



SAROJA VAIDYANATHAN
Akademi Fellow

Born on 19 September 1937 in Bellary, Andhra Pradesh, Shrimati Saroja Vaidyanathan took her training in Bharatanatyam under Shrimati Lalitha at the Saraswati Gana Nilayam in Chennai. She also studied Carnatic music under Professor P. Sambamoorthy at Madras University, and obtained a D.Litt in dance from the Indira Kala Sangeet Viswavidyalaya, Khairagarh.

Shrimati Saroja Vaidyanathan has performed as a soloist and her choreographies have been presented in major dance festivals within the country and across the globe for more than six decades. Being a well-established and leading Bharatanatyam teacher of the country, she has trained a number of students at her institute, Ganesa Natyalaya in Delhi, and some of her students like Rama Vaidyanathan, Gyanendra Dutt Bajpayi and Anuradha Venkataraman are among the leading artists of the younger generation. She has travelled widely within the country and abroad to participate in prestigious dance festivals. She has authored several books on dance and music including *The Science of Bharatanatyam*, *The Carnataka Sangeetham*, *Classical Dances of India* and compiled an encyclopedia on Bharatanatyam for NCERT.

She is the recipient of several honours including the Sahitya Kala Parishad Samman conferred by the Government of Delhi in 1991; the Kalaimamani title bestowed by the Tamil Nadu Eyal Isai Nataka Manram, Government of Tamil Nadu, in 1999; the Padma Shri given by the Government of India in 2002; the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 2008; Kalidas Samman from Government of Madhya Pradesh in 2012; the Padma Bhushan, Government of India in 2013; and the Acharya Choodamani Award, Chennai in 2015.

Shrimati Saroja Vaidyanathan is elected Fellow of Sangeet Natak Akademi for her contribution to Indian dance.