

## Raga of the Month- March, 2018

### BilawalBahar

Raga BilawalBahar is a rare Raga. Listeners are familiar with many combinations of Bahar with other Ragas, such as, Adana, Bageshri, Basant, Bhairav, Hindol, Lalat, Malkouns, Shahana, Sindhura, etc. The recording of Ustad BunduKhan\* is perhaps the only recording available of this Raga. From the name it might appear that it is a JodRaga, a combination of Ragas Bilawal and Bahar. It is true, to some extent, but, the two Ragas are blended so well that the musical piece appears to be a coherently bonded unique Raga.

Scale of the Raga- SRgGMPDnN;

Some Important Phrases- GPDMG, S'' DnDPMG, (P)MGRS, S'' DPMG, PGMRS, GMnDNS'', S'' nDMG, RGMPMG, GMRS, GMDNS'', GMnP, S'' NDND, S'' DND, DNS''G'', GMnD, S'' nDPMG.

Please listen to the audio of the Raga played on Sarangi by Ustad Bundu Khan. In the audio, he has, at few places, also sung the Bandish. The recording has a great Archival value.

Acknowledgement: Audio- M/s Saptak Org; Ahmedabad.

:Life sketch- Wikipedia, Website Sarangi.info and a book by Ustad Vilayat Hussain Khan (1959) titled- Sangeetadnyonke Samsmaran

Brief Life Sketch : \*Ustad Bundu Khan (1880 – 1955) probably was the most outstanding sarangi player during the first half of the 20th century. Ustad Bundu Khan was born in Delhi in a family of musicians. He received his training in Sarangi from his father Ali Jan Khan starting at 8 years of age, and later from his uncle Mamman Khan, a veteran Sarangi Player. Bundu Khan played Sarangi from All India Radio, Delhi Station, when it first started broadcasting in 1935. He served the princely court of Indore for 27 years as a court-musician. He studied Sanskrit in order to have access to the classical music of ancient India. He had mastered more than 500 Ragas. Bundu Khan was also a musicologist. His book on music, *Jauhar-i-Mausiqi* in Urdu, known as *Sangeet Vivek Darpan* in Hindi, was published simultaneously in Urdu and Hindi in June 1934.

He migrated to Pakistan and lived in Karachi until his death on 13 January 1955. After migrating to Pakistan after the partition in 1947, Ustad Bundu Khan continued to play Sarangi from all the radio stations of Pakistan till his death in 1955. His sons Umrao Bundu Khan and Bulund Iqbal Khan continued his musical tradition. Two other well-known students of Bundu Khan were Abdul Majeed Khan (Jajjar/Delhi/Bombay) and Sagiruddin Khan (Delhi/Kolkata). Some of Bundu Khan's style can also be heard in Masit Khan's playing, as Masit Khan was a student of Abdul Majeed Khan. Ustad Bundu Khan, according to many, was the greatest sarangi player who ever lived. He had an immense knowledge of vocal compositions (*bandishes*) and an unrivalled sensitivity to the nuances of vocal music.

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