



C.V. CHANDRASEKHAR
Fellowship of Sangeet Natak Akademi

Born in 1935 in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh, Shri C.V. Chandrasekhar has made a significant contribution to Bharatanatyam as a performer, teacher, composer and scholar. His choreographic works in Bharatanatyam for solo and group presentation have been highly acclaimed. Shri C.V. Chandrasekhar was trained in Bharatanatyam at Kalakshetra, Madras, by Shrimati Sarada Hoffman, S. Sarda, Rukmini Devi Arundale, Karaikkal Saradamba, K.N. Dandayudha Pillai and Mylapore Gowri Amma; and obtained his postgraduate diploma from there. He also learnt Carnatic music under T. K. Ramaswamy Iyengar, Budallur Krishnamurthy Sastri, M.D. Ramanathan, Mudikandan Venkataraha Iyer, and Mysore Vasudevachar.

In the years to come, Shri C.V. Chandrasekhar came to be known as a leading teacher and scholar of dance. He imparted training in Bharatanatyam at a number of institutions including Vasant Kanya Mahavidyalaya, Varanasi, where he began his career as a dance teacher in 1958; Banaras Hindu University, where he was a Lecturer in dance from 1965 to 1979; and Maharaja Sayajirao University, Baroda, from where he retired in 1992 as Head of the Department of Dance and Dean of the Faculty of Performing Arts. He groomed a number of dancers at the two universities where he worked. Subsequently, he established his institution Nrityashree in Baroda, where he has been imparting training in Bharatanatyam with his wife Jaya Chandrasekhar. His major choreographic productions include *Ritu Samharam*, *Meghadutam*, *Bhoomija*, *Aparajita*, *Pancha Maha-bhootam*, *Holi*, *Kreeda* and *Aarohanam*. As a soloist, and with his group, Shri Chandrasekhar has performed in major dance festivals in India and abroad.

For his outstanding contribution to Indian dance, he has received several awards and honours including the Uttar Pradesh Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1978; the Gujarat Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1982; the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1993; the title of Kalaimamani bestowed by the Tamil Nadu Eyal Isai Nataka Manram in 2003; the Kalidas Samman in 2008; and the Padma Bhushan in 2011.

Shri C. V. Chandrasekhar is elected Fellow of Sangeet Natak Akademi for his contribution to Indian dance.