

Chapter : 8

Esteem

Barodians,

Music Lovers,

Families

8:1 The Esteem Barodians

8:1:1 Shri.Shrinivas Khale

Shri. Shrinivas Khale a very popular name in the field of music. The music director, composer and arranger, had served the world of music for more than sixty years and satisfied, not only Marathi music lovers, but composed songs in Hindi, Bengali, Gujarati, Sanskrit and the listeners were pleased too. So many great singers, like Bharat Ratna Pt. Bhimsen Joshi, Bharat Ratna melody queen Lata Mangeshkar and also evergreen Asha Bhosle, Suman Kalyanpur, Shobha Gurtu, Sulochanabai Chavan, Pt. Vasant Rao Deshpande, Hridaynath Mangeshkar, Manna Dey, Mahendra Kapoor, Suresh Wadkar, & Arun Date, have sung the compositions of Shrinivas Khale. He has composed and directed so many immortal Marathi songs. He has been awarded, for his very long service, so many honors, such as, Lata Mangeshkar Award, Dada Saheb Phalke Trust award, Sangeet Ratna & Swara Ratna, and a great award of Padma Vibhushan by Government of India. His life story has also been published in the book named, "International who's who" published from London. His long interview, was broadcasted from the "Voice of America", "Shrinivas Khale Rajani" was viewed from "Zee TV" Marathi channel, under the title, "Nakshatranche Dene" a very famous telecast, of three & half hours. He was trained, for his initial music learning under the great musician Pt. Madhusudan Joshi, at Music College of Baroda and Pt. Baburao Karnik at his institute named "Shri Aroonodaya Sangeet Class", for which he always used to speak, humbly. Shrinivas Khale, after serving for music world quite long time, he passed away on 1-9-2011.^[1]

[1] Anteryami sur gavasala/Datta Marulkar/Majestic Prakashan/1st Edition/2009/Page.no.23

8:1:2 Shri.Vasantrao Kaptan

He was an “Ashtapailu” person, “A gem” of Baroda. He was a lover of sports, classical music, Dramatics, singing Devotional songs (Bhajans). He had as very big collection of people from different fields. He was a fan of Pandit Omkarnath Thakur, Ustad Faiyazkhan, Swar Samrat Balgandharva, etc. and had a deep ear for the music. Pt. Bhimsen Joshi was his fast friend and whenever Panditji visited Baroda, he never missed to see Vasantraoji. Vasantrao Kaptan had an honor, to visit the Olympic Festival at Berlin in 1936, as a sports representative from Baroda. He had also visited the Olympic festival held in U.S.A. later on.

“Gujarat Krida Mandal” is the fruit of his hard work and his interest and dedication towards sports. He was a good singer, with melodious voice of high pitch and delivered member of Bhajan programme in and outside Baroda. He has trained lot many persons, in singing Bhajans and also in the field of sports. His name will be remembered in Baroda forever.^[1]

8:1:3 Shri Shankarrao apte

He was a great performer in Dramatics. He was a good stage artist and director too. He had a great faith in acting and became very famous since, he performed a role in the drama “Dev Manav”.^[2]

[1] Shri.Vasantrao Kaptan Shastipurti gauravgranth/published by. Na .Da. majumdar/1965

[2] Excerpts taken from interview with suresh vaidya/11-2-2012

8:1:4 Shri Aappasaheb Ghanekar (Mukundrao)

He was known for his performance in classical music as well Natya Sangeet & Bhajans, with sweet and sharp voice. He was a disciple of pt. Master Krishnarao and Ustad Aatahussain Khan, private baithaks of All India Radios.

He had a very pleasing personality. It is heard that he was invited by great Shantaram, to act for the role of King 'Dushyant' in the film "Shakuntal".^[1]

8:1:5 Shri Muralidhar Joshi (Diamond Joshi)

He owned a photo studio in Baroda named "Diamond Photo Studio", hence he was known as Diamond Joshi, a neak name. He was an organizer of "Samarth Seva Sangh". He has attended several programmes of classical music, Drama, & Bhajans. He had a nice voice and used to sing Bhajans in his own special style, he had so many recordings of classical music, Bhajans, Kirtan, Lectures in Marathi language, on sports.

