



सनातन
संगीत
संस्कृति

Sanatan Sangeet Sanskriti

A Forum for promotion of Music, Dance and other Indian Arts

Sanatan Nritya Samman 2009

conferred on

Pandit Birju Maharaj

Sanatan Sangeet Puraskar 2009

presented to

Shri Pushkar Lele

Sanatan Kalakriti Puraskar 2009

presented to

Ms Prabha Shah

Friday, March 13, 2009 at 6.30 pm

The Fountain Lawns, India International Centre, New Delhi 110 003.

Sanatan Sangeet Sanskriti

“Sanatan” in Sanskrit means “eternal” or “timeless”. The coming into existence of Sanatan Sangeet Sanskriti is the result of the efforts of a group of lovers of music and dance to find a forum-cum-research-institute for music, dance and other Indian arts.

In India, it is believed that the divine principle which was all pervading, before becoming and evolving into the material worlds viz., the Earth, the Planets, the Sun and the Stars which are numberless, was in the form of sound Nadha Brahman which is symbolized by the mystic word “OM”.

Music, dance and art have a unifying effect. They transcend religion, language and other seemingly dividing factors. These three are also one. While dance is music in action, art is a kind of frozen music. It is necessary to promote and encourage music, dance and other arts for the sake of harmony, unity and world peace. Music, dance and art will enable man to understand himself better and to realize his true nature.

The Sanatan Sangeet Sanskriti has been established with the above objectives in view and proposes to engage in the following activities:

- To shape the talents and to enable others to learn and appreciate the art.
- To provide teaching facilities for teaching music classical and light, antique and modern, carnatic and hindustani and dance particularly Bharatanatyam, Odissi, Kathak, Kathakali and Mohiniyattam.
- Providing facilities for research in music, dance and other Indian arts.
- Conducting competitions for young artists in music, dance and to award prizes to encourage them to develop further.
- Awards to outstanding artists to honour them.
- Holding seminars, conferences, meetings and exhibitions.
- Publishing of books, souvenirs, periodicals etc in connection with and in furtherance of the objectives of the Sanskriti.

The Sanskriti constituted two National Awards in 1993 to be presented annually.

The First award '**Sanskriti Sangeet Samman**' is to honour a Senior Artist for his/her Personal Excellence and outstanding contributions to Indian Classical Music.

The Second award '**Sanskriti Sangeet Puraskar**' is given to a young upcoming artist in recognition of his/her talent and potential for excellence.

From 2006 onwards, the Sanskriti has instituted a new award, the '**Sanatan Kalakriti Puraskar**', to be awarded to an artist for his / her contribution in the field of paintings or sculpture



Pt. Birju Maharaj

Born in the family of hereditary dancers, Birju Maharaj is the torch bearer of the famous family, Kalka-Bindadin Gharana of Lucknow, which has been serving the art of Kathak dance through centuries together. Trained by his father and uncles, his first public performance was at the age of seven. He started to teach Kathak at the Sangeet Bharti at the young age of just 13, after which he taught at Bharatiya Kala Kendra in Delhi and also at Kathak Kendra.

Pandit Birju Maharaj is a living legend in the field of Indian classical dance. It is due to his constant efforts that Kathak has reached new heights of popularity and acceptance among a wider audience in the country and around the world. He has choreographed innumerable Kathak dance dramas and sequences for the cinema, performed in concerts, traveled extensively to many countries, and been a Guru to many young students. He has given a new dimension to Kathak, by experimenting this technique in the application of dance-dramas, which has become a very successful medium for mass propagation. As a choreographer he is the finest in the country today. His bold and intellectual compositions in traditional themes are brilliant, whereas his contemporary works are also refreshing in concept, crisp and entertaining.

Pandit Birju Maharaj is not just a flawless dancer, but a noted vocalist in Hindustani classical music as well. He is a wonderful singer having command over, Thumri, Dadra, Bhajan and Ghazals and is also a superb drummer, playing nearly all drums with ease and precision.

He has been a recipient of a large number of awards, including the Padma Vibhushan, Sangeet Natak Akademi Award and Kalidasa Samman.



Pushkar Lele

A promising artiste of the young generation, Pushkar has emerged today as an international artiste whose style reflects an aesthetic blend of contemplation in music and technical excellence.

Pushkar's gayaki has evolved from an intense and deep study of the unique singing styles and musical ideology of Late Pt. Kumar Gandharva. Guided by his Guru Pt. Vijay Sardeshmukh and Pt. Satyasheel Deshpande on this path, Pushkar has showcased his deep understanding of the spirituality and the musical intricacies of this gayaki.

He has featured in several popular television and radio programmes. A graded artiste of All India Radio (AIR), he also presents Natyasangeet, Bhavgeet, Bhajan, Tappa, Thumri, Dadra, Hori and other semi-classical and folk forms with exceptional ease and expertise.

He is a recipient of the Central Government scholarship for classical vocal music awarded by the Centre for Cultural Resources and Training as well as the scholarship from the Department of Culture. He is also the recipient of numerous prestigious awards including Pandit Jasraj Gaurav Puraskar, Pandit Vishnu Digambar Paluskar Award, Dr. Vasant Rao Deshpande Yuva Kalakaar Puraskar, 'Sur Mani', Gayanacharya Ramkrishnabua Vaze Puraskar, and Sudhir Phadke Yuvonmesh Puraskar. Pushkar performs regularly all over India and has also performed in several other countries.



Prabha Shah

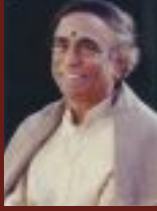
Born and raised in Rajasthan, Prabha is a living testimony of the courage, determination and persistence of human spirit to triumph over the heaviest odds. Deprived of hearing since birth, she long ago made up for that infliction by dogged perseverance and single-mindedness.

Trained by well known artist-teachers like Bill Wheaton, P.N. Choyal and Rameshwar Broota, Prabha's paintings have an unmistakable influence of her roots. She uses doorways, cities, streets, and the desert from her native Rajasthan in a complex juxtaposition of style, colour, and technique.

The colourful textures in her works depict the organic movements of nature, architecture and pathways that look like mirages from a distance. Beyond the strikingly different imagery and techniques, Prabha more poignantly contrasts Eastern and Western philosophy, perception, and intellect. In doing so, she effectively transcends culturally specific themes and symbolism producing works that are personal and reflective yet universally mysterious and compelling.

Born in the year of India's Independence, Prabha has held over 25 solo exhibitions of her paintings in India and abroad.

Sanatan Sangeet Sanskriti Awardees



In 1993, the Sanatan Sangeet Sanskriti constituted two national awards to be presented annually.

Following are the awardees in the past:

Sanatan Sangeet Samman

- Pandit Bhimsen Joshi
- Shri Lalgudi Jayaraman
- Smt Sonal Mansingh
- Smt Kishori Amonkar
- Dr L Subramaniam
- Ustad Amjad Ali Khan
- Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia

Sanatan Sangeet Puraskar

- Kumari Vijayalakshmi
- Smt Kavita Dwivedi
- Shri A R Rahman
- Mandolin Srinivas
- Kumari Arushi Mudgal
- Kumari Mythili Prakash
- Smt Monisa Nayak

The 'Sanatan Kalakriti Puraskar' has been presented to Shri Manav Gupta in 2006, Shri Subrata Kundu in 2007, and Smt Shuchi Khanna in 2008.

Sanatan Sangeet Sanskriti

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