



Srishti

Nina Rajarani Dance School

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Srishti - Nina Rajarani Dance School is one of UK's leading schools for Indian classical dance and music training. It has been flourishing at the Harrow Arts Centre in Hatch End, Middlesex / London, since 1991. For over 30 years, it has gained its reputation as an impeccable Indian arts establishment delivering training in Bharatanatyam dance, Karnatik vocal music and Kathak dance.





Srishti Dance School is led by award-winning dancer, choreographer and teacher Nina Rajarani MBE. Along with her husband Yadav Yadavan, a much sought-after vocalist / composer with international performing acclaim, they make an outstanding team known to bring out the best in their students, backed by a team of well-trained and experienced teachers who have been carefully selected for their thorough knowledge and precise articulation of the art form.

The Srishti organisation benefits from Resident Company status at the Harrow Arts Centre and works closely with the Arts Centre and the London Borough of Harrow on their arts and cultural activities, ensuring that Srishti's students and artists are regularly featured in prominent local events, bringing Indian classical dance and music to the forefront of the British arts scene.

The School is open to beginners, intermediate and advanced level students, offering classes in-person and online. The age of students ranges from 4 to 50+ years. Training takes place during three school terms and includes two student showcase performances per year in a professional setting, giving students the experience of performing with live music whilst demonstrating their talent and the skills they have developed.



The School emphasises strong, classical training firmly rooted in **Bharatanatyam**, **Karnatik vocal** and **Kathak** traditions. Dance students follow the syllabus of the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing (ISTD) for Bharatanatyam and Kathak. Karnatik vocal students are also prepared for graded examinations and stage performances accompanied by live music as part of the School's biannual shows. Students are trained in both the practical and theoretical aspects required for the appropriate presentation of the traditional repertoire of these dance and music forms.

New students first complete a foundation year introducing the basics of Bharatanatyam, Karnatik vocal or Kathak, followed by a graded examination course. Students who complete the graded course have the opportunity to continue with vocational examinations, preparing them for professional performances and teaching positions.

Srishti Dance School is an Approved Dance Centre (ADC) of the ISTD which enables the School to provide professional training to Bharatanatyam and Kathak dancers working towards the DDE (Diploma in Dance Education) teaching qualification.



Bharatanatyam is a classical dance form originating in the temples of southern India. It is characterised by its strong lines, geometry and symmetry, as well as its highly expressive mime. It is probably the most popular and versatile classical Indian dance style in the UK and worldwide.

Srishti's senior students also learn the art of nattuvāngam or conducting. Most of those who complete the graded examinations carry on with their training at an advanced level and have the opportunity to join Srishti's successful youth group that engages in professional training and performs new choreography in a variety of contexts. Some go on to perform an arangetram (debut solo performance) following an intensive period of dedicated training.



Karnatik music is a highly systematic classical music form originating from southern India with emphasis placed on vocal music. Most compositions are written to be sung, and even when played on instruments, they are meant to be performed in gāyaki (singing) style.

At Srishti, Karnatik vocal music is taught as a discipline in its own right for those who wish to train in it exclusively. Vocal classes are also conducted for Bharatanatyam students to enhance their understanding of music, allowing them to complete the music requirements of their dance examination syllabus.



Kathak is a north Indian classical dance form that draws upon ancient Hindu temple and Mughal era court traditions. The vast repertoire comprises poetic, dramatic and abstract dance that is characterised by fluid body movements, complex patterns of footwork, fast pirouettes and sudden stillness.

Srishti's Kathak students are grounded in technique through footwork, movement and pirouette exercises, building up to extended technical and expressional compositions and dance pieces.



Faculty



Nina Rajarani MBE

Principal Bharatanatyam Dance Teacher

Nina Rajarani MBE founded Srishti Dance School in 1991, alongside her touring company Srishti – Nina Rajarani Dance Creations. Over the years, she has created several outstanding new works, and has performed her solo and ensemble work extensively within the UK and across Europe, Morocco, India, Singapore, Malaysia, Australia, USA and Canada.