He was a social and religious personality. He was fond of travelling, snapping a good photographs. He was a good cyclist and used to ride on bicycle up to the matured age of 86-87. He passed away some years back at the age of 95 years.^[2]

8:1:6 Shri Baburao Kadam

He was a well known musician of Baroda. He know music in very depth. He had a control over so many instruments. He has own music class, he

[1] Excerpts taken from interview of Shri.Bal Marathe/26-2-2012

[2] Excerpts taken from interview of Shri.Shreekant Phadke/14-3-2012

trained so many students in different arts. He was an adviser on Akashwani.^[1]

8:1:7 Shri.Gangadhar Sant

A leading all rounder in the field of Indian Classical Music. He used to play Shehnai, Sitar, Violin etc. He was founder of “Vishwanr Sangeet Class”. A famous Shehnai player, Sitarist, Violinist, Shri Ramakant Sant, is the great son of great father. He has his own orchestra, playing Shehnai, Sitar & Jaltarang and Tabla in co-ordination with sons.^[2]

8:1:8 Dr. M.S. Sudhalkar (Mukundrao)

He was a very famous eye surgeon in his time in Baroda. But he was equally high quality music lover of Indian Classical Music. He was a good Patwardhan. He was among the founder of “Swar Vilas”, an institute for arranging musical conferences in Baroda.

Any musician visiting Baroda for performing his art was treated very homely by Doctor sahib. Baroda is fortunate to listen to the great musician like Pandit Bhimsen Joshi, Smt. Gangubhai Hangal, Dr. Prabha Atre, Kishori Amonkar, Pt. Kumar Gandharva, Ustad Vilayat Khan, Pt. Ravishankar, Hafiz Ali Khan, pt. Vasanttrao Deshpande, Smt. Malini Rajurkar and so on, only because of the efforts made by Doctor Saheb.^[3]

8:1:9 Shri.Ashok Pandit

Ashok Pandit is the younger brother of Pratibha Pandit. He is a business man and keeps very busy. Still out of his busy schedule, he

[1] Excerpts taken from interview of Shri.Keshav Phadke/14-2-2011

[2] Excerpts taken from interview of Shri.Ramakant sant/12-2-2012

[3] Excerpts taken from interview of Dr.Anand sudhalkar/2-3-2012

spares some time for the service of music. He is an active member of Faiyaz Khan Memorial Trust and Kedar Art Research Foundation. He organizes music programmes in Baroda. To encourage new talents in music he frequently arranges their programmes at his residence. He is well-known in classical music organization.^[1]

8:2 Music Lovers

Baroda is a city of cultural heritage. Baroda has conducted and organized many programmes of Indian classical music. Music Lovers come in big numbers to attend these programmes. It is due to these music lovers and listeners the classical music is alive in Baroda till date.

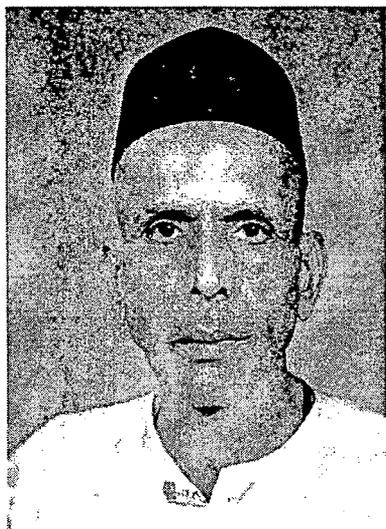
8:2:1 Listeners of Indian Classical Music

The music lovers not only attend the programmes but also arrange such programmes at their place. They also have a good collection of such famous recordings. The development and bright future of classical music in Baroda is impossible without music 'Lover' interest and love. They are in big numbers. Here I can give you some famous names. Smt Smitaben Joshi, Smt Sheetal Bhagwat, Shri Milind Sumant, Shri V.N. Jikar, Shri Tambe, Shri Manohar UKhade, Shri V.C. Parikh, Dr. Sudhalkar, Dr. Potbhare, Dr. Chandrahas Raval, Shri Dnyanesh Bhagwat, Dr. Hemant Sant, Shri Nikhil Muley, Shri S.K. Jha, Shri Suresh Vaidya, Shri Kaushik Potdar, Shri Shreekant Phadke, Smt Nisha Bhagwat, Shri Tandale, Shri Dilip Marathe, Shri Ashok Joshi, Shri Gopuskar, Shri Sanjay Sawant, Shri S.Y. Koranne, Shri Hariwadan Parikh, Parul Patel, Smt.

[1] Excerpts taken from interview of Shri.ashok pandit/12-3-2012

Prgnya Chhaya, Shri Anil Gandhi, Shri Prabhune, Shri Arun Bhokare, Shri Subhash Bhagwat, Shri Vasant Kulkarni, Smt Shweta Bhagwat, Shri Shlok Bhagwat, Shri Ashish Muley etc. They are contributing a lot for keeping classical music alive in Baroda.

