



## AKADEMI AWARDS 1972

### Begum Akhtar

I present to you, Sir, Begum Akhtar.

Begum Akhtar, born on 7th October, 1914 at Faizabad, is one of the foremost vocalists today. She had her training in Hindustani classical music with Ata Mohammad Khan of the Patiala *gharana* and Abdul Wahid Khan of the Kirana *gharana* and made her debut at the age of seven.

Begum Akhtar is well known for her singing of *thumri* and *dadra*, in which she has combined both the *poorab* and the *punjab* styles with a characteristic flavour of her own. Her rendering of *ghazals* is of a rare quality.

She has been on extensive concert tours abroad, and the Government of India honoured her with the 'Padma Sri'.

For her eminence in the field of music and her contribution to its enrichment, Begum Akhtar receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for Hindustani Vocal Music.