

Sir,

I have the honour to present to you Shri Kanthe Maharaj, the recipient of the Akademi Award for instrumental music of the Hindustani School.

Shri Kanthe Maharaj was born on 15th September 1879. He learnt *Tabla* since his childhood from late Pt. Baldeo Sahaiji, and at present he is the most outstanding representative of the traditional Banaras *Gharana* of the late Pt. Ram Sahai.

Shri Kanthe Maharaj has profound knowledge of *laya* and *tala* and his performances, both solo and as an accompanist, are characterised by variety and imagination. He is well-known all over the country and noted musicians, connoisseurs and art organisations have conferred innumerable titles and honours on him for his achievement. He is equally respected as a teacher.

For his pre-eminence in music, and for his life-long devotion and service to its cause, I pray, Sir, that you may be pleased to grant him recognition as Musician of the Year, in the field of instrumental music of the Hindustani School, and award to him a shawl, a gold *Shrinkhal* and a *Sanad* in token of that recognition.

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