



**MALAVIKA SARUKKAI**  
Akademi Award : Bharatanatyam

*Born in 1959 in Mumbai, Shrimati Malavika Sarukkai received her training in Bharatanatyam under Gurus K. Kalyanasundaram Pillai, S. K. Rajaratnam Pillai, and Kalanidhi Narayanan between the mid-1960s and the mid-1980s. She also studied Carnatic music under G. Vijayalakshmi, and acquired proficiency in Odissi dance under the tutelage of Gurus Ramani Ranjan Jena and Kelucharan Mohapatra.*

*An outstanding exponent of Bharatanatyam, Malavika Sarukkai represents the Tiruvudaimarudur and Vazhuvoor schools of the dance. She is noted equally for her virtuosity in nritta — blossoming in sculpturesque lines — and for the lyricism of her abhinaya. Though rooted in traditional Bharatanatyam, she is alive to new ideas in dance, and has expanded the classical vocabulary in her work as a choreographer. She has conducted workshops in Bharatanatyam in India and abroad, contributed papers in dance seminars, and performed in numerous prestigious festivals of arts. These include the Festivals of India in the U.K., U.S.A., and France; the Edinburgh Festival in the U.K.; the Jacob's Pillow festival in the U.S.A.; the International Arts Festival in Adelaide, Australia; and the Theatre de la Ville in Paris, France. She is the subject of several documentary films on dance including Samarpanam, produced by the Films Division, Government of India.*

*For her service to dance, Shrimati Malavika Sarukkai has been honoured with the Kalaimamani and Nritya Choodamani titles, the Sanskriti Award, and the Padma Shri.*

*Shrimati Malavika Sarukkai receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for her contribution to Bharatanatyam.*

*Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards 2002*