



TULSIDAS VASANT BORKAR

Akademi Award: Hindustani Instrumental Music (Harmonium)

Shri Tulsidas Vasant Borkar was born in 1934 in the town of Borim in Goa. He received his initial lessons in music from his mother Jayashree 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. Madbukar. 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. Madbukar, 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.

Well known as an accompanist as well as solo performer, Shri Borkar has participated in most of the prestigious music festivals in the country; he has also toured Europe, the United States, and the Gulf states extensively. He has published a book on harmonium-playing titled Samvadini Sadhana, and has given lecture-demonstrations on the subject in India and the U.S. Shri Borkar has received several honours for his work including the ITC Sangeet Research Academy Award (2001), and the Balagandharva Puraskar (2001) bestowed by the Akhil Bharatiya Marathi Natya Parishad.

Shri Tulsidas Borkar receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for his contribution to Hindustani instrumental music.