disseminating research in the intersection of literature and performing arts. Overall, the data illustrates a vibrant and growing field of study with diverse contributions and significant international collaboration.

Table 1. Main information of the investigation	
Description	Results
MAIN INFORMATION ABOUT DATA	
Timespan	1968:2023
Sources (Journals, Books, etc)	406
Documents	477
Annual Growth Rate %	7.33
Document Average Age	8.46
Average citations per doc	11.3
References	26288
DOCUMENT CONTENTS	
Keywords Plus (ID)	1180
Author's Keywords (DE)	1369
AUTHORS	
Authors	917
Authors of single-authored docs	224
AUTHORS COLLABORATION	
Single-authored docs	228
Co-Authors per Doc	2.03
International co-authorships %	8.176
DOCUMENT TYPES	
article	327
book	71
book chapter	51
conference paper	28

b. Annual Scientific Productions

Figure 1 illustrates the annual scientific production, highlighting the progressive growth of research publications on literature's role in the performing arts from 1968 to 2023. Initially, research activity was sparse, with only sporadic publications between 1968 and 1993, often with years of zero output. From the mid-1990s, there was a gradual increase in the number of articles, marking the emergence of more consistent academic interest. The first significant surge occurred in 2004, with 9 articles, followed by a steady climb, peaking at 13 in 2006. Between 2010 and 2016, the publication rate saw consistent growth, averaging around 15-28 articles annually. After 2017, the output accelerated significantly, reaching 33 articles in 2018 and increasing to 41 in 2020, showing heightened scholarly focus on this field. The trend culminated in a peak output of 51 articles in 2022, slightly tapering to 49 in 2023. The data underscores a robust and accelerating interest in this interdisciplinary topic, particularly in the last decade, reflecting the increasing recognition of the connection between literature and performing arts in academic research.

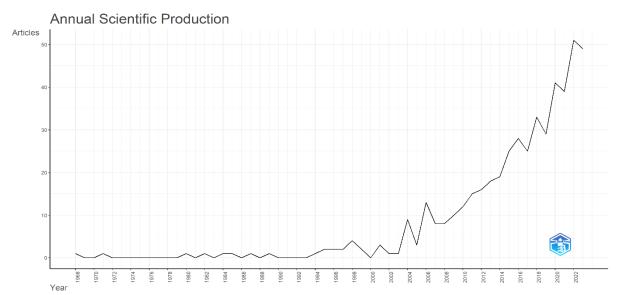


Figure 1. Annual scientific production

c. Most Relevant Authors

Table 2 showcases the most relevant authors contributing to the field of literature's role in performing arts based on the number of articles published. Six authors—Dawson, William J., Fancourt, Daisy, Hung, Chiako, Meddegoda, Chinthaka Prageeth, Momigliano, Nicoletta, and Ruastiti, Ni Made—lead the field with three articles each, highlighting their prominent role in shaping this area of research. Following them are Anagnostopoulos, Georgios C., Andrea, Alfred J., Baccarani, Claudio, and Barnish, Maxwell S., each with two articles, demonstrating significant but slightly less extensive contributions. This distribution suggests a relatively diverse authorship, with no single author dominating the field, which may reflect the interdisciplinary and collaborative nature of research at the intersection of literature and performing arts. The presence of multiple authors with similar publication counts indicates an evenly distributed engagement, fostering a broader exploration of themes within this domain.

rable 2. Most relevant authors	
Authors	Articles
DAWSON, WILLIAM J.	3
FANCOURT, DAISY	3
HUNG, CHIAKO	3
MEDDEGODA, CHINTHAKA PRAGEETH	3
MOMIGLIANO, NICOLETTA	3
RUASTITI, NI MADE	3
ANAGNOSTOPOULOS, GEORGIOS C.	2
ANDREA, ALFRED J.	2
BACCARANI, CLAUDIO	2
BARNISH, MAXWELL S.	2

Table 2. Most relevant authors

d. Most relevant sources

The table highlights the most relevant sources contributing to the field of literature's role in performing arts based on the number of articles published. Medical Problems of Performing Artists leads with 10 articles, emphasizing its significant focus on the intersection of health, performance, and artistic disciplines. New Theatre Quarterly follows with 6 articles, indicating its strong association with theatrical studies and literature. Arts and the Market and the Journal of

Arts Management Law and Society each contribute 5 articles, reflecting their focus on the intersection of literature, performing arts, and cultural industries. Other notable sources, including Harmonia: Journal of Arts Research and Education and the Journal of Cultural Economics, with 4 articles each, explore diverse aspects such as education and the economic dimensions of cultural practices. Sources like Developments in Marketing Science and the International Journal of Arts Management, each with 3 articles, indicate the growing interdisciplinarity of the research, connecting performing arts to marketing, management, and policy studies. The inclusion of IOP Conference Series: Earth and Environmental Science suggests some cross-disciplinary studies, perhaps linking performing arts with environmental themes. Overall, the diversity of sources underscores the interdisciplinary nature of this research area, spanning health, education, economics, management, and policy domains. This distribution reflects the rich complexity and broad relevance of literature's role in performing arts.

