

## Raga of the month July 2020

### Raga Sorath

Raga Sorath has become a rare melody today. It is believed that Raga Sorath has its roots in Folk songs of Sourashtra which is part of Kathiawar region of the state of Gujarat. Close companion of Raga Sorath, Des, being a *dhun-raga* is more popular. Both the Ragas share the same scale, but *Gandhar* is very weak, practically omitted, in Sorath and is only subtly used in *meend* from *Madhyam* to *Rishabh* in *Avaroha*. Inclusion of *Gandhar* in Des and its *chanchal prakriti* makes it suitable for light forms of music such as, *thumri*, *dadra*, *hori*, *ghazal* etc. Ragas of Khamaj Thata are classified in 2 types- *Rishabh* prominent; that is, *Sorathanga* and *Gandhar* prominent- Khamajanga. Raga Des belongs to Sorathanga.

The Raga is classified in *Khamaj Thata* (*Harikambhoji Melakarta* no. 28). Ragas Surati and Andolika from Carnatic music are similar to Raga Sorath.

*Aroha*- S,RR, MPN,S"; *Avaroha*- S''R''nD,MPD,M->R,'NS; *Vadi*- R,*Samvadi*- D;Time 10 p m to 1 a m;

*Chalan*: S, R, MP, N, S'', R'', nD, P, DM->R, RPMMR, R S; R, P, MPD, M->R, n,D, M->R, RMPN, S'', R''nD, M->R, P, M->R, R'N, 'NS.

Please listen to a melodious collection of audio clips of Raga Sorath presented by i) Dr. Varada Godbole (a *bandish* composed by *Prempiya* Ustad Faiyaz Hussain Khan\*), ii) Pandit K G Ginde (a *bandish* composed by *Sujan*- Acharya S N Ratanjankar), iii) Ustad MunawarAliKhan, iv) *Acharya* S N Ratanjankar and v) Sarangi Maestro Ustad Bundu Khan.

\* It must be mentioned here that the *Bandish* (करम मोरे जागे महाराज । बहुत दिनन में सुध लीनी प्रीतम, आनंद भयो मोहे आज ॥ ) was composed and sung by Ustad Faiyaz Hussain Khan praising the Maharaja of Mysore when the title "Afatab e mousiqi - आफताब ए मौसिकी – meaning The Sun of the world of Music -" was awarded to him by the Maharaja in 1926.

It will be interesting to note that there are nearly 50 audio clips on the web site <http://oceanofragas.com/> which share the same scale as Sorath, i.e. all *shuddha swaras* plus *komal Nishad*. Similarities and differences in melody structures of such scale-congruent Ragas is a subject of independent research.

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sarangi.info; North Indian Classical Music Archive.

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