



Born on 28<sup>th</sup> September 1929 in Indore (Madhya Pradesh), Lata Mangeshkar is one of the greatest singers India has ever produced. The Mangeshkar family could very well be called the premier musical family of India as father Pt. Dinanath and the five siblings - Lata, Usha, Asha (Bhosle), Meena (Khadilkar) and Hridaynath - have all contributed immeasurably to the field of popular music as singers and composers.

After Dinanath's untimely death in 1942, a 13 year-old Lata entered the film industry as her family's sole bread-winner. In the early part of her career, she did bit roles in some Marathi and Hindi films. She recorded her first song 'Naachu Yaa Gade Kheloo Saaree' for a Marathi film *Kiti Hasaal* (1942). In *Aap Ki Seva Mein* (1947), she made her playback singing debut for Hindi films with the song 'Paa Laagoo Kar Joree Re'. Even though she has sung approximately 6,500 songs in many different languages, her maximum output and best work is in Hindi, Marathi and Bengali.



*Young Lata as an actress in Chimukala Sansar (Lt.), Gharkul (Middle) & Maaze Baal (Rt.)*

As a singer, her main body of work comprises of film songs. The simplicity and easy accessibility of this musical form coupled with Lata's matchless virtuosity and versatility have made her a national cultural icon who has stood the test of time. It is the class, creativity, critical acclaim and cultural impact, not to mention the consistent commercial success of her musical output that has set her apart from her contemporaries and has given her the status of 'Melody Queen of India'.

Most of the stalwarts of Indian classical music have praised her role in popularizing their genre among the masses through her semi-classical film songs. The legendary

