



Left to right : Shri Govindrao Burhanpurkar, Shri Anant Manohar Joshi, Shri Shambhoo Maharaj, Shri Rajratnam Pillai, Shri M. Viswanath Iyer, Shri Gubbi Veeranna, Shri Bal Gandharva, Smt. Bala Saraswathy.

AKADAMI AWARDS FOR 1955

AT a special function held on 27th March 1955, Dr. Radhakrishnan, the vice-President of the Indian Republic presented the Akadami Awards to four musicians, two dancers and two actors.

For their pre-eminence in music Shri Anant Manohar Joshi (Hindustani vocal), Shri Govindrao Burhanpurkar (Hindustani Instrumental), Shri Maharajpuram Viswanath Iyer (Karnatic vocal), Shri Rajratnam Pillai (Karnatic Instrumental) were awarded a Shawl, a gold Shrinkhal and a Sanad.

For their pre-eminence in dancing Smt. Bala Saraswati (Bharatnatyam) and Shri Shambhoo Maharaj (Kathak) were awarded a brocade Angavastram, a gold Mala and a Sanad.

For their pre-eminence in acting and for long devotion and service to the cause Shri Gubbi Veeranna and Shri Narayan Rao Rajhans (Bal Gandharva) were awarded a brocade Angavastram, a lotus embossed leaf in gold and a Sanad.

MUSICIANS

SHRI ANANT MANOHAR JOSHI

Shri Anant Manohar Joshi is the pupil of the late Bal Krishna Bua Ichalkaranjikar. His main forte is the Khayal and his *gayaki* belongs to what is known as "Hadoo Hassoo Khan Gharana" of Gwalior.

He is an outstanding exponent of this style and technique, and, unlike most singers, his Tans are noted for variety, dexterity and grace. He has complete mastery even at this ripe old age over what is termed as "Lahak-ki-tan". His *gayaki* is dignified, enchanting, full of depth and has sustaining appeal.

He is over 80 years of age and has distinguished himself in many *Mahfils*. He has been a teacher of music for over 30 years and is now practically in retirement. Shri Anant Bua, or Antu Bua as he is popularly called, still surprises his audience with his resonant voice and the development and elaboration of the *raga*.

SHRI GOVINDRAO BURHANPURKAR

Shri Govindrao Burhanpurkar belongs to the traditional *parampara* of the renowned Nana Sahib Panse *Gharana* and is a pupil of the late Shri Sakhamamji of Indore.

He is perhaps the oldest Pakhawaj player living and is an outstanding exponent of its technique. He excels in demonstrating rhythmic and cross-rhythmic evolution of "Bols" on the Pakhawaj. The fluency and sweetness with which he performs is very remarkable.

He is over 70 years of age and though a master in the art of accompaniment, he is a solo performer of rare quality. He has not only many disciples but has also written several books on the Pakhawaj and Tabla, and is a scholar of eminence.

SHRI MAHARAJPURAM VISWANATH IYER

Born at Maharajpuram in Tanjore District, his merits as a musician were recognised very early. He belongs to the *Shishya parampara* of Shri Thyagaraja, and is a pupil of Uruyalpuram Swaminatha Iyer and Palani Shri Rangappa Iyer.

While maintaining the purity of the Raga, he exhibits remarkable originality. His *Alapanas* and *Kalpana Swaras* have always been a treat. He was awarded the title of "Sangeet Bhoopathy" in 1939 and "Sangeet Kalanidhi" by the Madras Academy in 1945. He has also distinguished himself as a great teacher and contributed a lot for the revival of Karnatic music, and has been honoured as Asthan Vidwan by the Travancore, Mysore and Pudukottah States.

SHRI RAJRATNAM PILLAI

Shri Rajratnam is the foremost player on the Nagaswaram and belongs to a family devoted to playing this instrument. He is the nephew and adopted son of the late Tirumarugal Natesam Pillai.

His merits as a musician were recognised very early and he has now developed a new technique, which is responsible for giving his performances a peculiar charm and thrill. He is endowed with a creative faculty and is able to perform *Alapana* of any *raga* for a considerable time. His technique of blowing is unique, the sound sweet and melodious and the style pure. His performances command great appreciation and respect. He has been awarded the titles of "Nadaswara Chakravarti", "Sangeet Ratnakar", and "Isai Mannar" by His Holiness Shri Sankaracharya.

DANCERS

SMT. BALASARASWATHY

Smt. Balasaraswathy comes of a hereditary great family of musicians and is the grand daughter of the late Veena Dhanammal, an institution by herself. She is the pupil of Shri Kandappan, a great teacher.

She is an outstanding exponent of Bharat Natyam, and excels in *Abhinayam* particularly *Bhava*. She executes with perfection the *Trikala Tirmanas* (rhythmical phrases of foot-work). She is a creative artist of the highest order, and has a large repertoire of rare collections. Her performances command great

appreciation and she is at present conducting a school of dancing under the Madras Music Academy.

SHRI SHAMBHOO MAHARAJ

Shri Shambhoo Maharaj belongs to the traditional family of dancers known as "Lucknow Gharana" and is the son of the Late Kalka Prasad and nephew of the Late Shri Bindadin of Lucknow. He is the brother and

pupil of the Late Achhan Maharaj, a great teacher.

Shri Shambhoo Maharaj is an outstanding exponent of the Kathak technique and executes with perfection and amazing skill intricate *parans* and *bols*. His foot-work is delicate and expressive of subtle variations. He however excels in *Abhinaya* and *Bhava*, particularly *Bhava*. He is at present teaching dancing in a School conducted by the Bharatiya Kala Kendra, Delhi.

ACTORS

SHRI GUBBI VEERANNA

Shri Gubbi Veeranna's merits as an actor were recognised very early, and he has been associated with dramatic organisations since 1896. Shri Veeranna is 65 years of age and is one of the seniormost comedians. Even at this age his performances are eagerly witnessed by people. He has been awarded the title of "Natak Ratna" and "versatile comedian" by His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore. Shri Gubbi Veeranna is a nominated member of the Mysore State Legislative Council.

SHRI BAL GANDHARVA

Shri Bal Gandharva entered the stage in 1905 and till this day is an actor of extraordinary merit. He has dominated the Marathi stage for over three decades. He is specially known for his emotional and expressive acting in feminine roles. He has appeared on the stage in important roles in different plays, historic, *puranic* and social. He is an accomplished singer and has spent his life working for the progress and development of the stage.