

Raga of the Month- March, 2017

Raga DurgaKhamajThata/ Madhuradhwani

In this month we shall study Raga DurgaKhamajThata. The raga is also known by the name Madhuradhwani. Whereas notes G and N are omitted in Raga Durga (of BilawalThata), notes R and P are omitted in Raga Durga (of KhamajThata). This Raga, in its traditional form is preferred by Dhrupadiyas, that is, use of Shuddha Nishad in Aroha and Komal Nishad in Avaroha. In this form it resembles Bhinnashadja; and Rageshri in Poorvanga, and has a **scale of SGMDn and N**. However, some times Komal Nishad is used in Aroha, when it creates a shade of Raga Bageshri.

Pandit V N Bhatkhande has described the Raga in its traditional form. However, Prof. B Subbarao has documented its structure as having Komal Nishad only in both Aroha and Avaroha. It may be mentioned that Ragas Shobhavati, Rupeshree and MeenaMani also use the same swaras of the type described by Prof. B Subbarao, that is, use of Komal Nishad in Aroha and Avaroha. It may be surmised that this Raga is not much popular due to other similar Ragas Malaganji and Rageshri.

The Raga is included in Khamaj Thata (Melakarta No. 28 Harikambhoji in Carnatic Music). Gandhar and Nishad are considered as Vadi and Samvadi. Sangati of Dhaivat and Madhyam is preferred, which reminds us of Raga Bageshri.

Chalan- S, 'nD, S, MG MDn, D, MG; MDNS", M"M"G"S", S", nD, MG, DMG, M, S.

It may be noted that audios of this Raga using both Nishads, sung by Pandit N C Boral and Raga Shobhavati played by Ustad Ali Akber Khan are available on the web site.

Please listen to excerpts of Raga DurgaKhamajThata (with emphasis on Komal Nishad) sung by Pandit K G Ginde.

(Updated on 01/03/2017.)