

Raga of the Month- November, 2014-

MadhuSaraswati.

Raga MadhuSaraswati is a MishraRaga and is rarely heard. The Raga has been introduced by Pt. BalvantRai Bhatt, a senior Disciple of Pt. Omkarnath Thakur. Though Pt. Balvantraiji lost his sight at an early age, he continued to excel in the field of Music. He taught at Banaras Hindu University for more than 3 decades. He was a Vaggeyakar – Composer par excellence and has composed a large number of compositions under the pen name “Bhav rang”. For his exceptional contribution to Hindustani Classical Music he received Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 2004 and was honoured with a Padmashree Award by Govt. of India in 1990. Pt. Damodar Hota, Pandita Veena Sahasrabuddhe and Prof. Chittaranjan Jyotishi are some of his distinguished disciples.

Raga MadhuSaraswati, as the name suggests is a blend of Madhuvanti and Saraswati. Raga Saraswati, in itself, presents a mix of Kalyan in Poorvanga and Jhinjhoti in Uttaranga. The melody structure of Raga MadhuSaraswati presents Raga Saraswati in Aroha and raga Madhuvanti in Avaroha.

{Raga Saraswati- Aroha- S R m P D S"; Avaroha- S" n D P, m P, m R S;

Raga Madhuvanti- Aroha- 'N S g m P N S"; Avaroha- S" N D P, m P, m g R S;

In Raga Madhuvanti Komal Nishad -n- is used some times in Avaroha.}

Raga MadhuSaraswati - Scale- S R g m P D n;

Aroha- S R m P D S"; Avaroha- S" n D P, m P, m g R S;

Salient Phrases- S, RmP, RmP, mDP, mPDS", R" nDP, mPmg (S)R S;

SRmP, mPDnDS", S"R"g"R"S", S"nDP, mPDS"nDP, mDP, mg (S)R S

(References: 1) The Raga belongs to 58th Melakarta Hemavathi; 2) The Raga having a similar structure is documented by Sangeetacharya S A Tenkshe under the name Yachana; 3) Raga Kesarava Loka documented in Raga Pravaham is a similar Raga from Carnatic Music)

{Audio Courtesy Shri Kishore Merchant, Mumbai}

Please listen to a drut Bandish praising God Hanumanji presented by Pandit BalvantRai Bhatt.

{Updated 1-11-2014}