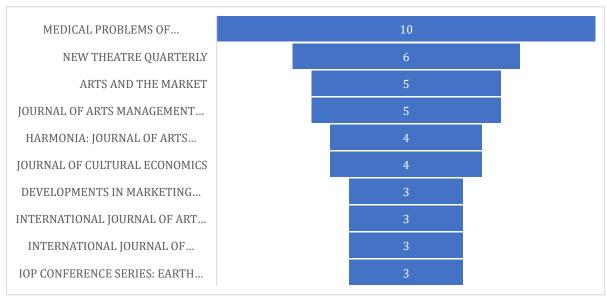


Figure 2. Most relevant sources

e. Country Scientific Production

Figure 3 illustrates the data on country scientific production, highlighting the global distribution of research on literature's role in performing arts. The United States leads significantly with 243 publications, indicating its dominance in this field of study. The United Kingdom follows with 110 publications, reflecting its strong tradition in literature and performing arts scholarship. Australia ranks third with 93 publications, demonstrating its active engagement in the domain. Indonesia (50), Canada (44), and Germany (33) also contribute notable outputs, showcasing the topic's relevance across continents. Other European nations such as Italy (32), Spain (27), and France (20) highlight a solid research presence, consistent with their rich cultural and artistic heritage. Meanwhile, India with 19 publications, reflects an emerging interest in exploring the intersection of literature and performing arts. The geographical map and publication frequencies illustrate the widespread academic interest, with stronger contributions from Western nations and growing participation from Asia and other regions. This global distribution indicates the universal relevance of this topic, though disparities in scientific production may also point to varying levels of research infrastructure and funding across countries.

Country Scientific Production

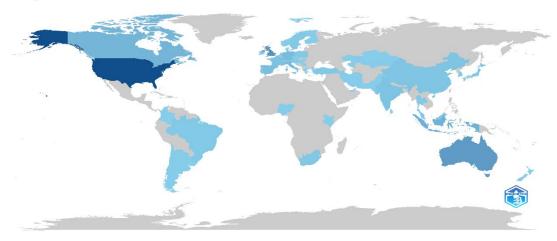


Figure 3. Country scientific production

f. Trend Topics

Figure 4 displays trending topics, illustrating the evolution of key terms associated with research on the role of literature in performing arts over time, highlighting their frequency and period of prominence. Early on, terms like "drama," "music," and "art" dominated discussions, reflecting foundational areas of exploration in the intersection of literature and performing arts. As research matured, a broader range of topics gained attention, such as "mental health," "quality of life," and "learning," indicating an expansion into interdisciplinary fields linking performing arts with health and education. Notably, terms such as "controlled study," "human experiment," and "curriculum" began appearing around 2011, signaling a growing emphasis on structured methodologies and the role of performing arts in educational contexts. More recently, topics like "health promotion," "adolescent," and "young adult" have seen increased frequency, underscoring the focus on demographic-specific studies and the therapeutic applications of performing arts. The size of the bubbles represents the frequency of term usage, with larger bubbles such as "performing arts" and "mental health" indicating sustained and widespread interest. This visualization highlights not only the shifting focus of research but also the diversification of the field, as it embraces interdisciplinary connections and real-world applications, particularly in health, education, and societal well-being.

