

## Raga of the Month- June 2019

### Raga KhemKalyan(KshemaKalyan)

In this month, we will study Raga KhemKalyan. Although it is a very melodious and charming melody, it is rarely presented in concerts. Traditionally Raga KhemKalyan was favoured by musicians of the Agra Gharana. It would be interesting to compare the two Ragas Yaman and KhemKalyan since they share the same scale-SRGmPDN. The melodic material of the two Ragas can be analysed using the following characteristics- ChalanBheda, that is, changes in the melodic outline of the main Raga, such as, alpatva, bahutva, ( infrequent or abundant use), langhan (stepping over or omission), abhyAs (repetition) and nyAsa( action of spending a long duration of time including termination of an AlAp at a note which thus acquires a special status in the Raga) and kana (a melodic embellishment in which a higher or lower note is attached to the main note with a very light touch). We can now study how their melodic contours differ from each other.

Yaman, being the Principal Raga has notes G and N as Vadi and Samvadi- indicating nyAsa at and abhyAs of notes G and N; Kana (G)R, (G)S, (m)G provide the melodic embellishment; and distinctive phrases are- ‘NRS, ‘NRG, RGmP, GmDN; mDN,DP; mDNS”, NR”S”, GmP(G)R, mPD-P; PmGRG.

In case of KhemKalyan, notes R, P and D are emphasized; important phrases are S’N’P, S’N’D’N; ‘N’D’NSGR; ‘P’NSGR or ‘D’NSRGR, SGP, PDNDP; PS”or PNS”, NDPmGR, NDmGR. Shuddha Madhyam ‘M’ may be used sometimes as GMGR. Phrase ‘P’NSGR introduces the fragrance of Raga Hamsadhwani.

Rampur-Sahaswan Gharana singers prefer use of Shuddha Madhyam ‘M’ more than Teevra Madhyam ‘m’. Jaipur Gharana artists express the Raga as a combination of Hamsadhwani and Yaman omitting Shuddha Madhyam ‘M’.

Please find attached illustrative audio samples of Pandita Anjalibai Loliengar (Agra Gharana) and Ustad NissarHussainKhan (Rampur-Sahaswan Gharana).

**Acknowledgements:** Article“Uncommon Ragas:HemKalyan and KhemKalyan” by Rajan Parikar; Ragas as sung in Agra Gharana by Pandit Shrikrishna (Babanrao) Haldankar ; Abhinav Geetanjali Vol. 4 by Pandit Ramashreya Jha; A concise dictionary of Hindustani Music by Dr. Ashok Da. Ranade and Guidance from Pandit YashwantBuwa Mahale.