

SHRI OMKARNATH THAKUR

Shri Omkarnath Thakur was born in 1897 in Bhadaran, in Gujarat. He received training in vocal music from Pandit Vishnu Digambar Paluskar. He has been wedded to music from his early youth.

At the age of twenty, Shri Omkarnath Thakur became the Principal of the Gandharva Maha Vidyalaya at Lahore. His main achievement in the field of teaching music was to establish the Kala-Sangeet-Bharati (Faculty of Fine Arts) at the Banaras Hindu University. He was the first Dean of this Faculty. Though he has retired from active work in the University, he continues to be its Emeritus Professor of Music.

Shri Omkarnath Thakur is a distinguished vocalist and an eminent representative of the Gwalior Gharana. A renowned scholar, he is also the author of a number of works devoted to music, including 'Sangeetanjali' and 'Pranava Bharati'. He has travelled extensively in Europe.

I present to you Shri Omkarnath Thakur, who has received the Akademi Award for Vocal Music of the Hindustani School.

SHRI ALI AKBAR KHAN

Shri Ali Akbar Khan was born on April 14, 1922 in Shibpore, East Bengal, son of a distinguished father, Shri Allauddin Khan. He received his training from his father, and his uncle Shri Aftabuddin taught him to play tabla and mridang.

Shri Ali Akbar Khan gave his first public performance at the age of fourteen. In 1956 he founded a college of music in Calcutta.

A creative musician of a high order, Shri Ali Akbar Khan has also composed new ragas. Travelling extensively in Europe and America giving recitals, Shri Ali Akbar Khan has been a cultural ambassador worthy of his country.

I present to you Shri Ali Akbar Khan who has received the Akademi Award for Instrumental Music of the Hindustani School.

AWARD HINDUSTANI MUSIC