

Raga of the Month- June, 2017

SurMalhar, SurdasiMalhar, SarMalhar

Raga SurMalhar (SurdasiMalhar, SarMalhar) is a melodious Raga, though rarely heard. It is believed that the Raga was introduced by Saint Surdas; hence the name SurdasiMalhar. The scale of Raga SurMalhar includes notes S,R,M,P,D,n and N. Two other variants of the Raga are documented; one without Dhaivat and the other with Komal Gandhar, g. The one with g is favoured by Dhrupadias. The Raga is a mixture of Sarang, Malhar and Sorath. Shuddha Dhaivat is used in Avaroha and in a peculiar fashion; that is, as S'' nDMP or PnDP. To avoid shadow of Sarang, phrases MR, PMR or nPMR having halt on R are generally not used; and phrases RM, M->R R R P, PMPRM (representing Malharanga) are introduced often. Phrases nP, MP, RMPnMP, MPNS''R''S'' represent the Saranganga and phrases S'' n-DMPnDP, RMPnDP signify presence of Sorathanga. Ragas BrindavaniSarang and Narayani are similar to SurMalhar. A variant of Raga DevaManohari of MelaKarthi no. 22 Kharaharapriya from Carnatic Music resembles Raga SurMalhar

Ragas Sorath, SamantSarang, MiakiSarang and SarangMalhar are scaleCongruent with SurMalhar. Raga Sorath has R and P as Vadi and Samvadi and D is used in Avaroha as S'' nDP and Meend M->R with halt on R is practised. In SamantSarang (a combination of BrindavaniSarang and Des, phrases nPMR, S'' nP, MnDP) and in MiakiSarang (a combination of BrindavaniSarang and MiaMalhar, phrases nDNS'', RMPnMP), Saranganga is prominent and stress on Rishabh and Pancham as Vadi and Samvadi distinguish it from SurMalhar. Raga SarangMalhar is very close to SurMalhar barring a few changes in chalan.

The basic information of Raga SurMalhar is given below:

Aroha- S RMPNS'' ; Avaroha- S'' n DMPnDP, M->RM, R, 'NS;

Vadi M; Samvadi S; Audawa-Shadawa; {Although Vadi M is in Poorvanga, the Raga is more elaborated in Madhya and Tar Saptaka};

Time 10 p m to 1 a m; {The Raga, being a seasonal raga, is sung without any restriction of time, in the Rainy Season.}

Chalan- SRM, M->RRP, RM, RMPnMP, MPnDMP, MPNS''R''S'', S''nDMP, M->RM, R 'NS.

Please listen to excerpts of Raga SurMalhar presented by Ustad Nissar Hussain Khan.

{Updated 1-6-2017}