



SUNADA
MUSIC, MUSIC THERAPY & MORE...

Vol. XVII, May, 2018



From the Editor's Desk

In the last few issues the Sunada has tried to understand how music therapy began in the west. This month, we are introducing a new feature by the name "Nectar to the Mind". In this, books written by great writers of yester years. "Chitta Bodhamrutam" is a set of poems written on Rama, by Late Bhavaraju Bapiraju in chaste Telugu. I have made an attempt to translate these little known poems with the idea of popularising and want everyone to enjoy the essence of these. As always we are covering some very talented people who are doing some excellent work in the area of music in various capacities. This time we have put up a write – up about a musician from Air Force and one can see how music knows no boundaries. Also, we are covering one of the most common and enjoyable forms of music – folk music, its evolution and how it effects the various facets of our lives. Happy reading...

KS Vasantha Lakshmi,

Founder & Editor

www.sunadavinodini.com

IN THIS ISSUE ...

Genres of Music – Folk Music	3
Nectar to the Mind.....	5
FACE TO FACE.....	6
What you think.....	12

SUNNADA

GENRES OF MUSIC – FOLK MUSIC OF INDIA

By

KS Vasantha Lakshmi, MA, MT, TM

It is common knowledge that almost all folk songs are hand me downs from generations. Almost all the time, there are no written documents or lyrics available to say that a particular folk song has to have the same lyric. It has the excellent capability of morphing itself and evolving to suit the times when it is being sung. That is why it is not easy to trace out the origins of any folk literature. It is as difficult as to decide the origin of any language. In fact most of it is not even transcribed and often sung as hand me downs. In this process, the words change, metamorphose into more contemporary language. They also begin to include English or other languages into them and the process of assimilation is simply beautiful. In other words, one can safely say that the addition of verbal creativity in latter periods has widened the folk expressive tradition in another medium that is verbal folk arts or the folk literature. Therefore, the existence of any folk literature can go back to the time of the given language correspondingly. The words used have everyday parlance and easily understood even by the illiterate.

The music of India includes multiple varieties of folk music and has as much variety as the ethnic cultures of India.

Ritual narratives

A ritual narrative is narrative sung or performed in a ritual, as an inseparable part of that ritual. It loses its importance when it is dissociated from that ritual. It is another functional narrative. These narratives are nothing but the narratives of Goddesses and Gods. These are like Harikatha, Yakshagana, Purana kalaskhepam, Lavani, Baul etc., the list is endless.

Marriage Songs

Almost all languages of India have special songs for marriages. While the groom's party complains about the quality of the food served, hospitality, the beauty of the bride, dowry (in the olden days) etc., the bride's side sings about the lack of sophistication of the groom's relatives, the groom not being educated and not as good looking as the bride etc. The occasions of humorous banter and fun making are innumerable.

Wedding song and dance at a Harayanvi wedding

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wnxRz3YY-6w>



To be continued.....

CHITTABODHAMRUTAM

By

Late Bhavaraju Bapiraju

This book of poems written in Telugu has been liked by the educated and erudite of Andhra Pradesh. Not only is the author my grandfather, but also served in the British Government before India got independence. This is just a very humble attempt to translate this great work so that it reaches a larger audience.

Translated by Kalipatnam Sita Vasantha Lakshmi, (Nee Bhavaraju)

Great king, with a body like the blue sapphire shining in darkness
Thy birth on the earth in the Surya Dynasty for ridding the evil so excess,
Of great character who likes soft words, worshipped by one and all
Husband of Janaki, lover of the devotees! Oh my heart, pray with all your might.

Face to Face

With

Wing Commander Yagna



Q. We all know you as Yagna, what is your full name?

Yagna: My name is Minjur M Yagnaraman, known as *Yagna*, and I am a Wing Commander in IAF, Air Traffic Control and Administrative Officer by profession with the Indian Air Force and a musician by sheer passion and perseverance.

Q. What set you apart as a special person in the IAF?

Yagna: During my Commissioning into the IAF on 19 Jun 1999, I was awarded with the coveted **President's Plaque** by **His Excellency Shri KR Narayanan**, the then President of India, for having stood **First and Best All Rounder** during his commissioning training at Air Force Academy, Hyderabad.

Q. How about your tryst with music?

Yagna: My mother Smt. Santhy Mahadevan was my first guru who initiated me into the world of music. My wife Preethilakshmi and my daughter Amrutavauhini, the Gen Secretary, PrAMaYaS, are my two pillars of strength who have been assisting me in all possible ways so that I could do well both professionally and artistically.

