

**Sangeet Natak Akademi  
National Academy of Music, Dance and Drama  
New Delhi**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**15 February 2010**

**DECLARATION OF SANGEET NATAK AKADEMI FELLOWSHIPS (AKADEMI RATNA)  
AND AKADEMI AWARDS (AKADEMI PURASKAR)  
FOR THE YEAR 2009**

The General Council of Sangeet Natak Akademi, the National Academy of Music, Dance and Drama, New Delhi at its meetings held on 29 January and 12 February 2010 elected six (6) eminent personalities in the field of performing arts namely Lalgudi Jayaraman, Shreeram Lagoo, Yamini Krishnamurti, Kamlesh Dutt Tripathi, Pandit Jasraj and Kishori Amonkar as Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellows (Akademi Ratna). The Fellowship of the Akademi is the most prestigious and rare honour, which is restricted to a very limited number at a given time. Presently there are only 32 Fellows of the Sangeet Natak Akademi.

The General Council of the Akademi also selected thirty three (33) persons from the fields of Music, Dance, and Theatre for the Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards (Akademi Puraskar) for the year 2009.

In the field of Music, eight eminent artists namely Abdul Rashid Khan and Vasundhara Komkali for Hindustani Vocal Music, Lachman Singh Seen (Tabla) and Ali Ahmad Hussain (Shehnai) for Hindustani Instrumental Music, Parassala B Ponnammal for Carnatic Vocal, U Srinivas (Mandolin) and Dandamudi Sumathi Rama Mohan Rao (Mridangam) for Carnatic Instrumental Music, and L. Ibohalmacha Singh (Nata Sankirtana) for Other Major Traditions of Music have been selected.

In the field of Dance, eight eminent practitioners namely Ananda Shankar Jayant (Bharatanatyam), Prerana Shrimali (Kathak), Kalamandalam Rajan (Kathakali), L. Bino Devi (Manipuri), Geeta Mahalik (Odissi), Vyjayanthi Kashi (Kuchipudi), Daksha Sheth (Creative & Experimental Dance) and Kala Krishna (Other Major Traditions of Dance – Andhranatyam) have been selected.

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In the field of Theatre also, eight eminent persons have been selected. They include Shankar Narayan Navre (Marathi) and Vayala Vasudevan Pillai (Malayalam) for Playwriting, Sudha Shivpuri and Neeta Mohindra for Acting, and Joy Michael and Dinesh Thakur for Direction. For Allied Theatre Arts Kamal Arora (Make-up) and Kuldeep Singh (Music for Theatre) have been selected.

For their contribution to Other Traditional/Folk/ Tribal Music/ Dance/ Theatre Musafir Ram Bhardwaj, Folk Dance (Himachal Pradesh); Vilayat Khan Ragi, Dhadhi Folk Music (Punjab); U K Kunjirama Panicker, Theyyam (Kerala); Jaganath Behera, Pala (Orissa); Shanti Jain, Folk Music (Bihar); Vithal Gangaram Umap, Folk Theatre (Maharashtra) and Bhikhudan Govindbhai Gadhvi, Folk Music (Gujarat) have been selected and Moinul Haque has been selected for contribution to Mime.

Leela Venkataraman has been selected for her overall contribution to Performing Arts.

The Akademi Fellow (Akademi Ratna) and Akademi Award (Akademi Puraskar) have been conferred since 1952, which not only symbolize the highest standard of excellence and achievements on a national basis, but also recognize sustained individual work and contribution to the practice and appreciation of the arts through performance, teaching and scholarship. The honour of Akademi Fellow carries purse money of Rs 3,00,000/- (Rupees three lacs) and Akademi Awards carry Rs 1,00,000/- (Rupees one lac), besides Tamrapatra and Angavastram.

List of Akademi Fellow (Akademi Ratna) and Akademi Awardees (Akademi Puraskar) for the year 2009 is enclosed.

