



**Akademi
Awards 1988**



MUSIC IN THE MEDIA Shri Salil Chowdhury



Born 1925 in Gazipur, West Bengal, Shri Salil Chowdhury learnt music at home, in his immediate and extended family. Graduating from Calcutta University, he joined the IPTA (Indian Peoples' Theatre Association) movement in 1944, emerging as one of its leaders in Bengal. The songs he composed in this period — often based on the work of contemporary poets — were an unprecedented musical phenomenon, reflecting as never before the social and political concerns of the era.

In 1951 Shri Salil Chowdhury began his career as a composer in films with

Paribartan in Bengali. Moving to Bombay in 1953, he composed the music for *Do Bigha Zamin* and several other films of Shri Bimal Roy. *Madhumati*, *Kabliwala* and Raj Kapoor's *Jagte Raho* are among the numerous films, in several languages, for which he has composed music. His corpus of songs exceeds a thousand, remarkable for their freshness and easy assimilation of musical influences from many quarters. Among many honours, Shri Salil Chowdhury received a Filmfare Award for *Madhumati* in 1958, the HMV Silver Disc in 1976, and the Allauddin Smriti Puraskar in 1985 from the Government of West Bengal.

Shri Salil Chowdhury receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for his contribution to music in the media.