



V.K. HYMAVATHY

Akademi Award: Mohiniattam

Born on 12 October 1955 in Viruppakka village in Thrissur district of Kerala, Shrimati V. K. Hymavathy trained in Mohiniattam at Kerala Kalamandalam, Cheruthuruthy, under several eminent masters of the art. Among her teachers were Kalamandalam Sathyabhama, Chandrika, Padmini, Leelamani, and A. R. Bhaskar.

Shrimati Hymavathy is among the reputed artists and teachers of Mohiniattam in the country.

She has performed widely in India and abroad, individually as well as a member of the Kalamandalam troupe. She has received critical acclaim for her presentation of '*Omanathingalkidavo*', a poem by the Malayalam poet Iriyimmanthambi, and '*Achanum Makalum*' by Vallathol Narayana Menon. She has taught at Kerala Kalamandalam for over three decades, joining the institution as an Instructor in 1975 and retiring as Head of the Department of Mohiniattam in 2011. At present, she imparts training in Mohiniattam at her own institution, Nrithyathapovanam, at Cheruthuruthy. She is also honorary Visiting Professor at the Sree Sankaracharya University in Kalady. A documentary film on her work, titled *Puthu Kalathinte Natya Mohanam*, has been produced by V.K. Sreeraman.

She has received several honours for her service to Mohiniattam, which include the Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Akademi Award (2007) and the Kerala Kalamandalam Award (2009). The title Lasya Mohini has been bestowed on her by Kerala Kalamandalam in 2011.

Shrimati V.K. Hymavathy receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for her contribution to Mohiniattam.