

## **DIVYA SHARMA**

Divya Sharma is a high school senior and a Visharad (Diploma) student 12th-year student at the Nrityanaad Academy of Kathak. She is in her final year of the University of Pune's curriculum and will receive her bachelor's degree in Kathak Indian Classical Dance Spring 2022, as well as an advanced high school diploma from the Academies of Loudoun, a STEM Magnet school in Loudoun County.

Divya has passed six courses with distinction, and is now also an assistant teacher teaching ages 4- adult, as well as an accomplished soloist. Additionally, Divya has done extensive work to spread awareness and bridge Indian Classical dance to western cultures. She is Co-CEO and CFO of The Dance Utopia, a 501c3 registered nonprofit. She has fundraised over \$2000 for Title 1 schools, held workshops with over 50 attendees for physically disabled kids, and created scholarships to fund arts education for students.

As lead producer and choreographer of The Dhadak Duo, she has worked to spread awareness of Kathak through performances and social media. Divya is also a member of UNESCO's International Dance Council and has been invited to perform at global congresses in Greece, Paris, etc. Divya is not only an accomplished dancer but is also in the lineage of traditional Kathak and has worked to tirelessly learn the art form while still being open to evolution that comes with time and being a first generation student in the US.

As a young person who started dancing from an early age, she has evolved with the dance form, and as she learns more, has been able to apply lessons to her life and development. Whether it is the racism or stereotypes she faced while performing or sharing, to the younger children she has been able to mentor as a result of the dual-culture she was taught in, Divya has committed the last 12 years to the evolution of dance throughout time and migration.

**LinkedIn: [divyaasharmaaa](#)      Instagram: [@divyasharma0784](#)  
Instagram: [@divyakathak](#)**

###