



HARBHAJAN SINGH NAMDHARI

Akademi Award: Gurbani Kirtan (Punjab)

Born in 1945 in Kujjar village in Sheikhpura district of western Punjab, which now lies in Pakistan, Shri Harbhajan Singh Namdhari received his initial training in Gurbani music from Shri Tara Singh who also taught him to play the Dilruba. His talent for singing was nurtured by several noted teachers including Shri Hazur Singh Chandrahans, Mahadev Prasad Kathak, and Maharaj Bir Singh. Later, he received guidance in Hindustani instrumental music from Ustad Amjad Ali Khan.

Among the foremost singers of Gurbani Kirtan, Shri Harbhajan Singh has channelled his knowledge of classical music into rendering the traditional form. His repertoire of compositions of this devotional music of the Sikhs consists of rare Kirtans and a variety of Dhrupad and Dhamar compositions. Together with practical music, Shri Namdhari has pursued a career in teaching music, and has trained a number of students. He has presented his art in many parts of India, and has also performed in Thailand, Kenya, Canada, the United States, and the United Kingdom.

Shri Harbhajan Singh Namdhari receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for his contribution to the Gurbani music of Punjab.