



**Rasika Ranjani Sabha®**

Estd. 1929

30/1 SUNDARESWARAR STREET, MYLAPORE, CHENNAI - 600004

## CITATION

### NRUTYA KALA RATNA AWARD – 2023

to

**Smt. Priyadarsini Govind**

Smt. Priyadarsini Govind is one of India's foremost dancer-choreographer and visionary in Bharathanatyam today. She has trained under stalwarts like Kalaimamani S.K. Rajarathnam Pillai and Padma Bhushan Smt. Kalanidhi Narayanan. She is known for her mastery over abhinaya, ingenious approach to nritta and strong adherence to tradition. For over four decades she has been gently redefining the boundaries of the Bharathanatyam repertoire with her seamless blend of new choreography with the traditional.

She has performed in innumerable prestigious venues across India & the globe as a soloist. She has also collaborated with a number of top-artists to create diverse, insightful & unique experiences and has worked with award-winning film-maker Sruti Harihara Subramanian & reputed composer Rajkumar Bharathi on her most recent project – *Yavanika (The Screen of Illusion)*, a full-length feature film she conceptualized.

She has been honored with a plethora of awards for her excellence and service to the arts some of the most notable ones are the Nrithya Kalanidhi by Madras Music Academy (2019), Sangeet Natak Akademi Award (2012), Yuva Kala Bharathi, Kalaimamani and Nrithyachoodamani. She has also served as the Director of the world-renowned Kalakshetra Foundation between August 5, 2013 and June 19, 2017.

With a vision to empower dancers globally with the tools to approach dance to the fullest, she has contributed significantly through numerous groundbreaking initiatives. In the early 2000s, she conceptualized and created an unique set of instructional DVDs on Bharathanatyam for Kalakriya, covering the entire Bharathanatyam Margam as well as focusing on capturing and documenting Guru Kalanidhi Narayanan's teaching and practice of abhinaya.

In 2019, she founded NavaDarshana, an initiative that empowers dancers to evolve through expansion of self-imposed boundaries to explore, create and excel in their artistic journeys. Through NavaDarshana, she has also been directing annual, in-person Bharathanatyam intensives in the United States, allowing dancers to explore and to understand their practice from a holistic perspective.

She has also developed a one-of-its-kind structured step-by-step learning methodology – *Learning Ladder*.

The Award Committee of Rasika Ranjani Sabha takes great pleasure in conferring the  
**NRUTYA KALA RATNA AWARD – 2023**  
for **EXCELLENCE IN BHARATHANATYAM** to **Smt. PRIYADARSINI GOVIND**  
on this **18<sup>th</sup> day of August 2023**.