

Raga of the Month- November, 2015

AmbikaSarang.

Raga AmbikaSarang is a rare, though melodious, Raga. Mention of the name Ambika in this Raga indicates that it is a Raga of recent origin. Raga Ambika is known to have been introduced by Pandit Wamanrao Padhye (disciple of Pandit Vishnu Digambar Paluskar) in the name of Goddess Ambabai worshipped in Kolhapur. A similar Raga was presented by Ustad Vilayat Khan around the same time and the name was coined as Madhuvanti. Both the ragas have resemblance to Melakarta No. 59 Dharmavati.

Raga AmbikaSarang cannot be classified strictly under any Thata or Melakarta, because its scale consists R, M, m, P, D, n and N. However, considering the importance of Teevra Madhyama and Komal Nishad in the Raga it can be considered under Melakarta No. 64 Vachaspati. The Raga AmbikaSarang has a strong influence of Raga Saraswati and some resemblance to Ragas ShuddhaSarang and ShyamKalyan. Saranganga is found in use of Shuddha Madhyama as RMR or SMR or PMR. Shuddha Nishad is used in Aroha, such as, SRmPNS" or mPDNS". Audio of Pandit C R Vyas (included in the web site) and audio of Pt. K G Ginde present the melody structure of the Raga documented in the Fourth Volume of RagaNidhi written by Prof. S Subbarao.

The basics of Raga AmbikaSarang can be explained as follows:

Scale- SRMmPDnN; *Vadi* P; Samvadi R; *Shadava*-Hexatonic; Time 10 a m to 1 p m ;

Aroha- SR, mP, DnDNS"; *Avaroha*- S"nDP, mPMR, S;

Chalan- SRS, RmmP, RMR, RmP, DnDP, mPDnDP, mPPS", mPDnDS", R" nDPmPDP, RMR, P-RMR, 'n'D S; SRRS, 'n'n'DS, 'P'D'n'n'D'NS, SRmP, PMR, RmPMR, MR, 'n'DS; SRmP, RmPDmP, PDnDNS", S"nDP, mPDnDP, DmPMR, MR 'n'D S; mPDnnDP, mPDNS", R" nnDDP, mPNS", R"S", S"R"m"P"M"R"S", R" nDS", S" nDP, mPnDP, DmPMRRS.

For the information of visitors, it may be mentioned that an audio sample of the Raga labelled as AmbikaSarang is available- sung by Vidushi Parveen Sultana, but it resembles Raga Sarawati closely and not the documented version of Raga AmbikaSarang.

Please listen to excerpts of the audio of Pandit K G Ginde.

{Updated 1-11-2015}

