



AJAY POHANKAR

Akademi Award: Hindustani Vocal Music

Born on 24 February 1947 in Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh, Shri Ajay Pohankar was initiated into vocal music by his mother Sushila Pohankar. He belongs to the Kirana school of Hindustani music.

Well-established as a concert artist, Shri Ajay Pohankar has performed at major musical events both in India and abroad. Besides the Khayal, he is known for his rendering of Thumri, Ghazal, and devotional songs. He has performed on All India Radio and Doordarshan for many years. Shri Pohankar was formerly a Professor at the Department of Music, University of Bombay (1982-2001), and has wide reputation as a scholar, composer, and teacher. He has trained a large number of students over the period he worked at the University. He has a number of commercial recordings to his credit.

Shri Ajay Pohankar is the recipient of several honours for his work in the field of Hindustani music. Chief among these are the title Surmani bestowed by the Sur Singar Samsad, Mumbai (1970), the Maharashtra Ratna award conferred by the Government of Maharashtra (2006), and the Tansen Samman (2010) presented to him by the Government of Madhya Pradesh.

Shri Ajay Pohankar receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for his contribution to Hindustani vocal music.