



UMAKANT GUNDECHA and RAMAKANT GUNDECHA (Gundecha Brothers)

Akademi Award (Joint Award): Hindustani Vocal Music

Shri Umakant Gundecha and Shri Ramakant Gundecha were born on 8 May 1959 and 24 November 1962 respectively at Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh. Together known as the Gundecha Brothers, they received training in Dhrupad music from Zia Fariddudin Dagar and Zia Mohiuddin Dagar.

The Gundecha brothers have established Dhrupad Kendra, a Gurukul for the promotion of Dhrupad and trained many students. They have been associated with many prestigious cultural institutions around the world in various capacities such as the Founder Member of Dhrupad Music Institute of America, and Trustee of Bharat Bhavan, Bhopal. Many prestigious institutions and television channels have documented the Gundecha Brothers in India and abroad. Recipients of the National Fellowship from the Government of India, they have performed in many prestigious music festivals in India and abroad. They have many recordings to their credit.

For their contribution to Dhrupad music, they have been honoured with many prestigious titles and awards. These include the Sanskriti Award (1993); the Pandit Kumar Gandharva Award (1998); the Dagar Gharana Award (2001); the Puttaraj Gawai Award (2010); the Padma Shri conferred by the Government of India (2012); the Madhya Pradesh Gaurav Samman (2017); and the Swati Tirunal Samman bestowed by Dhrupad Mela, Varanasi (2018).

Shri Umakant Gundecha and Shri Ramakant Gundecha receive the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for 2017 for their contribution to Hindustani vocal music.