



## VIJAY KUMAR KICHLU

Fellowship of Sangeet Natak Akademi

Shri Vijay Kumar Kichlu was born on 16 September 1930 in Almora in present-day Uttaranchal. He received his initial training in music under Nathuram Sharma, and while at college in Varanasi, he became a disciple of Moinuddin Dagar and Aminuddin Dagar. Later, he benefited by guidance in music from Latafat Hussain Khan of the Agra gharana. He holds a Master's degree in History from the University of Allahabad.

A musician of the Agra gharana, Shri Vijay Kichlu has an impressive record of public performances. He has also been performing over All India Radio and Doordarshan. Stylistically, his forte lies in alapchari in madhya laya in the traditional Dhrupad manner, using the bol-tans that are characteristic of his gharana's gayaki. After a successful career as a business executive, Shri Vijay Kichlu headed the Sangeet Research Academy at Calcutta set up by the Indian Tobacco Company in 1977. As Executive Director of the institution till 2001, he committed himself totally to the preservation and propagation of classical music. An erudite musician and a fluent speaker on music, Shri Vijay Kichlu's is a well-known name in musical circles both in India and other countries. His lecture-demonstrations and workshops have always attracted enthusiastic participants and listeners both in India and abroad.

Shri Kichlu has been associated with many prestigious institutions in various capacities such as Member – General Assembly, ICCR (1987), and Member – General Council, Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi (2009-2014). He has also been nominated by the Planning Commission (Tourism and Culture Division) as a member of the Working Group on Culture for the Twelfth Five Year Plan (2012-17). Shri Kichlu has to his credit a book titled *Raga Revelry*; a four hour audio-visual documentary on Indian music; and 'Gyan', a Raga Sangeet Educational Series comprising of five albums.

Shri Vijay Kichlu has been honoured by many prestigious organizations both in India and the West. He is an Honorary Citizen of the State of Maryland and Honorary Mayor of Baltimore. Besides, he has been honoured by the Kala Vipanchee by Dr Balamurali Krishna Trust, Chennai (1997), and the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award (2006).

Shri Vijay Kumar Kichlu is elected Fellow of Sangeet Natak Akademi for his contribution to Indian Music.