



IN MEMORIAM

PRABHA ATRE

13 September 1932 – 13 January 2024

Prabha Atre, the illustrious Hindustani classical vocalist who could have pursued law, science, or medicine but chose to enchant the world with her singing, breathed her last in her Pune residence just hours before a scheduled concert in Mumbai. She departed at the age of 92 on January 13, 2024, leaving a profound void in Indian classical music, compounded by the recent loss of Ustad Rashid Khan.

In an era when few women ventured into academia or public life, Atre defied norms, holding degrees in both Bachelor of Science from Ferguson College and Law from the university in Pune. Unlike many artists born into musical legacies, Atre discovered her musical passion along life's journey, showcasing her versatility.

Hailing from the Kirana Gharana, her magical voice captivated audiences, seamlessly weaving khayals, enticing with thumris, and astonishing with inventive ragas like Madhur Kauns, Apurva Kalyan, Darbari Kauns, Patdeep-Malhar, Shiv Kali, Tilang-bhairav, and Ravi Bhairav. In her performances, she could effortlessly transition from the intricacies of classical renditions, allowing listeners to transcend from one style to another.

Atre's influence as a thinker, researcher, academician, reformer, author, composer and guru will also be remembered forever. She encouraged classical music in the education system and said *"Everyone has to work for it right from the listeners to musicians and at the government level. Our education system has to be changed and there has to be compulsory education for music which is lacking. Listeners also have to put in some work to understand classical."*

Prabha Atre was the proud recipient of the Padma Shri in 1990, Padma Bhushan in 2002 and Padma Vibhushan in 2022.

Takshila Educational Society pays heartfelt tribute to one of the greatest musicians of our time.