

Sangeethanubhavam

Composition : Vakachakochara
Raga : Atana
Composer : Sadasivarao



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Palghat Rama Bhagavatar



Born	5th June 1888
Birth Place	Mundayi, Kerala
Died	25th June 1957
Parents	Kasturi Ranganatha Iyer and Alamelu Ammal
Lineage	Elder brother Venkatakrishna was a singer for Kathakali performances.
Gurus	Vadakkancheri Rama and Subburama Bhagavatars, Palghat Anantarama Bhagavatar, Umayalpuram Swaminatha Iyer
Shishya Parampara	Son Seshamani, who is also a composer. Pudukode Krishnamurthy.
General	Was one of the last exponents of ghanam singing. Was a traditionalist, who led a simple life in Palghat. He was however very popular in Madras Presidency and elsewhere.

PALGHAT RAMA BHAGAVATHAR - VOCALIST: (June 5,1888-June 26,1957)

Rama Bhagavathar was born at Mundaya near Shoranur and hence called 'Munday Rama Bhagavathar'. His brother Venkatakrishna Bhagavathar, vocalist and background singer in 'Kathakali', initiated him in music. Had learnt under Kavaseri Rama Bhagavathar and Subbarama Bhagavathar also. Anantarama Bhagavathar was his principal master for twelve years and Rama Bhagavathar had accompanied his tutor in performances all over the South. When the guru stayed at Kumbakonam, the disciple had the unique opportunity of learning along with Maharajapuram Viswanatha Ayyar from Umayalpuram Swaminatha Ayyar. Thus Rama Bhagavathar had derived deep inspiration from great masters and expertise by accompanying his master. He built up a very rich repertoire of songs of all great composers including Tirupugazh, javalis and padams and compositions of Mysore Sadasiva Rao.

He made his debut at the age of twenty-four. Earlier he was giving kalakshepams but later fully switched over to vocal concerts. Enjoyed a cultivated sweet voice. His music was wholesome and tasteful projecting a style characterised by even melody. He had absolute grip over his concerts, which were absorbing and authentic in classicism. All great accompanists had followed him. LRV says, 'If any music can be described as Brahmananda Sangita, it is Rama Bhagavathar's'. Prof. P. Sambamurthy refers to 'his brilliant exposition of pallavi and raga alapana exhibiting good manodharma'. He was one of the illustrious artistes who gave concerts at the first All India Conference of Musicians in 1927.

His personal life was marked by simplicity and nobility. Deeply spiritual, he did his first and last concerts at the temple of Viswanathaswamy, Kalpathi and died as he was doing his daily rites - while giving 'argyam' during 'sandhyavandanam' in the Kalpathi river.

He celebrated Tyagaraja Aradhana (festival) at Kalpathi on four days annually. The Music Academy honoured him 'though belatedly'. Great Vidwans loved to hear the good, unassuming vocal maestro and Mysore T.Chowdiah stayed with him during 1925-1928. Pudukode Krishnamurthy was among his disciples.

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