



VIJAY KUMAR KICHLU
Akademi Award: Hindustani Music (Vocal)

Shri Vijay Kichlu was born in 1930 in Almora in present-day Uttaranchal. He received his initial training in music under Nathuram Sharma, and while at college in Varanasi he became a disciple of Moinuddin Dagar and Aminuddin Dagar. Later, he benefited by guidance in music from Latafat Hussain Khan of the Agra gharana. He holds a Master's degree in history from the University of Allahabad.

A musician of the Agra gharana, Shri Vijay Kichlu has an impressive record of public performances. He has also been performing over All India Radio and Doordarshan. Stylistically, his forte lies in alapchari in madhya laya in the traditional Dhrupad manner, using the bol-tans that are characteristic of his gharana's gayaki.

After a successful career as a business executive, Shri Vijay Kichlu headed the Sangeet Research Academy at Calcutta set up by the India Tobacco Company. As Executive Director of the institution, he committed himself totally to the preservation and propagation of classical music.

An erudite musician and a fluent speaker on music, Shri Vijay Kichlu's is a well-known name in musical circles both in India and other countries. His lecture-demonstrations and workshops have always attracted enthusiastic participants and listeners.

For his varied work as a performer, institution-builder, and propagator of music, Shri Vijay Kichlu has been honoured by organizations both in India and the West. He is an Honorary Citizen of the State of Maryland and Honorary Mayor of Baltimore — honours which he for his work towards promotion of Indian music in the United States.

Shri Vijay Kichlu receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for his contribution to Hindustani vocal music.