

Raga of the month August 2020

Raga GoudMalhar and its 6 variants

Raga GoudMalhar is one of the oldest types of Malhar. It even predates, MiyanMalhar, as name of Miyan Tansen is linked with MiyanMalhar. Application of both shuddha and komal Nishad in Goud Malhar is accepted by experts. However, totally six variants of Goud Malhar are traditionally practised. They are based on choice of Gandhar- shuddha or komal swara, omission or inclusion of both, and prominence of Gandhar or Madhyama or Khamajanga. A brief information of the 6 variants is given below:

- 1) The *prachalit* (Madhyam prominent) GoudMalhar, uses Shuddha Gandhar and is documented as follows:

Aroha- SRM, PDS"; *Avaroha-* S''nP, MPGM, RS; *Vadi-* M; *Samvadi-* S; Thata Khamaj; *Pakad* – RGRMGRS, PMPDS", DPM; *GaanSamaya-* anytime in Rainy Season;

Important Phrases of the Raga- S, RGM, G-MGRS, (M)RP, MP, DP, DnP, MPDS", DNS", S''DnP, DPMGRGM, MPDnP, MG, RGS.

The familiar *vilambit khayal* "*Kahe Ho*" belongs to this form.

We will now look into the *aprachalit* forms of Goud Malhar:

- 2) The second variant is similar to the first form; however, Gandhar is more prominent than Madhyam. A brief drut bandish composed by Pandit G N Natu "*Tapak tapak ansua tapakeri*" is selected to illustrate this form;
- 3) Next form of GoudMalhar utilises Komal Gandhar in place of Shuddha Gandhar. It is said that this form was accepted by Dhrupadiyas. It is rarely heard now. A bandish composed by Acharya S N Ratanjankar "*Garwa daru haar sarasa sugandh*" represents this variety;
- 4) Another rare version of GoudMalhar omits Gandhar altogether. It is included in the book "Abhinav Geet Manjari" written by Acharya S N Ratanjankar and the lyrics of the Bandish are "*Maan mataware*";
- 5) One more rare form of Khamajanga GoudMalhar is introduced by Pandit K G Ginde in the Lecture Demonstration on Malharanga Ragas and the bandish "Dadurwa bulaye" represents this version;
- 6) The sixth variety includes both Shuddha and Komal Gandhar. A representative audio of this form was not available; however, an audio sample illustrating subtle use of komal Gandhar is available in a Bandish presented by Pandit Kumar Gandharva and a clip is included in the audio.

The audio file attached herewith comprises excerpts of the following -

- i) Type 1- bandish "*Kahe Ho*" sung by Pandit D V Paluskar;
- ii) Type 2-bandish "*Tapak tapak ansua tapakeri*" sung by Smt. Apoorva Gokhale;
- iii) Type 3- bandish "*Garwa daru haar sarasa Sugandh*" sung by Pandit K G Ginde;
- iv) Type 4- bandish "*Maan mataware*" sung by Pandit K G Ginde;
- v) Type 5- bandish "*Dadurwa bulaye*" sung by Pandit K G Ginde and
- vi) Type 6- a clip sung by Pandit Kumar Gandharva.

References- Kramik Pustak Malika- vol. IV; "On GaudMalhar and MiyanMalhar"- an article by Rajan Parrikar; GeetSamuha- G N Natu and Abhinav Geet Manjari- S N Ratanjankar (SanskarPrakashan);

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