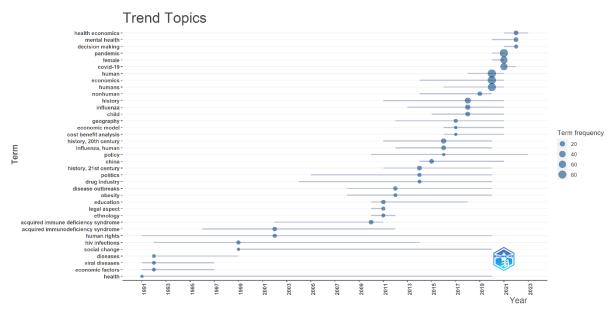


Figure 4. Trending topics in the realm of research

g. Thematic Map

Figure 5 visualizes the thematic map, which provides a comprehensive view of the research landscape on literature's role in performing arts by categorizing topics into four quadrants based on their relevance (centrality) and development (density). Motor themes, such as dance, creativity, and higher education, are highly relevant and well-developed areas that drive the field forward. These topics are central to interdisciplinary research, connecting performing arts with education, innovation, and other domains, making them critical for advancing the academic discourse. Basic themes, including performing arts, emotion, arts marketing, health, and performance, serve as foundational pillars. Although these themes are less developed, they remain central to the research field, offering significant opportunities for deeper exploration and expansion.

On the other hand, niche themes, like soft skills, corporate theatre, and music therapy, are highly specialized areas of study with limited connections to broader research. These themes often attract focused research communities and provide opportunities for interdisciplinary innovation. Lastly, the emerging or declining themes quadrant, featuring topics such as performance general and attendance, reflects areas with low centrality and development, indicating either early-stage research or declining relevance. The map highlights the diversity of the field, showcasing well-established areas like evaluation and performing arts organizations, while also pointing to emerging fields like corporate theatre that blend performing arts with professional applications. This balance between mature and nascent research areas underscores the evolving and multifaceted nature of the academic inquiry into the intersection of literature and performing arts.

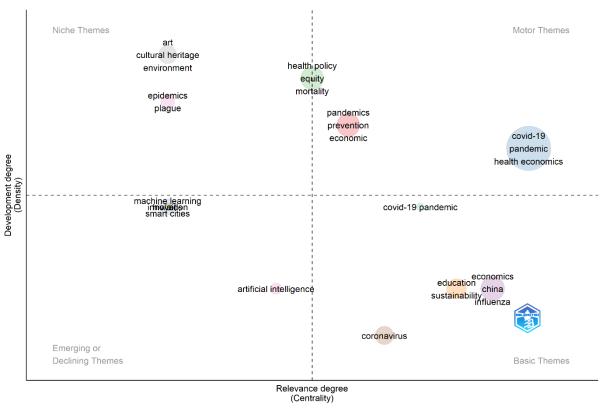


Figure 5. Thematic visualisation of author keywords

h. Co-occurrence of keywords

Figure 6 illustrates that the co-occurrence network provides a visual representation of the interrelations among 79 keywords used in research on literature's role in performing arts. These keywords are grouped into six thematic clusters, each reflecting distinct areas of focus within the field. Cluster 1 (red, 29 keywords) is the largest, centered on terms such as performing arts, humanities, and dance, emphasizing the centrality of performing arts to interdisciplinary studies in education, culture, and teaching. Cluster 2 (green, 18 keywords) highlights connections between music, human, and well-being, underlining the therapeutic and health-related applications of performing arts. Cluster 3 (blue, 14 keywords)

focuses on terms like adolescent, female, and health promotion, exploring the demographic-specific impacts of performing arts, particularly in health promotion among younger and female populations.

Smaller clusters reveal niche but emerging areas of study. Cluster 4 (yellow, 9 keywords), with terms like culture, drama, and performance, emphasizes the artistic and cultural expressions integral to performing arts research. Cluster 5 (purple, 6 keywords) links performing arts with historical and economic dimensions, evident in terms such as history and commerce, highlighting its role in cultural heritage and commercial industries. Lastly, Cluster 6 (light purple, 3 keywords) addresses specific themes like color and technologies, pointing to niche innovations in visual arts or technical aspects of performance. Overall, the network demonstrates the thematic diversity and interdisciplinary nature of research, with central keywords like performing arts, human, and music forming the core while smaller clusters signify emerging or specialized areas for future exploration.

