

SANJUKTA PANIGRAHI and RAGHUNATH PANIGRAHI

I present to you, Sir, Smt. Sanjukta Panigrahi and her husband, Shri Raghunath Panigrahi.

Smt. Sanjukta Panigrahi is one of the leading exponents of the Orissi dance and Shri Raghunath Panigrahi of Orissi music.

Smt. Sanjukta Panigrahi started her pursuit of dance as a student of Bharata Natyam at Kalakshetra, Madras. She later on took to Orissi dance, under the tutelage of Kelucharan Mohapatra. She has since performed very extensively, both in India and abroad. She has received several honours and titles for her work, including the Nrityoshiromani of the Prayag Sangeet Samiti, the singarmani of the Swami Haridas Sammelan and the Padmashri. She has also earned recognition as a teacher and choreographer in the style.

Shri Raghunath Panigrahi received training in classical music from his father Nilamani Panigrahi and from Muddupapa Rao and D.V. Paluskar. He began his professional career as a singer of devotional songs with All India Radio, Cuttack. Since then he has travelled a long way and is today one of the most admired singers both on the stage and the screen, in Oriya of course but also in Tamil, Telugu and Kannada. His soulful rendering of Jaideva's Geet Govinda, too, has earned him high recognition.

Shri Raghunath Panigrahi has performed widely at home and also outside. He has a number of commercial discs to his credit.

For their eminence in the field of the Performing Arts and their contribution to its enrichment Smt. Sanjukta Panigrahi and Shri Raghunath Panigrahi receive, jointly, the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for Orissi Dance and Orissi Music.

