

Raga of the Month- December 2018

Raga Shanmukhapriya

Shanmukhapriya is the 56th Melakarta in Carnatic music and is a popular Raga. Like many other Ragas, such as, Hansdhwani, Charukeshi, Amritvarshini, BairagiBhairav, Kirvani, Malayamarutam, Pratapvarali, Salagavarali, Shivranjani, Simhendramadhyam, Vachaspati, etc. Raga Shanmukhapriya is also in the process of being adopted in Hindustani Music. It will be recalled that Melakarta No. 20 Natabhairavi, is known as Thata Asavari in Hindustani Music. It differs from Raga Shanmukhapriya in that it has Teevra Madhyama, in place of, Shuddha Madhyama in Raga Asavari.

The scale of Raga Shanmukhapriya is S R g m P d n. Prominent phrases are- S'd'nS, S'nRS, RgmP, gmdP, dndP, mPdnS", S"dnS", S"ndP, mgRs. Rare Ragas Asakali and Godhani share the same scale, but their audio sample is not available. Prof. B Subba Rao has documented the Raga in RagaNidhi volume IV as Carnatic as well as, a Hindustani Music Raga. He has also mentioned the opening words of a Bandish "Giridhara Murahara" composed by Pandit S. Rajam. However, no further details are available.

Audio sample for the Raga on Sarod is presented by Pandit K Sridhar. K Sridhar was initiated into the highly structured and precise training of the Carnatic tradition by his mother, a renowned vocalist in her time. At the age of five, K. Sridhar began his training on the sarod under the guidance of Ustad Z.M. Dagar, an internationally known lineage bearer of the Dagar Gharana. At the age of 12, K. Sridhar became the youngest member ever of Ravi Shankar's orchestral group and started performing solo at an early age. Deeply influenced by Ali Akar Khan as well as Ravi Shankar, K. Sridhar has woven together from all these influences a profound yet universally appealing style. Pandit K Sridhar is the senior-most performing disciple of Ustad Z.M. Dagar and the only one regularly performing in the West today

Acknowledgements: Raga Nidhi Vol. IV by Prof. B Subba Rao and web site www.sridhar.org.

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