

# Recipients



**Shri Yeshavant Sadashiva Pandit Mirashi Buwa**

Shri Yeshavant Sadashiva Pandit was born at Belgaum in 1883 and had his training in vocal music from the late Pandit Balkrishna Buwa Ichalkaranjkar, the well-known exponent of Gwalior *Gharana*.

Gifted with a rich sonorous voice and deeply rooted in the tradition, his music is marked by a purity of style. His association with the Marathi stage also has been long and distinguished. He has greatly contributed to the development of the *Sangeet Shastra* and his large collection of the old compositions of the Gwalior *Gharana* has enriched the contemporary musical repertoire. He is a great artist, a venerable teacher and a sincere devotee of the art.

**Shri Kanthe Maharaj**

Shri Kanthe Maharaj was born on 15th September, 1879. He learnt *Tabla* since his childhood from late Pt. Baldeo Sahaiji, and at present he is the most outstanding representative of the traditional Banaras *Gharana* of the late Pt. Ram Sahai.

Shri Kanthe Maharaj has profound knowledge of *laya* and *tala* and his performances, both solo and as an accompanist, are characterised by variety and imagination. He is well-known all over the country and noted musicians, connoisseurs and art organisations have conferred innumerable titles and honours on him for his achievement. He is equally respected as a teacher.

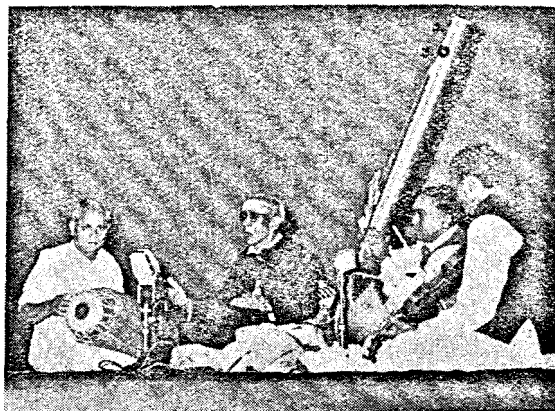


### Shri Mudikondan C. Venkatarama Iyer

Born on 15th October, 1897, in a family of illustrious musicians, Shri Venkatarama Iyer was fortunate to have a number of veterans as his teachers, from whom he learnt vocal music since his childhood.

Shri Venkatarama Iyer is a specialist in *Ragam*, *Tanam*, *Neraval* and *Pallavi*. He is an expert both in theory and practice of Karnatic music, and strives to retain and demonstrate the true aspects of the traditional style. He has won acclaim from connoisseurs as an excellent performer.

Shri Venkatarama Iyer has received the honour of *Sangeetha Kalanidhi*. He is also an author of several books on music.

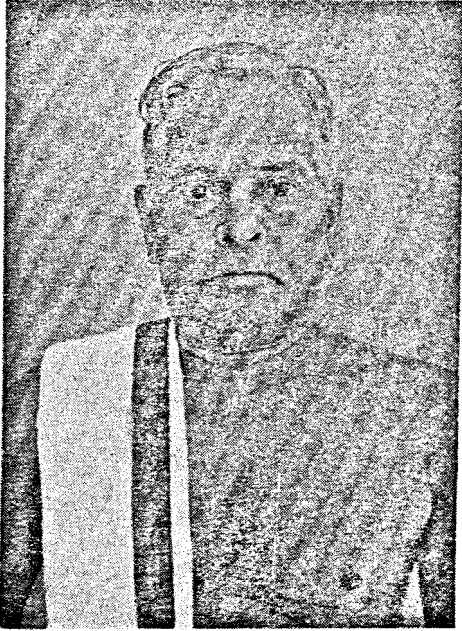


### Late Shri T. N. Swaminatha Pillai

Born on 12th September, 1899, at Tiruppamparam, a village in Tanjore, Shri Swaminatha Pillai came of a family of musicians and music scholars. Since his very childhood he showed aptitude in flute-playing and under the able training of his father soon became an expert in the art.

His music was replete with sweetness and richness of equally balanced *Ragabhava* and *Layabhava*. His *Swaraprasthana* was noted for its musical excellence and his *Raga Alapana* was subtle and to the point. His exposition of *Kritis* conformed to true classical tradition.

He was an author of five well-known works on Karnatic music and for his outstanding merit he had received the title of *Sangeetha Kalanidhi*.



### **Shri Thekinkattil Ramunni Nair**

Shri Ramunni Nair was born in August, 1888, at Tachanathekara, a village in Malabar. Since his very childhood he had the rare opportunity of learning the art of *Kathakali* dance from no less a veteran than the late Guru Pattikkamthody Ravunni Menon.

