

Raga of the Month- January, 2017

Raga Koushikranjani (Kaishikranjani, Chandrahas, Bahader Kouns, Chandramukhi Typell)

In this month we shall study Raga Koushikranjani. This raga was introduced by Late Pandit Chidanand Nagarkar*. The Raga is based on the platform of Raga Chandrakouns. Shuddha Rishabh is introduced in Arohi as well as Avarohi order and Pancham is varjya swara.

The Scale of the Raga Koushikranjani is SRgMdN.

The Raga is included in Asavari Thata and in Melakarta No. 21 Kirwani in Carnatic Music. Raga Nadasanjivi of Carnatic Music resembles Raga Koushikranjini closely. Although Chandrakouns effect is prominent in this raga, phrases SRg-Rs and SRgM (without stress or elongation of Komal Gandhar) hints Raga Abhogi. Phrase SRM, which is a characteristic phrase of Raga Chandraprabha, is avoided.

Aroha: SRgMdNS''; Avaroha: S'' NdMgRS;

Vadi - Madhyama; Samvadi- Shadja;

Chalan- S, 'N'd, 'N, S; 'g'M'd'NS; 'NSR 'NS'd, 'N-S;

SRgRS, SRgM, gRgM, gMd, MgR, RgMS, 'd'NS;

gMdN, N, MdMN, dNS'', NS'' d-M, gRgM, gRS;

SRgM, gMd, MdN, dNS'', S''R''g''M''R''S'', NS''R'' NS'' d, MgMd, MgR-gMRS.

The Raga is documented in the book Abhinav Raga Darpan by Pandit K B Kunte and (as Raga Chandrahas) in Volume II of Raga-Darshana by Pandit Manikbua Thakurdas. (Raga Nadasanjivi- Ref. RagaPravaham-by Dr. M N Dhandapani and D Pattamal)

* **CHIDANAND DATTATREY NAGARKAR**, was born in 1919 in Bangalore.

Chidanand inherited all his musical talents from his father, who had a flair for singing Bhajans and stage acting (including Natya Sangeet). Chidanand received rigorous training under Acharya Pandit S.N.Ratanjankar and Ustad Agha Samshuddin Hyder for six years. Chidanand Nagarkar, who was just 26 years of age, was recommended for the post of the Principal of Bharatiya Sangeet-Nartan Shiksha Peeth set up under the aegis of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan in Bombay. Some of his students like Vasanti Kodikal, Shashikala Kaikini, Sadanand Pattiarchi, Tej Krishna Jalali, Sushila Nadkarni (to name a few) and several others have established a name for themselves in the world of music. **In recognition of Chidanand Nagarkar's contribution to the cause of Music, he was awarded the "DISTINGUISHED**

SERVICE “ Plaque in 1968 by Dr.Zakir Hussain, former President of India, during the Tri-Decennial celebrations of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan in Bombay. On 26th May 1971, Chidanand Nagarkar had a major heart attack (cardiac arrest) to which he succumbed even before medical assistance could reach him. He was just 51 years old when tragedy struck the family.

Please listen to excerpts of Raga Koushikranjani sung by Pandit Chidanand Nagarkar. (Updated on 01/01/2017.)