8:2:2 Shri.Shrinivas Madhavrao Vaidya (Bhausahab Vaidya)



Sangeet Rasik (Music Lover)

Bhausahab was born in the March 1900 at Baroda. Since his childhood, he was fond of music, cricket, games and kite flying. He left the school after 7th Standard English medium.

He discharged his duties in Indian Railway (B.B & C and Western Railways) in account department in Baroda as well In Ajmer. During service time he played cricket tournament, such Randle cup and Pentagonal matches, Gymkhana matches, as an opening batsman from Railways team.

He was a music lover and fan of Shri. Balgandharva. Whenever also "Gandharva Natak Mandali" was visiting Baroda, he has seen almost all the Acts respectably and he could remember almost all songs (Natya

Pad) which he in the later years used to sing in my presence. He has attended almost all the concerts, small music programmes, and private programmes in and outside Baroda. He has listened to great vocalists, Tabla & Pakhawaj artists; stage Lavani, Bhajans, and Kirtans.

Vocalist like Ustad Faiyaz Khan, Abdul karim Khan, Ata Hussain, Vilayat hussain Khan, Savai Gandharva, Smt. Hirabai Badodekar, Pandit Bhaskar Buva Bakhle , Smt. Mirabai Badkar, Pandit Madhusudan Joshi Mater Krishnarao, Shri Rokadnath Buva, Manik Varma, Gangubai Hangal, Pandit Bhimsen Joshi, Master Dinanath, Pt. Ramkrishna Buva Vaze, Shri Ram Marathe are mostly heard artists by him.

He also listened to Parvatsinh Pakhwaji, Kudansinh Pakhwaji, Pandoba Pakhwaji (From Gandharva Mandali) and Tabla artists like Ahmedjan Thirakwa, Allarakha, Sudhir Kumar Saxena, Ganpat rao Ghodke, Laxmanrao Date, Balasaheb Marathe, Ravindra Nikte, Imamali, Shri Nana Gurav, Vasantrao Achrekar etc. those days vocal artists were being listen more and the craze for instruments artists and dancers was limited. He had in his stock 6 to 7 Tablas tuned in different swaras, perfectly with 3 to 4 Bayas and he would used to provide those, required in any Baithak of Vocal in Baroda free of cost. Sometimes vocalist would suggest his name, whenever required to organized Tabla Baithak. The Tabla manufacturer and repairer in those days in Baroda know his name and identify his instrument even if somebody else brings the Tabla for repairing and tuning.

He is lucky to have attended the rare vocal programme of Shri Bhaskar Buva Bakhale, arranged in the Kirti Mandir of Bapu Maharaj Gadre at Siddhanath. In which he was accompanied on Tanpura by Shri Balgandharva and Master Krishnarao and on Tabla Ustad Ahmedjan

Thirakwa, and ustad Faiyaz Khan Saheb was invited to come inside with respect, and sitting in front of Buva Saheb. He has told this to me, later on when I was able to understand what music is meant. He also used to sing good Bhajans from different group of Bhajan Mandali.

He was the person who inspired me to learn Tabla and created interest how to listen classical music. He also taught me how to play the Thekas of different Taals. I am grateful to him to create love for music in me. He passed away in March 1980.^[1]

8:2:3 Shri.Suresh Vaidya



Shri.Suresh Vaidya with Prof.S.K.Saxena

Shri Suresh Vaidya born on 22/5/1945, in Baroda. Initially he used to listen Filmy songs, with keen interest and was unknown about classical music. His uncle Shri Bhausahab Vaidya was very fond of classical music and has heard so many great musicians, like Ut. Faiyaz Khan, Vilayat Hussain Khan, Abdul Karim Khan, Faiz Mohammed, Bal Gandddharva, Hirabai Badodekar, Bhaskarbua Bakhale, Pt. Omkarnath Thakur, ECT. Since from the age of 15 or 16, Sureshbhai , was being taken to listen the programmes, of classical Vocal, Bhajans, by his uncle in order to

[1] Excerpts taken from interview of Shri.Suresh vaidya/12-3-2012

create interest in him. Thus Sureshbhai, started to listen the music slowly.

Basically Sureshbhai is an Engineering student, but equally a lover of good music, may be light or classical type. For his own interest, he started learning tabla initially from his uncle, who had a deep knowledge of tabla. Then his uncle sent him to learn from Shri Ganpatrao Ghodke, a brilliant tabla artist. Sureshbhai was introduced to Prof. Sudhir Kumar Saxena, by Shri Ghodkeji in 1968. He then learnt some advanced tabla playing. He has a very high respect for Saxena Sir. Sureshbhai, learnt so many good things from Saxena Sir, apart from tabla, which could never be forgotten till the end of life.

