

## Raga of the Month- February 2019

### Raga SuhaaniTodi

In this month, we will study Raga SuhaaniTodi a rare Raga from Todi family. The Raga can be classified under the Todi Thata of Hindustani Music. It contains notes S g m P d, that is, Rishabh and Nishad are omitted from notes of Todi Thata. Since it is a pentatonic Raga, it can be classified under 9 Melakarthis of Carnatic Music, namely, Melakarta Numbers 43,44,45, 55,56,57,67,68 and 69. Melakarta no. 49 is Subhapanthuvrali which is equivalent to Todi Thata of Hindustani Music. It is interesting to note that there is only one Raga, scale-congruent with Raga SuhaaniTodi, listed in Raga Pravaham<sup>1</sup>- Raga Halayudhapriya under Melakarta no. 44 BhavaPriya. Only one audio sung by Ustad Ghulam Haider Khan<sup>2</sup> from Pakistan is available.

Aroha- SgmP, d, S"; Avaroha- S" d,P, dmg-S; *Kanaswara*<sup>3</sup> Nishad

Vadi- d; Samvadi g; Prominent Phrases- Sgmd, dP, gmdP, Pd (N)dP, Pmg, mdmg, gmdS", g"S" dP, mdP, mgmg-S.

**Notes-** 1) Ragapravaham- Dr. M N Dhandapani and D. Pattammal;

2) Ustad Ghulam Haider Khan- He was born in 1935, in a family of musicians, in Qasur. He is a renowned exponent of Qawwal Bachchonka Gharana. He is a reputed Musicologist and has written a number of books on theory of music and *Achobe* (obscure) Ragas. He has been awarded the prestigious title of "FAKHR E MAUSSIIQII". His daughter Abida Parveen is dubbed as "Queen of Sufi Music".

3) *Kana* is a melodic embellishment in which a higher or lower note is attached to the main note with a very light touch.(ref. A concise Dictionary of Hindustani Music- Dr. Ashok Da. Ranade)

Please listen to the audio clip of the Raga SuhaaniTodi presented by Ustad Ghulam Haider Khan which is attached. The recording perhaps was done in his old age as he seems to have difficulty in singing.

Updated on 1<sup>st</sup> February,2019.