

## THE ARTISTE PROFILE

Soumya Tilak Seshadri is an established Bharatanatyam artiste noted for her expressive eyes and graceful and elegant dance movements. She has enthralled audiences in India, the Middle East and the United States.

Soumya is the prime disciple of the Bharatanatyam virtuoso, Dr. Vijay Madhavan. She has been trained in cognate skills like Nattuvangam, dance theory, choreography, stagecraft, theatrics, lighting etc. by her Guru at his institute Rechita Nrutyalaya.

Soumya performed her arangetram in 1999 and since then she has been performing several solo performances in prestigious venues such as Sri Krishna Gana Sabha, Brahma Gana Sabha, Kartik Fine Arts, Mylapore Fine Arts, Parthasarathy Swami Sabha, Thyaga Brahma Gana Sabha, Gana Mukundapriya, Natyanjali Trust etc. She has been well appreciated by critics and connoisseurs alike and has also garnered several accolades along the way, most commending being the “*Natya Choodamani*” title conferred on her in 2015 by Gana Mukundapriya Sabha and the Best Dancer Award presented for her performance at VDS Arts Academy. She also has the credit of being the recipient of the VDS Arts Academy Scholarship three times. Apart from dancing, Soumya also performs Nattuvangam for her guru and for his group productions as well.

Now settled in San Jose, California, Soumya continues to enchant audiences with her dance and also imparts training to her students at her dance school, Shreeja Dance Academy, carrying forward her Guru's holistic approach to the art-form. Soumya also visits Chennai regularly, to be a part of the prestigious Margazhi Music and Dance Festival.

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## NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

- First Arangetram Student for Guru Sri. Vijay Madhavan
- Recipient of *Natya Choodamani* title, awarded by Gana Mukundapriya Sabha
- Recipient of *Best Dancer Award* by VDS Arts Academy, Chennai and also been invited to perform several times as *VAA Top Ten Artist* for the Talent Revealing Opportunity Programme
- Three time recipient of *Dance Scholarship* awarded by VDS Arts Academy, Chennai
- Recipient of *Special Prize for Outstanding Performance* at the Akhil Bharath Nrutyotsav All India Dance Competitions by Samskara Bharathi, Hyderabad
- Integral Part of Guru Vijay Madhavan's DVD presentation, “*Sanmatham - Bharathiyil*”, produced by Amutham Music Pvt. Ltd., which has been widely appreciated.
- Participant of a group production by Padmasri Smt. Chitra Visweswaran at Dharmasthala Temple, Dharmasthala for *Ujjire Festival* in 2000.
- Represented Rechita Nrutyalaya (dance institution of Guru) for “*Parampara Pravaha*”, a thematic group production for the 25th Anniversary Celebrations of Smt. Chitra Visweswaran's dance institution, Chidambaram Academy of Performing Arts.
- Integral participant in several group productions of Guru, performed at prestigious festivals including Dance Festivals hosted by leading organizations such as Madras Welwisherrs Trust, Melattur Bhagavatamela Natya Mahotsav, Bharathiya Vidya Bhavan, Kalakendra, Kapali Fine Arts, Delhi Tamil Sangam etc.

## RECENT MAJOR SOLO PERFORMANCES

- Mahashivarathri Natyothsav 2017, Sanatana Dharma Kendra, California
- Onam Festival, Vaidyaratnam Ayurveda Foundation, Thrissur, Kerala
- Thematic Presentation - *Maalum Maheshanum*, Aadi Dance Festival, Gana Mukundapriya Sabha, Chennai (Awarded *Natya Choodamani* Title)
- Thematic Presentation - *Lalgudi Maestro's Melodies*, Pravasi Festival, Sri Krishna Gana Sabha, Chennai
- Thematic Presentation - *Lalgudi Maestro's Melodies*, Nalli Aadi Naatya Vizha 2015, Brahma Gana Sabha, Chennai
- Thematic Presentation - *Seeking Krishna*, Livermore Temple, California, USA
- Rama Navami Celebrations 2014 at Livermore Temple, California, USA
- India Culture Center, Doha, Qatar
- Margazhi Dance Festival 2014, Sri Parthasarathy Swami Sabha, Chennai
- Margazhi Dance Festival, Kartik Fine Arts, Chennai
- 25th Year Bharatham Festival conducted by Sri Thyaga Brahma Gana Sabha, Chennai
- Rama Navami Celebrations 2014 at Livermore Temple, California, USA
- Margazhi Dance Festival, Kartik Fine Arts, Chennai
- Margazhi Dance Festival, Brahma Gana Sabha, Chennai
- Margazhi Dance Festival, The Mylapore Fine Arts Club, Chennai
- Kartik Fine Arts, Chennai
- October Dance Festival, Gana Mukundapriya Sabha, Chennai