

Raga of the Month- January, 2014-

Variants of Raga Dhanashri.

Raga Dhanashri is known from olden times and it had different names such as, Dhanyashri, Dhannasi or Dhannasika. Raga Bhimpalas which is very close to it has gained popularity. Traditionally, Raga Dhanashri is placed under Kafi Thata (Melakarta No. 22 kharaharapriya), however, references to the Raga belonging to Poorvi Thata (Melakarta No. 51 Kamavardhini) are also noted.

Please find below six variants of this Raga documented along with their brief introduction-

- 1) Dhanashri KafiThata or Bhimpalasanga- Aroha- Avaroha- 'n SgMPnS''/ S'' nDPMgRS;
Vadi P- Samvadi S; Sangati Pg; PgRS is frequently used.
[Phrases MgRS; 'n—SM—and Halt on M are avoided to keep the Raga distinct from Raga Bhimpalasi];
- 2) Dhanashri(Bhairavianga) or KomalDhanashri- 'n SgMPnS''/ S'' nd- MP- gMgrS;
- 3) DhanashriPatdeepanga- or Patdeep- 'NsgMPNS''/ S'' NDPMgRS;
- 4) Dhanashri Bilavalanga or Shubh or ShuddhaDhanashri- SGMPDNS''/ S'' NDPMGRS;
Important Phrases- MP- MGM-GRSM- NDPM;
- 5) DhanashriAsavarianga- S, gMP, nS''/ S'' n (d) PMgRS---
Only subtle use of Komal Dhaivat -d- is made to give a hint of Asavarianga;
- 6) DhanashriBhimanga or Dhanashri with Shuddha G and Komal n---
Aroha- Avaroha—'nSGm, PnS''/ S'' nDP, MGRS or GMRS.

(References: RagaNidhi- Prof. B. Subba Rao; Bhatkhande Kramik Pustak malika Vol. 6; Bhatkhande Sangeet Shastra Vol. 4 and Manikbuwa Thakurdas Raga Darshana Vol. 1)
Audio samples of the first 4 Ragas are available on the web site.

Please listen to Raga Dhanashri Bilawalanga or Shubh or Shuddha Dhanashri sung by Ustad Azmat Hussain Khan.