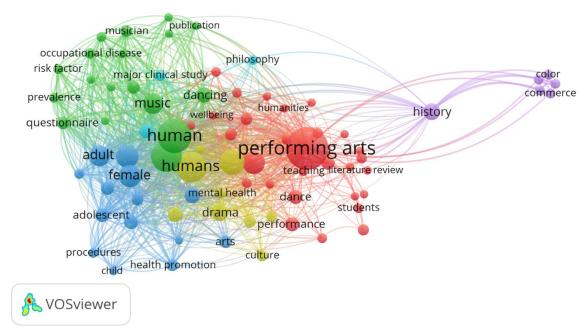


Figure 6. Co-occurrence of all keywords

i. Countries Collaborations

Figure 7 visualizes international collaboration among 28 countries that met the minimum document threshold of 5. These countries are organized into 8 clusters, represented by distinct colors, illustrating the connections and collaborative relationships between them. The United States is the most prominent node in the network, signifying its central role in global research on literature's role in performing arts. It has strong links with other key countries like the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and Germany, reflecting extensive international collaborations. The United Kingdom and Australia also serve as major hubs within the network, connecting with countries like Indonesia, Netherlands, and France, indicating active partnerships and a shared interest in the field. Smaller clusters, such as those including Austria, China, and Spain, reveal localized or emerging collaborative efforts. The clustering suggests that while a few countries dominate the research landscape, smaller nations are increasingly contributing and linking with larger research hubs. The map highlights the interconnectedness of research in this field and the growing globalization of academic collaboration, with notable emphasis on Western and English-speaking countries leading the discourse. However, emerging contributions from Asian and European countries, such as Indonesia and Turkey, underscore the diversification of global academic partnerships.

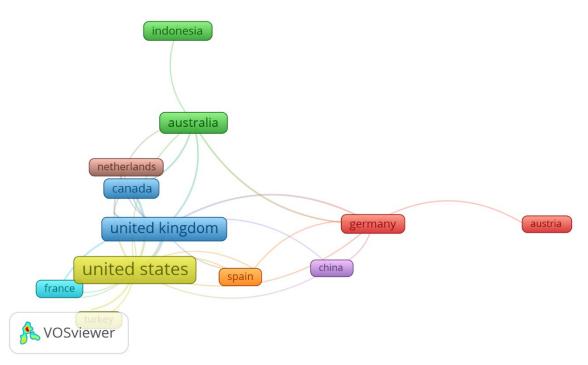


Figure 7. Countries collaborations

4. DISCUSSIONS

The bibliometric analysis on literature's role in performing arts reveals a vibrant and expanding field characterized by interdisciplinary research, global collaborations, and emerging thematic areas. The study spans from 1968 to 2023, capturing the growth of publications with an annual increase of 7.33%. With contributions from 917 authors and 406 sources, including journal articles, books, and conference papers, the field demonstrates considerable diversity. Topics like performing arts, humanities, and music are central, while emerging fields like corporate theatre and soft skills point to niche applications. Keyword co-occurrence networks highlight six clusters, ranging from therapeutic applications and cultural heritage to technological innovations, reflecting the wide-reaching influence of performing arts across domains like education, health, and commerce.

Geographically, the United States, the United Kingdom, and Australia lead research output, with growing contributions from countries like Indonesia and Turkey, underscoring the globalization of the field. International collaborations are prominent, with Western nations forming key research hubs while connecting to smaller and emerging contributors. Analysis of trending topics reveals a shift from foundational discussions on music and drama to more complex themes such as mental health, learning, and structured methodologies in educational and therapeutic contexts. Additionally, motor themes like dance and creativity drive interdisciplinary exploration, while basic themes such as emotion and performance remain fundamental to advancing the discourse.

Overall, the findings highlight the evolving nature of research at the intersection of literature and performing arts, emphasizing its interdisciplinary scope and increasing recognition of its societal applications. Thematic maps and coauthorship analyses showcase a balance between established areas and emerging trends, offering a roadmap for future research. This study underscores the enduring significance of performing arts as a bridge between cultural, educational, and therapeutic practices, fostering innovation while honoring its historical and literary foundations.

5. CONCLUSION

This bibliometric analysis highlights the foundational role of literature in shaping and advancing performing arts, as evidenced by the growing body of research over the past five decades. The study reveals increasing interdisciplinary exploration, with strong connections to fields such as health, education, and cultural studies. Thematic analysis and

keyword co-occurrence maps demonstrate both established themes like performance and emerging areas such as corporate theatre and music therapy. International collaborations, led by the United States, the United Kingdom, and Australia, underline the global nature of research, though there is scope for greater inclusivity of contributions from underrepresented regions. To further enhance research in this field, it is recommended that (1) researchers focus on expanding interdisciplinary studies, particularly in emerging areas such as technology and sustainability in performing arts. (2) Funding agencies and institutions should promote collaborative projects that include contributions from diverse geographical regions to encourage a more inclusive global research landscape. Lastly, (3) researchers should prioritize the application of advanced bibliometric tools to continuously map trends and identify gaps, ensuring the field remains dynamic and responsive to contemporary societal needs. These efforts will strengthen the academic and practical impact of literature in performing arts while fostering innovation across disciplines.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

None

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Bindu Cherian

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