

Raga of the Month- October, 2016

Raga ShamMalhar

In this month we shall study Raga ShamMalhar. The Raga has been created and composed by Dr. Alka Deo Marulkar*. As the name of the Raga suggests, it is a Jod-Raga having a melodious combination of Raga ShyamKalyan with the Malharanga.

It will be of interest to visitors, to note that the Malhar Family of Ragas comprises nearly 60 Ragas (Ref. Raga Search Wheel available on the web site). In the family, we find combinations of Malharanga with Ragas like Nand, Jogiya, Kamod, Kafi, Madhuvanti, Rageshri, Sarang, Kedar, Bilawal, Sorath, Tilakkamod, Des, Goud, Chhayanata, Jayjayvanti, Jhinjhoti, Barwa and Kanada-Prakars such as, Darbarikanada, Nayakikanada, Shahanakanada, Adana, Suha, etc. Of these 60 Ragas, audio samples of 38 Malhar-prakars are available on the web site.

The Scale of the Raga ShamMalhar consists of SRGMmPDnN.

The prominent phrases of Malharanga used in the Raga are SM-R-P, M->R, PnDNS", S"D-nP.

Important phrases of Raga ShyamKalyan used in this combination are R'NS, SRmP, mPG-MR, mPDP, mPNDP, mPNS";

Phrases such as, GMP, PDN, MGRS, nMP are avoided in the Raga.

Pakada (Distinctive tonal phrases) of the Raga is- SMRP, mPGMR, RmPnDNS".

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*Dr. Alka Deo Marulkar is daughter and disciple of the veteran Pt. Rajabhau Deo, who has been known as an outstanding vocalist of Gwalior, Kirana and Jaipur Gharanas. She received training from her father for more than 35 years. She also received a very systematic training from another veteran of Jaipur Gharana- Pandit Madhusudan Kanetkar.

Please listen to excerpts of Raga Shammalhar sung by Dr. Alka Deo Marulkar.

(Updated on 01/10/2016.)