Q. What about your formal education in Music?

Yagna: I am a graduate of Indian Music with distinction from the University of Madras.

My formal education includes a Masters Degree in Public Administration, a Post Graduate Diploma in Business Administration and also in Hindi.

Q. How did you become so devoted to music?

Yagna: As a child artist, I took my basic lessons in Carnatic Vocal from Vid Smt Kalyani Narayanaswami of Ariyakkudi lineage. I trained under Vid Tambaram Shri V Sundaresa Iyer and Vid Klaacharya Smt Suguna Varadachari. I was also exposed to Hindustani Music, Rabindra Sangeet, Syama Sangeet and Nazrul Geeti under Prof Amitava Ghosh, Passighat.

Q. Did you learn to play all these various instruments from various gurus?

Yagna: I am basically a classical vocalist, and self-taught instrumentalist, and became adept in composing and playing on various instruments like Flute, Electric Mandolin, Morsing, Ghatam, Keyboard, Melodica and Harmonica and performed with various prestigious groups throughout the country and abroad. The Austrian String Quartette and the Royal Thailand Symphony are a few to name. I raised and performed with Station Music and Dramatics Club at AF Station Kumbhirgram and was chosen as Command Coordinator and performer for **IAF Cultural Mahotsavs** during the period from 2003 to 2005. In the year 2003, as a Flight Lieutenant, and a founder member, I played a key role in raising the 86 piece Air Warriors Symphony Orchestra, at Air Force Station, Jalahalli, Bengaluru, headed the Indian Classical Section, and performed with the Symphony Orchestra though out the country and abroad. During this stint I had a great opportunity to learn about Western, Military Music, Orchestration and Arrangement. I am also the proud winner of state level Classical Music Quiz - 2004 conducted by Karnataka Ganakala Parishad, Bengaluru.

Q. Wonderful, Yagna. What drew you to writing and composing music? And, do you have a liking for any specific kind of music?

Yagna: Under the Ministry of Defense, I had two distinguished and consecutive tenures as '*Registrar*' at Sainik Schools in Bhubaneswar and Ghorakhal in Nainital. During which, in the year 2006 I penned, composed and recorded the School Anthem for

Bhubaneswar Chapter. In the year 2009, I conceptualised and conducted the **First ever 'All India Annual Band Competition'** for the Indian Public Schools Conference and set a new trend with IPSC. I am also the Founder Principal of TTD Utkal Sangeeta Saptaswaralaya, Bhubaneswar.

Q. What other interests do you have?

Yagna: I have also participated as an amateur Theatre artist in productions by 'Tamil Chair' of Utkal University, Vani Vihar, Bhubaneswar. In the year 2014, he composed lyrics, music and performed for a ballet titled '**Krishnamayee Meerandal**' for Guru Smt Kanaka Sudhakar's national integration series by *Nrityabharati*, Delhi, which received rave reviews and continuing its journey of repeat performances throughout the country. Another production '**Jai Ganesh**' - Animal Welfare Awareness' composed by him for *Nrityabharathi*, New Delhi, was staged on 5th December 2016 at India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi. As recent as on 22 Oct 2015, I composed a navarAgamAlikA padavarNam '**hEramba gaNapati gajanana**' for Bharatanatyam, totally in Hindi, in praise of Lord Ganesha which became the first ever such '**padavarNam**' composed by anyone, purely in Hindi. This was staged for the first time, on 23 Jan 2016 by *Niruttha Indian Fine Arts*, Melbourne, Australia. Subsequently, I composed An Academy Anthem in Sanskrit for the same institution, which was formally inducted by the institution on 01 May 2016, at Melbourne, Australia. I then took to composing for Dance Repertoire like the 'Margam Specific' numbers. I am one of the few artists to have undertaken multi-tasking on a stage at one time like, anchoring, singing, playing on the flute & marsing, jati recitation and coordinating, which demand un-flinched focus and resolve in assisting and ensuring the event to turn successful and memorable.

Q. You have also done some experimental kind of work in dance. Can you tell us about it?

Yagna: I have successfully fused the technical aspects of traditional BharatanATyam into Kathak repertoire and created a new genre which I named '**KathakanATyam**' and staged it for the first time on 20 May 2018 at Shilparamam, Hyderabad and it was performed by **Nrtyangana Smt Archana Misra** of Secunderabad. The same was well

received and widely appreciated and have some more future plans for the same and make it popular.

