

RAGA VAIBHAVAM

- **SMT. RAJASHREE YOGANANDA**

DR.RADHA BHASKAR, MUSICIAN AND MUSICOLOGIST HAS DEVISED A NOVEL CONCEPT CALLED THE MUSIC APPRECIATION PROGRAMME THROUGH WHICH SHE TRIES TO ENLIGHTEN RASIKAS ABOUT THE FINER NUANCES OF KARNATIC MUSIC. STARTED NINE YEARS AGO, THIS PROGRAMME HAS RECEIVED VERY GOOD RESPONSE FROM RASIKAS. RAGA VAIBHAVAM - A JOURNEY INTO THE BEAUTIFUL WORLD OF RAGAS WAS PRESENTED BY DR.RADHA ALONG WITH K.P.NANDINI AND AISHWARYA SHANKARON 29TH JULY 2012. THIS WAS ORGANIZED BY SRI RAMA LALITHA KALA MANDIRA, BANGALORE AND RECEIVED GOOD APPRECIATION FROM RASIKAS.

DR.RADHA IN HER INTRODUCTION, SAID THAT IT WAS NOT ENOUGH FOR A RASIKA TO JUST KNOW THE NAME OF VARIOUS RAGAS. ONE MUST GO DEEPER INTO IT AND TRY TO UNDERSTAND ITS CHARACTER, MOVEMENTS, ITS FORM AS DEPICTED IN VARIOUS COMPOSITIONS ETC. SHE TOOK A VARIETY OF RAGAS TO PROVIDE AN INTERESTING FARE. BEGINNING WITH MAYAMALAVAGOULA AND ITS JANYAS, SHE EXPLAINED ITS LAKSHANA, AROHANA-AVAROHANA AND MENTIONED THE POPULAR COMPOSITIONS IN IT. SHE POINTED OUT HOW MUTHUSWAMY DIKSHITAR IN HIS FIRST COMPOSITION “SRI NATHADI GURUGUHO” IN THIS RAGA HAS BROUGHT OUT THE RAGA SWARUPA IN A CRYSTAL CLEAR MANNER BY ESSAYING THE AROHANA –AVAROHANA VIVIDLY. SHE ALSO DEMONSTRATED THE NATURE OF GAMAKAS EMPLOYED BY EACH NOTE IN MAYAMALAVAGOULA AND GAVE AN INTERESTING COMPARISON OF THE “GA-MA” COMBINATION USED IN THIS RAGA AS WELL AS IN SHANKARABHARANAM RAGA. A BRIEF ALAPANA AS WELL AS ROUNDS OF KALPANA SWARAS IN THE SAME, UNFOLDED THE RAGA IN ITS VARIOUS DIMENSIONS. DR.RADHA, ALONG WITH AISHWARYA AND NANDINI SANG VARIOUS POPULAR SONGS IN MAYAMALAVAGOULA LIKE DEVE DEVA, TULASIDALA, MERUSAMANA, AADIKONAR ETC. IMPORTANT JANYAS OF THE RAGA LIKE MALAHARI, SAVERI, PHARAS ETC. WERE HIGHLIGHTED THROUGH SUITABLE SONGS.

MADHYMAVATI, ANADABHAIRAVI AND VARALI WHICH WERE TAKEN NEXT WERE AGAIN DETAILED THROUGH SUITABLE EXPLANATIONS AND DEMONSTRATIONS. THE KEY PHRASES OF EACH WERE WELL HIGHLIGHTED SO THAT RASIKAS COULD IDENTIFY THE RAGAS WITH THESE TYPICAL PHRASES. FOR EXAMPLE, THE UNIQUE MADHYAMA AND GANDHARA IN VARALI WERE DEMONSTRATED TO SHOW HOW THEY LEND A DISTINCT COLOUR TO THE RAGA.

THE MAIN RAGA TAKEN WAS KARAHARAPRIYA AND ITS JANYAS. IN THIS, DR.RADHA FOCUSED ON HOW KARAHARAPRIYA HAS BEEN GIVEN A UNIQUE STATUS THROUGH THE COMPOSITIONS OF THYAGARAJA AND LATER BY PAPANASAM SIVAN. A MEDLEY OF KRITIS IN SOME OF ITS IMPORTANT JANYAS LIKE ABHOGI, DEVAMANOHARI, JAYAMANOHARI, MANJARI, KAPI, SRIRANJANI, KANADA, NAYAKI MANIRANGU, MUKARI, SUDH BANGALA RITIGOWLA, KANNADAGOULA, USENI, MADHYMAVATHI, SAINDHAVI, SRI RAGAM ETC. MADE A VERY INTERESTING FARE AS THE AUDIENCE TRIED TO IDENTIFY EACH RAGA WHEN THE SONGS WERE PRESENTED.

THE PROGRAMME CONCLUDED WITH RAGAS DESH AND SINDUBHAIRAVI. IN BOTH, TILLANAS AS WELL AS POPULAR COMPOSITIONS PROVIDED INTERESTING LISTENING. THEY WERE COMPETENTLY ACCOMPANIED BY ANAYAMPATTI VENKATASUBRAMANIAM (VIOLIN) WHO PRESENTED THE ESSENCE OF THE RAGAS IN AN EFFECTIVE MANNER. MUDHRA BHASKAR (MRUDANGAM) GAVE AMICABLE SUPPORT.

IN HIS SPEECH, MR.KRISHNAPRASAD WHO RUNS THE SABHA IN A VERY DEDICATED MANNER, APPRECIATED THE EFFORTS OF DR.RADHA TO PRESERVE THE VALUES OF KARNATIC MUSIC BY CREATING MORE INFORMED RASIKAS.