



JWALA PRASAD

Akademi Award: Music for Dance

Born on 16 July 1956 in Shimla in Himachal Pradesh, Shri Jwala Prasad learnt Hindustani music as well as the folk music of Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan from his father Shiv Prasad.

Based in Delhi, he has carved out a niche for himself as a composer and singer in the field of Kathak dance, accompanying many leading dancers of the day. Shri Jwala Prasad has composed music for Durga Lal, Vijai Shankar, Uma Sharma, Shovana Narayan, and Geetanjali Lal, and accompanied them at prestigious dance festivals within and outside the country. During the 1980s and '90s he performed extensively with Shovana Narayan as she presented Kathak recitals worldwide — in Holland, Germany, Italy, Yugoslavia, Finland, Algeria, Zambia, the erstwhile Soviet Union, Bangladesh, Australia, and several Middle Eastern countries. During this period, he also composed music for dance-dramas choreographed by Shovana Narayan, such as *Umang* (1980), *Dishantar* (1983), *Dhwani-Pratidhwani* (1984), *Pralaya ki Chhaya* (1991), *Mera Safar* (1994), and *Khwahishen* (1994). Thematic and historical productions to which he has lent music include *The Temptation of Vivekananda* (1995), *Classical Dance of India* (2000), and *Geet Govind* (2001). Working with other dancers and institutions, Shri Jwala Prasad has composed music for productions such as *Stree* (2001), *Yadgar-e Ghalib* (2003), *Meghdoot* (2005), *Shri Radha* (2007), and *Indra Sabha* (2011), the last directed by Uma Sharma. Shri Jwala Prasad worked for the Natya Ballet Centre in Delhi from 1974 to 1976, and served All India Radio from 1993 to 2006 as a music composer. He has also given music direction in films in Hindi and other languages. He has many music albums to his credit issued by T-series, TIPS, HMV and Music Today.

Shri Jwala Prasad receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for his contribution to dance music.