Shri Ramunni Nair has distinguished himself both in the female and male roles and some of his portrayals have been memorable. His widespread fame as a *Kathakali* actor and dancer is well deserved.

He has also trained up several talented artists some of whom have distinguished themselves. He has published a book on the art of Acting and *Kathakali*.

### **Shri Takhelchanbam Amudon Sarma**

Shri Amudon Sarma was born in December, 1886, in a family of traditional *Rasdharis* of Manipur and was naturally fortunate to receive training in the art of Manipuri dancing and *Pung* playing from reputed masters.

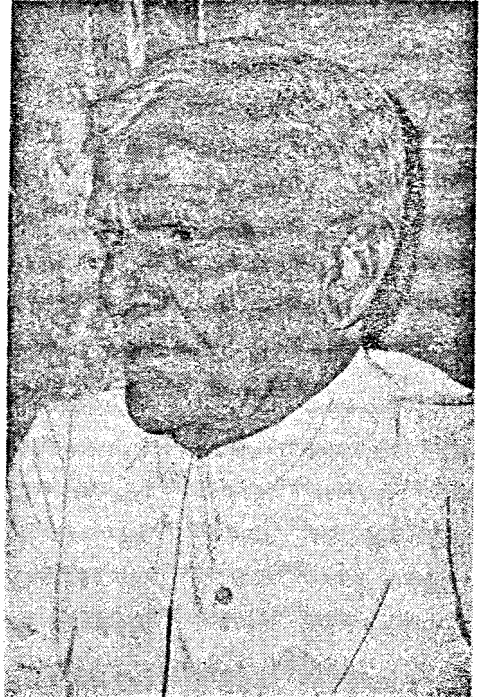
He began to appear in *Raslila* performances since his very childhood and very soon established himself as a talented dancer. Following his family tradition he started teaching dancing from an early age and has many well-known dancers of the present day among his pupils.



### **Shri Prabhu' al Dayaram Dwivedi**

Born on 15th November, 1892, at Virpur (Saurashtra), Shri Prabhulal Dwivedi started writing for the stage in 1916, and has been in the profession since then.

He has written over 60 plays on a variety of themes of mythological, historical and social nature. His plays are well-known for their popular appeal and reveal a sympathetic treatment of character and intimate knowledge of human life. Some of his plays have had a continuous run of more than 200 nights before packed audiences. He has also composed a large number of songs for plays.



### **Shri Kasambhai Nathubhai Mir**

Shri Kasambhai Nathubhai Mir was born in 1905, at Umri, a village near Ahmedabad in Gujarat. Stage being his family profession, he took to acting at a very early age. Soon he became a reputed actor and has been an extremely popular hero of the Gujarati professional stage.

He started directing plays at an early age of 21 and for this also he has been equally distinguished. He has directed and set to music more than 50 plays. Most of his plays have gained a wide popularity.



**Shri Mitradev Mahanta Adhikar**

Shri Mitradev Mahanta Adhikar was born in 1894, at Letur-gram Sattrra at Jorhat, and has been on the stage ever since 1916, being one of the top-ranking actors of Assam, successfully covering a variety of roles in mythological, historical and social plays.

Shri Mitradev Mahanta Adhikar is well-known as a comic actor of a very high order. Having retired after 35 years of service in the educational line he has been still intimately associating himself with the modern theatre movement. He is a reputed director, writer of plays and lyrics and a renowned singer, all rolled into one.

**Shri Sthanam Narasimharau**

Born at Bapatla in Andhra Pradesh, in September 1902, Shri Sthanam Narasimharau entered the stage in 1920, and soon became famous for his acting, particularly in the female roles. During his long career on the stage, he has appeared in more than 1500 performances.

As a versatile actor, playwright, director, organiser and patron of the theatre, his contribution to the Telugu stage has been varied and significant and universally recognised. He received many titles and honours for his outstanding merit.





### **Shri Mysore Venkatappa Subbaiya Naidu**

Shri M. V. Subbaiya Naidu was born in 1895. While a young boy he attracted the attention of late Shri M. V. Mandappa, a famous actor and proprietor of a leading dramatic company at Mysore, who recognised his talent and encouraged and trained him in the dramatic art.

After successfully working in several dramatic companies Shri Subbaiya Naidu organised his own troupe in 1933, and gradually won recognition as an actor and a man of the theatre. He has also trained a number of young enthusiasts for the stage. He is a reputed actor and director of *Kannada* films.

