



TULSIDAS VASANT BORKAR
Fellowship of Sangeet Natak Akademi

Born on 18 November 1934 in the town of Borim in Goa, Shri Tulsidas Vasant Borkar received his initial training in music from his mother Jayashri Vasant Borkar, and was subsequently a student of Vishnupant Vashta. At the same time, he received guidance in the art of harmonium accompaniment from the eminent vocalist Chhota Gandharva. The major part of his training in harmonium, from 1957 to 1967, was spent as a student of the harmonium maestro P. Madhukar. To widen his musical horizons, Shri Tulsidas Borkar has also sought and received valuable guidance from vocal musicians like S.C.R. Bhat, K.G. Ginde, Ram Marathe, and Devendra Murdeshwar.

Shri Tulsidas Borkar initially gained renown as an organ player in the Marathi musical drama, accompanying leading singer-actors of the period. Under the guidance of P. Madhukar, he then developed his own style of music on the harmonium, blending vocal and instrumental usages in the stage performance. He went on to modify the structure of the harmonium, raising the keyboard, and developed a new tuning technique for better performance. Shri Borkar has changed the visual structure of the harmonium to facilitate the audience to observe the finger movements of the player.

Shri Tulsidas Borkar has trained many students; these include Kedar Naphade, Sudhir Nayak, Seema Shirodkar, Niranjan Lele, Ajay Joglekar among others. Well known as an accompanist as well as a solo performer, Shri Borkar has participated in most of the prestigious music festivals in India and abroad. He has published a book on harmonium-playing titled *Samadini Sadhna*, and has given lecture-demonstrations on the subject in India and abroad.

Shri Borkar has received numerous awards for his work; these include the ITC Sangeet Research Academy Award (2001), the Balagandharva Puraskar (2001) bestowed by the Akhil Bharatiya Marathi Natya Parishad, and the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award (2005).

Shri Tulsidas Vasant Borkar is elected Fellow of Sangeet Natak Akademi for his contribution to Indian Music.