

## VISHNUDASS SHIRALI

I present to you, Sir, Shri Vishnudass Shirali.

Born in 1907, at Hubli, Shri Shirali is a leading figure in music. He studied Hindustani vocal music with Vishnu Digambar Paluskar and instrumental music with Bhayya Saheb Ashtewale and Allauddin Khan. Shri Shirali also studied Western music, in its theory and composition aspects, under the Conductor Hans Oppenheim.

Shri Shirali served as Principal of the Gandharva Maha Vidyalaya, at Lahore, in 1927-28 and ran a school of Indian music in London in 1929. From 1931 to 1944 he was Music Director for the celebrated dancer, Uday Shankar. Later, for over twelve years, he served as Director of Music for the Films Division, Government of India.

Shri Shirali has toured abroad extensively, on professional work. He wrote and published a book on Indian music in 1937. He has composed and directed music for a number of Indian ballets and films and is recognised as one of the foremost artistes in the field of modern creative music.

For his eminence in the field of Music and his contribution to its enrichment, Shri Vishnudass Shirali receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for Creative Music.

