

yours &
LFI

Shri Sunder Prasad.

Award 1959
Dance Kathak
189

Sir,

I have the honour to present to you Shri Sunder Prasad, a foremost exponent of the Kathak style of dancing.

Born in Jaipur 68 years ago in a family of traditional dancers of the Jaipur Gharana, Shri Sunder Prasad, was handed over to the care of Maharaj Bindadin, the wizard of the Lucknow Gharanaat, the age of eight years.

During the 13 years of his training under Maharaj Bindadin, Shri Sunder Prasad learnt with keen interest the intricacies of the technique of Kathak in all its aspects—*Nritt*, *Nritya* and *Abhinaya*. An accomplished master of all aspects of dance, his forte is *Tala* and *Layakari*. He has a profound knowledge of *Jatis*, *Gats*, *Gatnikas*, *Gati-Malika* and *Chitrakari*. He is perhaps the only Kathak dancer who combines in him the best of both Gharanas.

Forty years ago, Shri Sunder Prasad established the Maharaj Bindadin School of Kathak Dance in Bombay. He has the distinction of training some of the outstanding teachers and performers in dance. He has been working with the object of bringing about a fusion of the best features of the Lucknow and Jaipur Gharanas so that the rich traditions of Kathak could be preserved.

For his pre-eminence in Kathak dancing and singular devotion and service to its cause, I pray, Sir, that you may be pleased to grant him recognition as Dancer of the Year in the field of Kathak dancing and to award to him a brocade *Angavastram*, a gold *mala* and a *Sanad* in token of that recognition.