

Raga of the Month- December, 2011-

Sujani Malhar.

The Raga Sujani Malhar is a Raga of recent origin. We owe this Raga to Ustad Yunus Hussain Khan of Agra Gharana (Ref. web site ignca.nic.in of Indira Gandhi National Centre of Arts). It appears that the name of the Raga is based on the name of one of the ancestors of Agra Gharana, namely, Ustad Sujan Khan, Musician of the period of Badshah AKBER (circa 1500 A. D.)

The melody structure of the Raga may be interpreted as follows:

S, (S)R, RS 'n'D'P, 'P R, R 'n S, 'n SRPMMR, (M)RP, nDPMR, PMR 'n S;

S, R, (M)RM; (M)RP, MP, nDPMR, R-nDP, RMP, (R)M->R 'n S;

MPnPS", nS"R"M"R" nS", nDPMR, RMnPMR, PDMP (R)M R, nDPMR, MR 'nS;

Raga Sujani Malhar has most of the common characteristics of Malhar anga i.e. (M)RM; (M)RP; RP; (R)M->R; nP; nMP, which clearly distinguish it from Sarang family Ragas.

From the sample recording of Ustad Yunus Hussain Khan, it will be noted that the Raga has some resemblance to Ragas Megh, SurMalhar and GorakhKalyan; still it has a distinct personality of its own. The scale of the Raga may be construed as Shuddha Dhaivat added to Raga Megh; or Shuddha Nishad excluded from Raga SurMalhar; or Pancham added to Raga GorakhKalyan).

Another interesting point is that the Raga shares the same scale with Raga Narayani, but, Raga Narayani is based on the platform of Raga Durga and has a different Melody structure.

Presented here is a drut Bandish of the Raga sung by Ustad Yunus Hussain Khan.

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