

## **Biodata of Dr Pandit Gokulotsavji Maharaj ji**

The most accomplished [Murdhanya] Indian classical vocalist of Khayal & Dhrupad gayan of this generation. A world famed musician whose rare genius has opened the ears and minds of millions to the wondrous aesthetics of the ancient Indian musical tradition. He is an adored musical ambassador, whose incomparable artistry has created bridges of understanding among the peoples of the music world. Dr. Gokulotsavji Maharaj has twice been honored with the Presidents Gold Medal Award in All India Music Competition, Padma Shree by Govt. of India, National Tansen Award. He is the only Indian vocal artist who is multifaceted in that he has equal command over the various art languages - writing, composing, oratory.

Under the pen name of Madhurpiya he has created more than 5000 Khayal, Tarana, Dhrupad, Ancient Prabandha Gaan Verses etc., in various languages like Braj, Sanskrit, Pharsi (Persian), Urdu, etc

He created a number of new ragas such as Adbhut Ranjani, Divyagandhar, Madhur Malhar Prassanpada, Sneh Gandhar Madhur Dhvani Kanhda.

He conducts several creative projects for the revival of rare and old Samved Sanskrit.

In Kalidas Samaroh he delivered fluent oratory in Sanskrit language, punctuated by shastriya music & singing. This charmed the highly learned audience.

Has staged shastriya musical concerts in different countries of the world regularly for the last 48 years.

Maharaj ji has written several books on various subjects in different languages. He has knowledge of English, Urdu, Telgu, Hindi, French, German, Gujarati, Bangla Languages.

He has had several concert tours in USA, France, Germany, Greece, Portugal, Canada, Spain, Austria, Switzerland, Nova, Belgium, Hungary, Poland, Ruse, Singapore, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Dubai, Musqat, Abu Dhabi, Mautitius.

Dr Rajni Nagar completed her Ph.D. on the life achievements of Maharaj ji from Vikram University which is a Landmark in Indian history.

In the international world music festival, he kept the audience spell by his musical poetry and shastriya gayan.

Special "Top" Grade approved artist of Akashwani and doordarshan in 1990.

Published a number of popular Cassettes & C.D. Recordings.

## **MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS**

**Padma Shree by Government of India**

**Twice President Gold Award**

**D. Lit National Award**

**National Tansen Samman Award**

**Ocean of the Jewel - Chicago**

**Universal Voice - London, U.K.**

**Swar Samman - New Delhi**

**Millennium Award, New York**

**International Melody Award (Geneva, Switzerland)**

**Hindustan Times Lifetime Achievement Award**

**Public Felicitations by Mayor, New Jersey**

**Voice of the Century - Germany**

**Abhinav Sangeet Ratna**

**Ustad Amir Khan Memorial Award**

**International Melody New Delhi, 1993**

**Glory of the Nation (Germany, Europe, India Art Foundation, NRI)**

**Shrestha Kala Acharya**

**Sangeet Vishwa Martand**

**Ambassador of Peace & Bliss (London, UK)**

**Tan Samrat**

**Pristine Maestro of Art and Culture (Leicester)**

**Shatabdi Samman (International PVP Parishad, India)**

**Honorary Trustee of Bharat Bhavan, Bhopal**

## **Participation in Prestigious National & International Music Festivals**

Tansen Sangeet Sammelan, Gwalior 1973-74

International World Music Festival - Germany, 1994

International World Music Festival - Belgium, 1995

International World Music Festival - East Germany, 1996

Harward University in USA, 1989 - 1997

M I T - USA, 1987 - 1998

Smithsonian Institue, Washington DC, USA 1999

Indian High School, UK 1999

Music Festival of India, Royal Festival Hall, London 1987

Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan, London 1999 - 2000

American Arts & Culture Mid West Foundation Chicago - 2008

Haridas Sangeet Sammelan

Shankarlal Festivals

Sawai Gandharv Festival - Pune

Saptak Sangeet Sammelan

Gunidas Sangeet Sammelan

Harvallabha Festival - jalandhar

Madhya Pradesh Kala Parishad - Bhopal

Abhinav Kala Samaj Sangeet Samaroh - Indore

Ustad Allauddin Khan Sangeet Samaroh - Madhya Pradesh

Ustad Amir Khan Sangeet Samaroh - Indore

I.T.C. - Kolkatta

Anual - Radio Sangeet Sammelan

National Programme of Music

National Programme of Music Television

Sangeet Natak Academy - Lucknow

Hcl Habitat World - India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, 2004

B.B.C. World Service - London Programme 1998

Beverly Art Centre - Chicago 1994

Pt. Gokulotsavji Maharaja Felicitation by Pt. Jasraj - Mumbai, 1995

## **Accolades**

"Music is not a profession for Kalaa Guru Acharya Gokulotsavji Maharaj. Music is his passio - a passion rising from the founts of deep devotion and fundamental thinking. His flair for music comes naturally and spontaneously. I have become a great admirer of his music".

- Pandit Ravi Shankar

"I cannot praise Gokulotsavji's singing enough. His voice is so beautiful that each note emits light. His khyal is wonderful because his foundation is in dhrupad. We were priveledged to hear Lahak taans which are seldom heard as they are difficult to sing in Khyal. His taans consist of lahak, aakar, dagar, andol, dhuran, muran, kampit, sphurit, meend choot, sapat, zarab, murchana, gamak ki taan, kadak ki taan, garaj ki taan, rendering which is like torrential rain. He is a great and complete artist. He is the Sun and Torch bearer of Indian Classical Music World."

- Ud. N. Aminuddin Khan Dagar

"I have derived much peace and bliss from listening to Maharaji's gayaki".

Bhimsen Joshi

"I have not heard anyone sing the sort of taans that Maharaji sings".

Pandit Ram Narayan

"His gayaki is matchless, pure and perfect".

Pandit Jasraj

"Unquestionably, he is very great artist. How did he achieve so mush?"

- Ud. Bismillah Khan

"Oh my godness, he has everything. Waha - Incredible!"

- Ud Vilayat Khan