



**BANAMALI MAHARANA**  
**Akademi Award : Odissi Music**

*Born in 1941 in Raghurajpur village of Orissa, Shri Banamali Maharana displayed high ability in playing tala instruments even as a child. He drew inspiration from the Raslila of Shri Mohan Sunder Dev Goswamy and learned to play the Khol and Dholak without the benefit of formal training. Upon joining the Annapurna Theatre, he was trained in the Tabla and Mardala of Orissa by leading musicians such as Shri Singhari Shyamsundar Kar and Shri Kshetramohan Kar. The turning point in his musical career came in the course of his work with Shri Kelucharan Mohapatra, under whose inspiration Shri Moharana was able to systematize the style of playing the Mardala in Odissi music and dance.*

*Shri Maharana initially taught the Mardala at the Kala Vikash Kendra, Cuttack. Subsequently, he moved to the Utkal Sangeet Mahavidyalaya, Bhubaneswar, where he worked as a teacher until his retirement in 1999. During this period, Shri Maharana was responsible for preparing the curriculum for a seven-year course in Mardala music at the Mahavidyalaya, leading to a postgraduate diploma.*

*Apart from his work as a teacher, Shri Maharana has performed extensively in national and international festivals, accompanying on the Mardala leading Odissi dancers such as Shrimati Sanjukta Panigrahi, Shrimati Priyambada Mohanty-Hejmadi, and Shrimati Sonal Mansingh. Shri Balakrishna Das, Shri Bhubaneswar Misra, and Shri Raghunath Panigrahi are some of the vocalists he has accompanied on stage. Shri Maharana has trained a number of well-known artists, who today propagate his style in Mardala-playing.*

*Shri Maharana has been honoured for his work by several institutions in Orissa. He received the Orissa Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1994.*

*Shri Banamali Maharana receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for his contribution to Odissi music as a Mardala artist.*