Nina is a founder committee member of the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing (ISTD)'s Classical Indian Dance Faculty and is their lead examiner for Vocational & Teaching Qualifications for Bharatanatyam.

In 2006, Nina won the prestigious Place Prize, Europe's largest choreographic competition, for her piece QUICK! Nina was awarded an MBE in the Queen's 2009 Birthday Honours in recognition of her services to South Asian Dance. She was commissioned by Harrow Council to create a piece for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee visit to Harrow in 2012 and premiered a newly created outdoor work for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee weekend in 2022.



Nina completed her Bharatanatyam training under Prakash Yadagudde at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, London, and had advanced training from Chitra Visweswaran and the Dhananjayans of Chennai, India. She also received Karnatik music vocal training from Sivasakthi Sivanesan at Bhavan London, and Karpagam Balasubramanian from Chennai India. In addition to training in nattuvangam with her gurus, Nina developed these skills with the nattuvangam exponent Seetharama Sharma of Chennai.

Nina's dance style today is unique in its assimilation of the best qualities from each of the different traditions followed by the gurus with whom she has trained.



Yadav Yadavan

Principal Karnatik Vocal Teacher

Yadav Yadavan is a highly regarded musician with international performing acclaim and has provided vocal accompaniment for many dance performances, as well as dance and mridangam arangetrams all over the world. He has been performing on a regular basis with several dance teachers based in the UK and across Europe, India, Australia, New Zealand, USA and Canada.

Yadavan trained from a very young age in Sri Lanka under Sangeeta Bhooshanam S Balasingam and furthered his musical aspirations in Chennai, India, where he studied under the renowned Sangeetha Kalanidhi B Rajam Iyer. Yadavan completed his Bachelor's degree in Indian music from Madras University, India, and is also a diploma holder from the Music Academy of Chennai.

Since 2002 Yadavan has been collaborating with the Srishti organisation as a vocalist and composer. He composes original music for the School's student performances, for the youth dance group and for Srishti - Nina Rajarani Dance Creations, the professional touring company.



Classes



The Bharatanatyam Programme

Foundation Year: This can be joined by new students who have turned age five by 1st September in the year in which they enrol. Classes takes place weekly on Saturdays for children and on Wednesday evenings for adults. Online classes are held on Monday evenings. Upon completion of the Foundation course, students progress to the graded examination course.

Graded Examination Course: This is open to students with previous Bharatanatyam training. Students automatically gain entry to the graded course through the School's Foundation Course. Classes take place twice weekly on Saturdays and Wednesdays.



Srishti Yuva Culture: Open to students who have completed Grade 6, the group focuses on professional training, new choreography and performance work. The group's track record includes performances at the Royal Albert Hall, Wembley Arena, Southbank Centre, Excel, Sadler's Wells and Lowry in Salford Quays. Training takes place weekly on Saturday mornings and enrollment in this group is open to those who have trained at other schools and are interested in expanding their performance profile.

Advanced Adults: This class caters for those adults who have learnt Bharatanatyam to an advanced level but may have had a long gap and now wish to reconnect with dance. We have people who have joined after a gap of up to 20-25 years and have found joy in participating in this class which runs on Wednesdays, late evenings.

Intensives: Three week-long intensive workshops per year are part of the curriculum for all students, each leading to either a performance or an examination.

One-to-One Sessions: These are arranged at mutually convenient times with the teacher, with availability throughout the week.



