

# Sivasri Skandaprasad - Bio

When the lights go up, the stage comes to life!

A dancer, musician, engineer, choreographer, and art activist, her journey of learning as an artiste is perennial.

Born in an illustrious family, she always felt that art is not just a profession, it's not only a passion.....It's a calling. It's a journey inward.

Her paternal grandparents, Kalaimamani late Seerkazhi R. Jayaraman was a successful musician and Smt. Shanthi Jayaraman was a popular vocal accompaniment for leading Bharatanatyam artistes. Her maternal grandfather, H H Sri Namanandagiri Swamigal was the former pontiff of the Gnananandagiri Peetha. Her father too is a renowned Mridangam Vidwan Seerkazhi Sri J. Skandaprasad.

Her tryst with music and dance began at a very young age. She was always inspired by her father since she was 3 years old and is captivated by something that has become an integral part of her life now - Indic Art!

She has dedicated a lifetime of passion, raw talent, and hard work to every research and performance piece under the guidance of her gurus AS Murali (Carnatic Vocal), Sri Mahesh Kale ( Hindustani music) and Smt Roja Kannan (Bharatanatyam). She entered the concert circle as a performer. Her Lineage, natural talent, hard work and passion for the classical Arts has helped her to bloom into a professional artiste. She chose to pursue a B. Tech (Bio-Engineering) graduate from SASTRA University, Thanjavur as she was very keen on understanding the amalgamation of engineering and biology. She is also an MA (Bharatanatyam) graduate from the University of Madras.

"We always have a chance to take a chance and make a choice. She did, and her life changed."

Here is a bit more about her journey of chasing her passion.

## MUSIC

- Trained in Classical Carnatic Music under Guru Sri A. S. Murali.
- A performing concert artiste; she has also participated and won prizes in various music competitions.
- Performed in solo Carnatic concerts in leading Sabhas in Chennai- Brahma Gana Sabha, Kartik Fine Arts, Naradagana Sabha etc.
- She has accompanied eminent Bharatanatyam artists on vocal. She has been on ICCR(Indian Centre for Cultural Relations) tours to Denmark in 2018 and the Republic of Korea in 2019, as a Govt. Diplomat, to accompany various Bharatanatyam artists and her Guru Smt. Roja Kannan.
- Being born in the lineage of performing Musicians and Namasankeerthanam exponents, she has acquired good knowledge in the Sampradhaya Bhajan and is performing Namasankeerthanam and Katha Kutcheri.
- She has also lent her voice to various TV commercials
- Recently performed in Dubai for MAK media
- She has sung a song in the movie Ponniyin Selvan 1 for A R Rahman

## **DANCE**

- Her talent lies in deep artistic vision and academic authoring that has led her to establish a school for Bharatanatyam and Carnatic Music.
- Having great Bharatanatyam artists like Kumari Kamala, Smt. Radha, and late Smt. Vanaja Narayan (Disciple of Sri K. N. Dandayudapani Pillai) from her paternal side, has always been passionate about Bharatanatyam.
- She has been learning Bharatanatyam from the age of 3, under the able guidance of Kalaimamani Smt. Krishnakumari Narendran and Acharya Choodamani Guru Smt. Roja Kannan, and been giving solo performances at most of the well-known Sabhas like The Music Academy, Narada Gana Sabha, Sri Krishna Gana Sabha, Brahma Gana Sabha to name a few.

## **Awards and Title**

- Bharatha Kala Choodamani - Chidambaram Sri Sabapathy Sangeetha Gana Sabha Trust
- Yuva Samman Award - MOP Vaishnav College for Women, Chennai
- Bhakthi Gana Kokila - Hariharaputhra Samaj, Chembur, Mumbai
- Yuva Kala Bharathi (All Rounder))- Bharath Kalachar, Chennai
- Bhajana Bhushan - The Marathi School and The Maharashtra Association, Chennai

## **Ahuti**

An organisation founded by Sivasri Skandaprasad, who believes that through Ahuti she can offer the students a rare opportunity that will foster artistic, professional and personal growth to prepare them for a successful life as citizens and artists. For Sivasri, Ahuti is all about serving God and the country. From singing to dancing, recitation lessons to solving riddles, knitting to dressing up, painting to garland making, mastering a conversation to make-up techniques, Ahuti empowers you to touch the soul of nature with your art.