



# Srishti

nina rajarani dance school





**Srishti – Nina Rajarani Dance School** has been flourishing at the Harrow Arts Centre in Hatch End, Middlesex, since 1991, and has an impeccable reputation of delivering excellent training in Harrow. Karnatic vocal classes are conducted by Y. Yadavan and Bharatanatyam dance classes are conducted by Nina Rajarani MBE. This highly successful husband-wife artistic team provides the students of the school with holistic training in the classical Indian performing arts.

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.



Tutors employed by the school have been trained by Nina Rajarani and Y. Yadavan and are carefully selected for their thorough knowledge and precise articulation of the art-form. Students of the school perform publicly at least twice a year at showcases organised by the school, allowing them to demonstrate what they have learnt over the year and giving them the opportunity to experience dance and music in a setting outside of the classroom. Students with advanced training have opportunities to perform at high profile events nationally and occasionally internationally too.

**Karnatic 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.



**Bharatanatyam** is a classical dance style originating in the temples of southern India. 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 worldwide.

**Y. Yadavan** is a sought-after musician with international performing acclaim. Apart from being a dedicated teacher known to bring out the best in his students, he also composes original music for the dance students' performances, for Srishti Yuva Culture - the organisation's youth dance group, and Srishti Dance Creations – the organisation's professional touring company.

At Srishti, Karnatic vocal music is taught as a subject in its own right for those who wish to train in it exclusively.

Vocal classes are also conducted specifically for Bharatanatyam students to enhance their understanding of music, allowing them to complete the music requirements of their dance examination syllabus.

**Nina Rajarani MBE**, an award-winning choreographer, is known for her meticulous methods and has earned herself an admirable reputation as a dancer, teacher, choreographer, and as the director of Sriшти. Her students pride themselves upon their high standard of dancing. The school emphasises strong, classical training firmly rooted in Bharatanatyam tradition and the dance students follow the Bharatanatyam syllabus of the **Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing (ISTD)**. This course trains students in both the practical and theoretical aspects



examinations, preparing them for professional performances and teaching positions. The school is an **Approved Dance Centre (ADC) of the ISTD** which means that it is able to provide professional training to teachers of Bharatanatyam and Kathak that leads to the teaching qualifications DDI (Diploma in Dance Instruction) and DDE (Diploma in Dance Education).



required for the appropriate presentation of the traditional *mārgam* or repertoire of Bharatanatyam.

New students first complete a foundation year introducing the basics of Bharatanatyam, followed by a graded examination course consisting of six basic grades. Students who complete the graded course have the opportunity to continue with vocational



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. Advanced students have the opportunity to join Sriшти Yuva Culture, a successful youth group that participates 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.



## Dance Classes and Courses



**Foundation Year** – can be joined by new students who have turned five by the 1st of September in the year in which they join the school. This course takes place weekly on Saturday afternoons, and leads to the graded examination course.



**Graded Examination Course** – for students with previous Bharatanatyam training; classes take place twice weekly on Saturdays and Wednesdays. Students automatically gain entry to the graded course through the school's Foundation Course.



**Srishti Yuva Culture** – for students who have completed Grade 6; classes take place weekly on Saturdays. The group focuses on professional training, new choreography and performance work. Recently the group has performed at the Royal Albert Hall, Wembley Arena, Queen Elizabeth Hall at the Southbank Centre, Excel, Sadler's Wells and Lowry in Salford Quays.



**Intensives** – three intensive workshop weeks per year are available to all students of the school, leading to annual performances and examinations. The school has two annual shows in addition to other performances at local and national events, and 1-2 ISTD examination sessions in the year.



**One-to-One Sessions** – these are on offer mainly to advanced students and professional dancers / teachers, but in exceptional circumstances for a short period, can be made available to those at a preliminary stage in their training.

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

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Photography: Simon Richardson