  
Jayant Kastuar  
Secretary  
Sangeet Natak Akademi

**Sangeet Natak Akademi  
New Delhi**

**SANGEET NATAK AKADEMI FELLOWSHIPS AND AKADEMI AWARDS 2009**

**AKADEMI FELLOWS (RATNA)**

LALGUDI G. JAYARAMAN

SHREERAM LAGOO

YAMINI KRISHNAMURTI

KAMLESH DUTT TRIPATHI

PANDIT JASRAJ

KISHORI AMONKAR

**AKADEMI AWARDS (PURASKAR) FOR THE YEAR 2009**

**FIELD OF ACTIVITY – MUSIC**

- |    |                                     |  |
|----|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1. | ABDUL RASHID KHAN                   | HINDUSTANI VOCAL   |
| 2. | VASUNDHARA KOMKALI                  | HINDUSTANI VOCAL   |
| 3. | LACHMAN SINGH SEEN                  | HINDUSTANI INSTRUMENTAL<br>(TABLA)                                 |
| 4. | ALI AHMED HUSSAIN                   | HINDUSTANI INSTRUMENTAL<br>(SHEHNAI)                               |
| 5. | PARASSALA B PONNAMMAL               | CARNATIC VOCAL   |
| 6. | U SRINIVAS                          | CARNATIC INSTRUMENTAL<br>(MANDOLIN)                                |
| 7. | DANDAMUDI SUMATHI RAMA MOHAN<br>RAO | CARNATIC INSTRUMENTAL<br>(MRIDANGAM)                               |
| 8. | L. IBOHALMACHA SINGH                | OTHER MAJOR TRADITIONS OF<br>MUSIC – NATA SANKIRTANA OF<br>MANIPUR |

**FIELD OF ACTIVITY - DANCE**

1.	ANANDA SHANKAR JAYANT	BHARATANATYAM
2.	PRERANA SHRIMALI	KATHAK
3.	KALAMANDALAM RAJAN	KATHAKALI
4.	L. BINO DEVI	MANIPURI
5.	GEETA MAHALIK	ODISSI
6.	VYJAYANTHI KASHI	KUCHIPUDI
7.	DAKSHA SHETH	CREATIVE & EXPERIMENTAL DANCE
8.	KALA KRISHNA	OTHER MAJOR TRADITIONS OF DANCE - ANDHRANATYAM

**FIELD OF ACTIVITY - THEATRE**

1.	SHANKAR NARAYAN NAVRE	PLAYWRITING (MARATHI)
2.	VAYALA VASUDEVAN PILLAI	PLAYWRITING (MALYALAM)
3.	JOY MICHAEL	DIRECTION
4.	DINESH THAKUR	DIRECTION
5.	SUDHA SHIVPURI	ACTING
6.	NEETA MOHINDRA	ACTING
7.	KAMAL ARORA	ALLIED THEATRE ARTS – MAKE - UP
8.	KULDEEP SINGH	ALLIED THEATRE ARTS – MUSIC FOR THEATRE

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

- |    |                             |   |
|----|-----------------------------|---|
| 1. | MUSAFIR RAM BHARDWAJ        | FOLK MUSIC & DANCE\<br>HIMACHAL PRADESH |
| 2. | VILAYAT KHAN RAGI           | DHADHI FOLK MUSIC, PUNJAB               |
| 3. | U K KUNJIRAMA PANICKER      | THEYYAM, KERALA                         |
| 4. | JAGANNATH BEHERA            | PALA, ORISSA                            |
| 5. | SHANTI JAIN                 | FOLK MUSIC, BIHAR                       |
| 6. | VITTHAL GANGARAM UMAP       | FOLK THEATRE, MAHARASHTRA               |
| 7. | BHIKHUDAN GOVINDBHAI GADHVI | FOLK MUSIC, GUJARAT                     |
| 8. | MOINUL HAQUE                | MIME                                    |

**FIELD OF ACTIVITY – OVERALL CONTRIBUTION / SCHOLARSHIP IN  
PERFORMING ARTS**

LEELA VENKATARAMAN

OVERALL CONTRIBUTION TO  
PERFORMING ART