PRESS RELEASE

Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards (Akademi Puraskar) for the Year 2017

The General Council of the Sangeet Natak Akademi, the National Academy of Music, Dance and Drama, New Delhi at its meeting held on 8 June 2018 in Imphal (Manipur) has selected forty-two (42) artists from the field of Music, Dance, Theatre, Traditional/Folk/Tribal Music/Dance/Theatre, Puppetry and Overall contribution/scholarship in the Performing Arts for the Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards (Akademi Puraskar) for the year 2017. These forty-two (42) artists include one joint award.

In the field of Music, eleven eminent artists, namely Lalith J Rao - Hindustani Vocal, Umakant Gundecha and Ramakant Gundecha (Gundecha Brothers) (Joint Award) - Hindustani Vocal, Yogesh Samsi - Hindustani Instrumental- Tabla, Rajendra Prasanna - Hindustani Instrumental - Shehnai/Flute, M.S.Sheela - Carnatic Vocal, Suma Sudhindra - Carnatic Instrumental – Veena, Tiruvarur Vaidyanathan - Carnatic Instrumental – Mridangam, Shashank Subramanyam - Carnatic Instrumental – Flute, Madhurani- Other Major Traditions of Music -Sugam Sangeet, Haimanti Sukla -Other Major Traditions of Music -Sugam Sangeet, Gurnam Singh - Other Major Traditions of Music - Gurbani, have been selected for the Akademi Awards 2017.

In the Field of Dance, nine eminent artists have been selected for the Akademi Awards 2017, namely, Rama Vaidyanathan for Bharatanatyam, Shobha Koser for Kathak, Madambi Subramanian for Kathakali, L.N.Oinam Ongbi Dhoni Devi for Manipuri, Deepika Reddy for Kuchipudi, Sujata Mohapatra for Odissi, Ramkrishna Talukdar for Sattriya, Janmajay Saibabu for Chhau, Aashit Desai for Music for Dance.
In the field of Theatre, nine eminent artists have been selected for the Akademi Awards 2017, Abhiram Bhadakamkar for Playwriting, Sunil Shanbagh for Direction, Bapi Bose for Direction, Hema Singh for Acting, Deepak Tiwari for Acting, Anil Tickoo for Acting, Nuruddin Ahmed for Allied Theatre Arts - (Stage Craft), Avtar Sahani for Allied Theatre Arts - (Lighting), Shougrakpam Hemanta Singh for Other Major Traditions of Theatre - Shumang Leela, Manipur.

In the field of Traditional/Folk/Tribal Music/Dance/Theatre and Puppetry, ten artists have been selected for the Akademi Awards 2017, they are Anwar Khan Manganiyar, Folk Music, Rajasthan, Prakash Khandge, Folk Arts, Maharashtra Jagannath Bayan, Traditional Music - Khol, Assam, Ramchandra Majhi, Folk Music, Bihar, Rakesh Tiwari, Folk Theatre, Chhattisgarh, Parvathy Baul, Folk Music (Baul), West Bengal, Saravjit Kaur, Folk Music, Punjab, K.C. Runremsangi, Folk Music, Mizoram, Mukund Nayak, Folk Music, Jharkhand, Sudip Gupta, Puppetry, West Bengal.

Vijay Verma and Sandhya Purecha have been selected for the Akademi Award 2017 in the field of Overall Contribution/Scholarship in the Performing Arts.

The honour of Akademi Award has been conferred since 1952. These honours not only symbolize the highest standard of excellence and achievements, but also recognize sustained individual work and contribution. The honour of Akademi Award carries with it Rs 1,00,000/- (Rupees one lakh), besides a Tamrapatra and Angavastram.

The Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards will be conferred by the Hon’ble President of India in a special investiture ceremony.

The list of Sangeet Natak Akademi Awardees for the year 2017 is enclosed herewith.

Rita Swami Choudhary
Secretary
Sangeet Natak Akademi
FIELD OF ACTIVITY – MUSIC

LALITH J RAO  
HINDUSTANI VOCAL

UMAKANT & RAMAKANT GUNDECHA  
(HUNDECHA BROTHERS) (Joint Award)  
HINDUSTANI VOCAL

YOGESH SAMSII  
HINDUSTANI INSTRUMENTAL- TABLA

RAJENDRA PRASANNA  
HINDUSTANI INSTRUMENTAL - SHEHNAI/ FLUTE

M.S.SHEELA  
CARNATIC VOCAL

SUMA SUDHINDRA  
CARNATIC INSTRUMENTAL - VEENA

TIRUVARUR VAIDYANATHAN  
CARNATIC INSTRUMENTAL -MRIDANGAM

SHASHANK SUBRAMANYAM  
CARNATIC INSTRUMENTAL - FLUTE

MADHURANI  
OTHER MAJOR TRADITIONS OF MUSIC - SUGAM SANGEET

HAIMANTI SUKLA  
OTHER MAJOR TRADITIONS OF MUSIC - SUGAM SANGEET

GURNAM SINGH  
OTHER MAJOR TRADITIONS OF MUSIC - GURBANI

FIELD OF ACTIVITY – DANCE

RAMA VAIDYANATHAN  
BHARATANATYAM

SHOBHA KOSER  
KATHAK

MADAMBI SUBRAMANIAN  
KATHAKALI

L.N.OINAM ONGBI DHONI DEVI  
MANIPURI

DEEPIKA REDDY  
KUCHIPUDI

SUJATA MOHAPATRA  
ODISSI

RAMKRISHNA TALUKDAR  
SATTRIYA

JANMAJAY SAIBABU  
CHHAU

ASHIT DESAI  
MUSIC FOR DANCE
FIELD OF ACTIVITY - THEATRE

ABHIRAM BHADAKAMKAR  PLAYWRITING
SUNIL SHANBAGH  DIRECTION
BAPI BOSE  DIRECTION
HEMA SINGH  ACTING
DEEPAK TIWARI  ACTING
ANIL TICKOO  ACTING
NURUDDIN AHMED  ALLIED THEATRE ARTS - STAGE CRAFT
AVTAAR SAHANI  ALLIED THEATRE ARTS - LIGHTING
SHOUGRAKPAM HEMANTA SINGH  OTHER MAJOR TRADITIONS OF THEATRE- SHUMANG LEELA

FIELD OF ACTIVITY – TRADITIONAL/FOLK/TRIBAL MUSIC/DANCE/THEATRE & PUPPETRY

ANWAR KHAN MANGANIYAR  FOLK MUSIC, RAJASTHAN
PRAKASH KHANDGE  FOLK ARTS, MAHARASHTRA
JAGANNATH BAYAN  TRADITIONAL MUSIC - KHOL, ASSAM
RAMCHANDRA MAJHI  FOLK MUSIC, BIHAR
RAKESH TIWARI  FOLK THEATRE, CHHATTISGARH
PARVATHY BAUL  FOLK MUSIC (BAUL), WEST BENGAL
SARAVJIT KAUR  FOLK MUSIC, PUNJAB
K.C.RUNREMSANGI  FOLK MUSIC, MIZORAM
MUKUND NAYAK  FOLK MUSIC, JHARKHAND
SUDIP GUPTA  PUPPETRY, WEST BENGAL

FIELD OF ACTIVITY: OVERALL CONTRIBUTION / SCHOLARSHIP IN PERFORMING ARTS

VIJAY VERMA  (Scholarship)
SANDHYA PURECHA  (Overall Contribution)