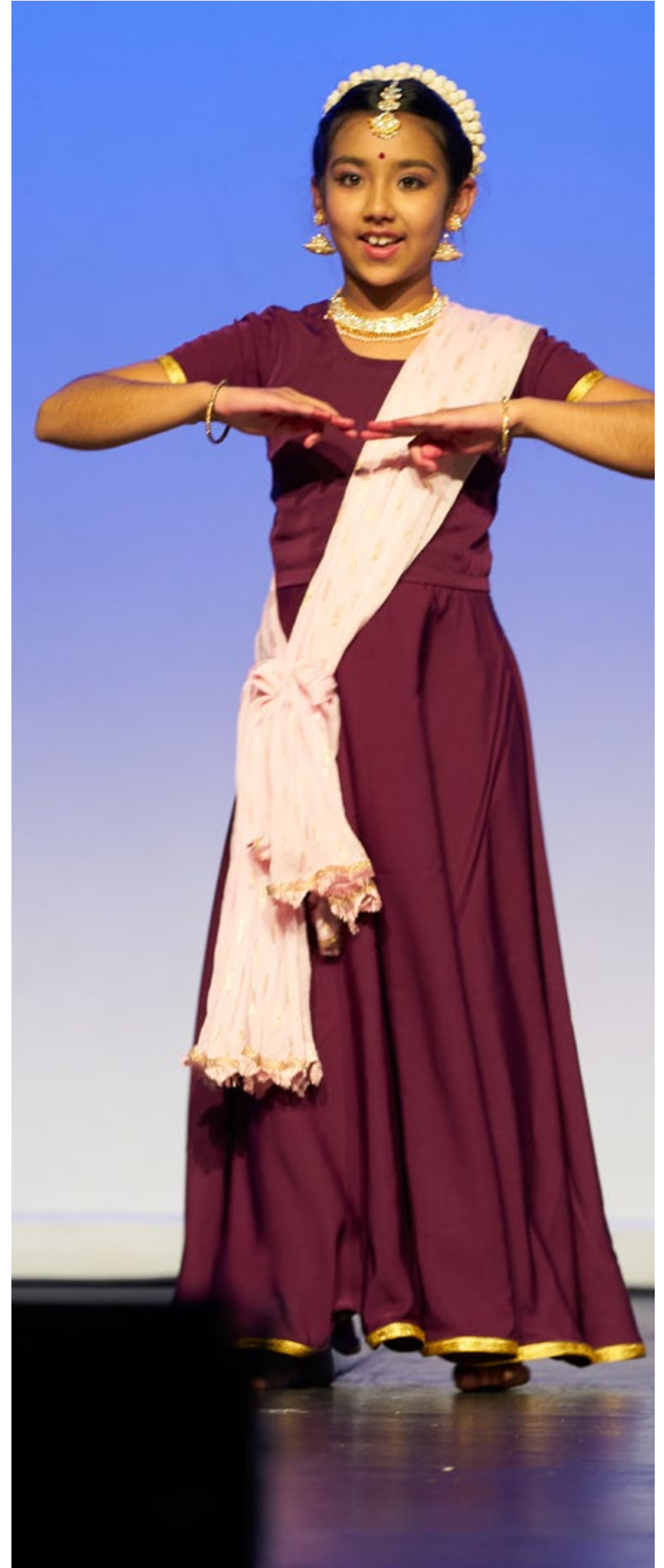
The Karnatik Vocal Programme

Foundation Year: This can be joined by new students who have turned age four by 1st September in the year in which they enrol. Classes takes place weekly on Saturdays. Online classes are held on Tuesday evenings. Upon completion of the Foundation course, students progress to the graded examination course.

Graded Examination Course: This is open to students with previous Karnatik vocal training. Students automatically gain entry to the graded course through the School's Foundation Course. Classes take place on Saturdays.

Intensives: Three-to-five-day intensive workshops are part of the curriculum for all students, each leading to either a performance or an examination.

One-to-One Sessions: These are arranged at mutually convenient times with the teacher, with availability throughout the week.



The Kathak Programme

Foundation Year: This can be joined by new students who have turned age four by 1st September in the year in which they enrol. Classes takes place weekly on Fridays and Saturdays for children and on Tuesday evenings or Saturday mornings for adults. Online classes are held on Thursday evenings. Upon completion of the Foundation course, students progress to the graded examination course.

Graded Examination Course: This is open to students with previous Kathak training. Students automatically gain entry to the graded course through the School's Foundation Course. Classes take place on Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

Intensives: Three-to-five-day intensive workshops are part of the curriculum for all students, each leading to either a performance or an examination.

One-to-One Sessions: These are arranged at mutually convenient times with the teacher, with availability throughout the week.

Srishti

Nina Rajarani Dance School

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For further information about the
school or to request an application
form, please contact

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