

RANGANAYAKI JAYARAMAN Akademi Award: Bharatanatyam

Born on 19 September 1935 at Villupuram district in Tamil Nadu, Shrimati Ranganayaki Jayaraman received her training in Bharatanatyam under Shrimati K. Lalitha at the Sri Saraswathy Gana Nilayam. She has also received training in music under Professor P. Sambamoorthy at the Government College of Music, Chennai.

A leading exponent of Bharatanatyam, Shrimati Ranganayaki Jayaraman has won renown both as a performer and a teacher. Specializing both in the Thanjavur and Pandanallur styles of Bharatanatyam, she is also a well-known Nattuvannar and has conducted various concerts at major dance festivals. She has performed and conducted seminars and workshops within the country and abroad including the USA and Middle East countries, and also has numerous choreographic productions to her credit such as Shakthi Prabhavam, Shiva Prabhavam, Vachamakocham, Nowkacharitham, Ashtapathi and Kuravanji to name a few. Shrimati Ranganayaki Jayaraman has imparted training in Bharatanatyam dance for more than seven decades and many of her students have become well-known performers now. She has also taught at the Music Academy, Chennai, and has been serving as Director of her Guru's institution, Sri Saraswathy Gana Nilayam in Chennai since 1992.

For her exceptional ability as a Bharatanatyam artist, Shrimati Ranganayaki Jayaraman has received several awards and honours including the Kalaimamani title conferred by the Tamil Nadu Eyal Isai Nataka Manram (1995); the Natya Darshan conferred by the Kartik Fine Arts (2006); the Acharya Kala Bharathi by Bharat Kalachar (2007); and the Nritya Ratna by the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan (2011).

Shrimati Ranganayaki Jayaraman receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for her contribution to Bharatanatyam.