

## INTRODUCTION

Sri Chinmoy is a spiritual man of peace who has dedicated his life to fostering world harmony and personal fulfilment.

On 21 April 1989 in the Grand Ballroom of New York's Penta Hotel, over 700 men and women from nearly 50 nations gathered together in heartfelt appreciation of Sri Chinmoy's 25 years of service in the West.

Diplomats and politicians, cultural and religious leaders, musicians, physicians, media personalities and athletes all joined to offer their gratitude for a lifetime of service to the cause of world oneness and the triumph of the inner spirit of humanity.

East and West came together in sponsoring the Silver Jubilee Celebration, through the USA branch of the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, India's preeminent cultural and educational organisation, and friends of Sri Chinmoy, luminaries of the West from many walks of life.

As a highlight of the evening, the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan conferred on Sri Chinmoy its highest award of Honorary Patronship. Other honourees have included Prince Charles, Prime Minister Nehru and Maestro Zubin Mehta.

In an outer confirmation that the strength of our inner spirit knows no limits, contributions by Sri Chinmoy to the performing arts, athletics, and inspiration to humanity as a whole were all recognised during the programme. Songwriter and producer Narada Michael Walden bestowed the Emmy award he had recently won on his spiritual Teacher, and the New York Road Runners Club offered a Plaque of Appreciation. In addition, Puerto Rico's Governor Colón sent his dear friend a Silver Jubilee Trophy, while Dan Lurie and the World Body Building Guild presented its 1989 Man of the Year Award to Sri Chinmoy.

As the evening came to a close, a sense of both awe and serenity seemed to fill the hall—awe at the sheer breadth and depth of the soul-stirring tributes offered to one man, and serenity in the shared feeling that our dreams for peace on earth and in our lives can and will become a living reality.