

## Raga of the Month- September 2018

### Raga GunjiKouns

In this month, we will study one little known form of Kouns, namely, GunjiKouns. As the name suggests the Raga GunjiKouns is a JodRaga containing a mixture of Ragas Malkouns and Malagunji. Being a rarely heard Raga, its melody structure has not been well established and 3 versions of the Raga are available. Two variations are available on You Tube, one (**Type I**) conceived and introduced by Pandit Arvind Parikh, senior most Disciple of Ustad Vilayat Khan and the other (**Type II**) sung by Ustad Mohammad Hussein Sarahang, stalwart of Classical Music from Pakistan. The third form of Raga GunjiKouns (**Type III**) is presented by Pandit Madhavbua Ingale belonging to the Gwalior Gharana. Although Malkouns is a traditional Raga with established melodic structure, Raga Malgunji is a mishra Raga having shades of Rageshri in Ascent 'aroha'; Bageshri in descent 'avaroha' and Raga Jayajayvanti in the middle part of the octave. It is subtleties of the treatment of Malagunjianga that 3 different concepts have evolved.

In the melody structure conceived by Pandit Arvind Parikh, he has stressed Raga Malagunji in Poorvanga and Malkouns in the Uttaranga; thus effect of Raga Rageshri is suppressed in *Uttaranga*. In Ustad Sarahang's version, komal Gandhar is omitted altogether and prominence is given to Pancham in the middle part of octave and in the clip of Pandit Madhavbua Ingale both Gandhars are used; (retaining traditional phraseology of Malagunji in Poorvanga) and both Dhaivats are used in Ascent thus retaining Rageshri/ Bageshri influence, as well as, Malkouns effect.

The phraseology observed in the 3 types may be summarized as follows:

Common phrases: SgMd, MdnS", 'd'nSG, 'n gS, SRG, SGMnd;

Distinctive phrases Typel- R 'nSRG, SGMP, PGMgR, MgRS; scale SRgGMPdn

Distinctive phrases Typell- SG, GMRS, GRS'n'd, MG-S, MndPMG, GMR 'nS; Scale SRGMPdn;

Distinctive phrases TypeIII- SgMD, MDnS", PDnDPMG, SGMg-S, PGMg-S, MgRS; scale- SRgGMPdDn

**Acknowledgements-** Article in Deepak Raja's world of Music that appeared in August, 2007; <http://swaratala.blogspot.com/2007/>; YouTube Audio links - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UdvO6VeYGlo>;

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=as\\_3i3dgcJQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=as_3i3dgcJQ).

Please listen to the audio clip of the Raga presented by Pandit Madhavbua Ingale which is attached.

Updated on 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2018.