Sureshbhai has ample collection of good music. He has around 1500 CD's of Vocal, Instruments, good movies etc., and also many photographs of great artists. If we talk about his contribution in music for Baroda, since 1968, he has collected so many cuttings, from news papers, magazines, on classical music; and copied down in registers, with his own handwriting with all details. He has about twenty numbers of such registers, written in Marathi, Gujarati & English language.

The main aim of such collection is that the coming generation, interested in music, can get guidance and know about history, life study of legendary musicians, and lead music. ^[1]

[1] Excerpts taken from interview of Shri.Suresh vaidya/12-3-2012

8:2:4 Shri Sham Bhagwat



By profession Shri Shyam Bhagwat used to rent out music system for various programs. As his father well known Tabla Player in his childhood the tabla lessons were in cultured. He played tabla at home very regularly. (He was lucky to come to Baroda). He was then sent to Baroda. Here also he rented out music system for various programs and remained in the same profession.

The main intention about remaining in the same profession was very simple. He always wanted get come in touch with all the music artists, and to spend quality time with them. This way shri bhagwat himself used to be a part of every classical music concert and recorded all such concerts for his own collection. For this purpose he had ordered imported recording machines. In his collections Mr. Bhagwat had almost all the recordings of unforgettable performances.

To make these recordings available for general public he started a shop named 'Majestic'. This shop is there opp. Suryanarayan garden, opp raopura area till date. Anyone can visit this shop and avail the recording of any classical concerts of any artist. After his sad demise his two sons Rahul and Dnyanesh are in the same profession to carry out their father's work.

As the time has passed due to the problem of finance it was very difficult to conduct music concerts on regular basis. But to keep the tradition of inviting the well-known musicians to perform in the city Shri Bhagwat started a new organization called 'Swar Smruti'. Then commercial music concerts were held in which well-known artists were invited to perform. 'Swar Smruti' was established in the year 1985. Again the intention was to make classical music popular. The idea for the establishment of this organization was of Shri Bhagwat. All credit goes to him for his efforts. It was possible only because of the support of H.H Ranjitsinh Gaekwad, Shri Chafalkar & Shri Jaywant Lele. They also played a major role in the success of 'Swar Smruti'

This organization invited some of the mentores of Indian classical music to name a few Pandit Bhimsen Joshi, Pandita (smt) Kishori Amonkar, Pandit Jitendra Abhisheki, Pandit Firoz Dastoor, Pandit Kumar Gandharv, and Pandit Budhaditya Mukharjee. These performances were worth mentioning.

This organization had other aim too. It gave a platform to the upcoming performers of classical music. During the year 1985 to 1990 Shri Sanjeev Abhyankar, Shri Nathrao Neralkar, Shri Raja Kale, Shri Shreekant Deshpande etc. had given their memorable performances.

Unfortunately, after the demise of Shri Bhagwat , from 1995 onwards due to lack of manpower and funds (financial backing) this organization could not continue its good work.^{[1][2]}

[1] Excerpts taken from interview of Shri.Smt.Shital Bhagwat/14-2-2012

[2] Excerpts taken from interview of Shri.Dnyanesh Bhagwat/14-2-2012

8:3 Music Families

Baroda is cultural city. The tradition of classical music in this city is very old. There are many such well known families in Baroda, which are working forwards the development of classical music in Baroda from one generation to another (from generations together). Every member of these families is contributing towards classical music. Sant family, Gaekwad family, Bhonsle family, Gadre family ,Gangani Family and Gurav family etc are working towards generation.

Now with the changing times, these families have started engaging themselves in other types of music as folk music, light music and Garba, along with the classical music. But the families which will dedicate toward classical music only do not exist anymore. In one way or the other most of the families are engaged in different types of music also. Other details of dedicated families are given in article 'Artists of Baroda'. The members of these families are Shri Gangadhar Sant, Shri G.G. Gaekwad, Shri Ramakant Sant, Shri Vijay Sant, Shri Dwarkanath Bhonsle, Shri Nana Gurav, Shri Madhukar Gurav, Shri Shriram Gadre ,Pt.Madanlal Gangani,Pt.Sundarlal Gangani,Shri.Rajesh Gangani,etc. They have contributed a lot toward development of classical music in Baroda.