### **Shri Samuel Sahu**

Born in March, 1918, the life of Shri Samuel Sahu from infancy is chequered with vicissitudes.

However, when Shri Samuel Sahu was only 21, the artist that was dormant in him gave response to the clarion call of his Guru in stage acting, Shri Kavichandra Kalicharan Patnaik, and spasmodically expressed thereafter.

Shri Samuel Sahu joined a few theatrical concerns and was crowned with great success. He has produced and directed more than 60 Oriya dramas on professional stage. He is also acclaimed as one of the leading artists of the Orissan screen.





#### **Smt. Lalita Pawar**

Smt. Lalita Pawar was born on 18th April, 1918. She started her film career in the early teens, and enacted the roles of heroines up to 1944 with crowning success. Thereafter she has been working as a Character Artist.

Smt. Lalita Pawar is a versatile actress and has appeared in nearly 100 pictures from silent days to talkies. Through her performance she sheds lustre on the firmament of the film world and her name is legion.

#### **Shri Ram Chandra Dwivedi "Pradeep"**

Born at Baranagar, Madhya Pradesh, on 6th February, 1915, Shri Pradeep had an inner urge to write poems from his school days.

Having obtained his degree from the University of Lucknow he came to Bombay in 1939 and started his career as a lyric composer in Bombay Talkies. Soon he rose to prominence and became the topmost lyric writer of films in the country. His songs are sung everywhere by the young and the old alike.

Shri Pradeep has brought a renaissance in the entire trend of film lyrics, and will be ever remembered for his national songs.



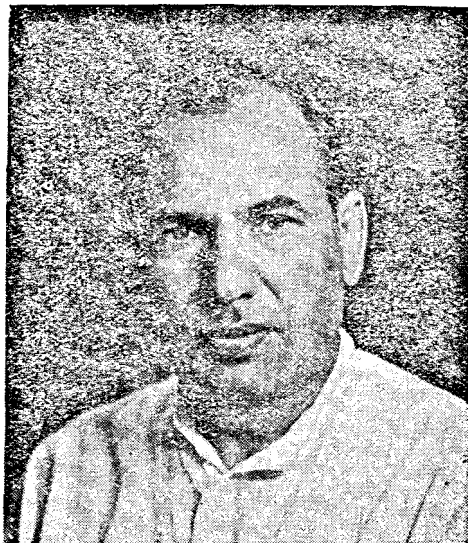


### Shri Mukhram Sharma

Born on 29th May, 1909, at Puthi, a village in Meerut district of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Mukhram Sharma started writing stories from his boyhood.

He came to limelight when a few of his writings were published, and within a short period his stories began to supply themes to the film producers. His stories for their literary character and wide appeal are mostly sought after in the present day.

He has won the hearts of his spectators for his masterly treatment of taking up social problems and solving them in his plots.

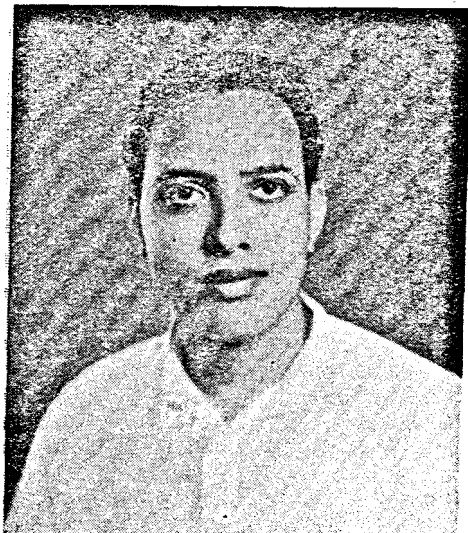


### Shri Bapurao Khude Narayangaonkar

Born in 1912 at Narayangaon, Shri Bapurao Khude Narayangaonkar received inspiration and training in the art of *Tamasha*, the traditional dance of Maharashtra from late Shri Patthe Bapurao Retharekar.

Gifted with high-pitched voice, love of art and noble aspirations Shri Bapurao Khude received applause and distinction wherever he toured with his troupe. His exhibitions are acclaimed as the best all over Maharashtra. He has also been attempting to reform the art of *Tamasha*.





**Shri Vedantam Satyanarayana**

Shri Vedantam Satyanarayana was born in April, 1937, in a family of distinguished *Nattuvanars* whose glorious tradition he has kept up. Trained by acknowledged masters of the *Kuchipudi* art, he has mastered the art and is well-known for his roles of *Usha* in *Ushaparinayam* and *Bhama* in *Bhamakalapam* which are full of grace and naturalness.