Q. You have some different ideas about artistry. Can you enlighten us?

Yagna: I think as an artist, it is not mandatory to be a specialist. One needs to constantly reinvent oneself in various roles. As an Air Force Officer, a Composer, Vocalist, Flautist, Flute Maker, Guru and Performing Artist, Art and Culture Entrepreneur, Soft Skills Trainer, Event Manager, anchor, Polyglot, Quiz Master, Theatre and Voice over Artist, Script Writer, Director and Yoga Trainer, I feel that for any person there are no limits to what one can achieve. The sky is the limit.

Q. What other achievements do you have?

Yagna: I also train and conduct Ceremonial Parades of the Indian Air Force of international repute, including the prestigious President's Presentation Parades. One such was concluded at Air Force Station, Adampur in Punjab in November 2107.

Q. You are running an organization in Hyderabad. What are your activities?

Yagna: Under my own charitable banner '**PrAMaYaS**' since the year 2005, I have been promoting young talent while conducting a number of Lec-Dems, Seminars, Concerts, Cultural Festivals, Summer Camps, Cultural Workshops, Ballet productions, Quiz, Academics, Music and Dance oriented programmes for various institutions of repute and Academic Institutions, inspiring the young minds to get motivated toward practicing and enjoy the benefits in having Indian Classical Music and Dance forms as part of their lives.

Q. How do you balance your IAF position and your artistic pursuits?

Yagna: As the Head of Air Force Band component at Air Force Academy, I am required to conduct and perform Band Concerts towards creating Public Awareness and interest for Military Music. For my work in this area I was awarded with Commendation by Air Officer Commanding in Chief, Western Air Command on 26 Jan 2014. Presently I am serving as Chief Instructor and Head of Faculty of Outdoor Training of Officer Trainee

Cadets at Air Force Academy, Dundigal, Hyderabad. I am also the Cultural Coordinator and Officer in Charge of **SPIC MACAY** component of Academy and impart training to Cadets on Indian Classical Music and Dance as a Hobby and regularly conduct cultural shows.

Q. How about Music Therapy?

Yagna: Dr TV Sairam introduced me to the world of music therapy. Apart from that my Superiors at the Indian Air Force recognised my talent and passion and nurtured it all these years to transform me to a socially sensible and responsible citizen of the country While uncompromisingly discharging my duties and responsibilities as an Officer of the Indian Air Force.

Q. You seem to have a special signature quote. Tell us about it.

Yagna: Calling myself 'Musically Yours', I firmly believe in the Vedic statement.

“Vandanam prasadasadanam sadayam hridayam sudhamuche vachah|

Karanam paropkaranam yesham twam sadiava vandaneeyah||”

“A charming face, a heart full of compassion, whose speech is like amrut (Nectar) and who always extends a helping hand to the needy..., such a person is always the most revered one”.

Yagna, it was very enlightening to talk to you and to discover the real Yagna behind the jovial, happy-go-lucky façade a person who is actually kind hearted, helpful, grounded in spite of being a great achiever. We wish you all the best on behalf of SUNADA and hope that you go on doing all the wonderful work you are doing.



WHAT YOU THINK.....

The interview with Ms. Vijaya Murthy was very enlightening. It is good to see that some great work is being done in the area of spiritualism in these times and in this country which is the birth place of all great spirituality. Kudos to her.

Raghav Arora, Hyderabad

The article on Fibonacci is a revelation to the common readers. The way in which the relationship between Music and mathematics is explained is astonishing. I always thought that he was connected with Art, Beauty and Mathematics. It is a wonderful article which told us about how he was instrumental in the construction of the Violin also.

Vikas Agarwal, Bonn, Germany

For Online and Class room Lessons, Music Therapy &

Standards for Music Therapy Practitioners

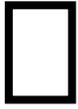
Contact: singvasantha@gmail.com

Read earlier editions of Sunada on : www.sunadavinodini.com. Articles not exceeding 500 words along with a passport size photograph can be sent to: singvasantha@gmail.com.

© 2012 K.S. Vasantha Lakshmi, Sunada Vinodini Music Gurukulam, Gurgaon, Haryana, India. Please note that any reproduction of any or all of the content of this material for any reason, without the prior written approval of the Author/Sunada Vinodini Music Gurukulam, Gurgaon and without proper acknowledgement will amount to gross violation of the Copyright Law, inviting the proceedings under the law.

SUNADA

SUNADA



SUNADA