

Chapter : 10

Music

Organizations

10:1 Introduction

There are many organizations in Baroda, which are arranging the programmes of classical music. These organizations are run on donations. They arrange various music festivals in Baroda. Their contribution for promotion classical music in Baroda is remarkable. They take fixed annual fee from people. Some organizations engaged in above activities are Swar Vilas, Komal Nishad, Swar Smruti, Sa Ni Dha, Parashruti etc.

10:1:1 Shree Hanuman Amateurs Club

In the early days of beginning of the 20th century, music lovers in Baroda, specially Marathi and Gujarati speaking community, were under the influence of great Bal Gandharva. One of them was the “Shree Hanuman Amateurs Club”. Music and Drama lovers gathered and formed a small club, and started performing dramas, by collecting money from the persons, families of Baroda.

One day, some of them, got an idea, and decided to perform two dramas, named “Ekach Pyala” and “Saubhadra” in the presence of great “Gandharva Natak Mandali”, during the stay at Baroda.

In January 1929, the club performed those dramas, specially inviting Bal Gandharva, Master Krishnarao, Bapusaheb Rajhans, Mandebua, sitting in front row.

Bal Gandharva and party were highly impressed with those shows, and blessed the members of club.

Then the club performed so many drama gathered a good amount of money and purchased a land for their mandali and built up a small

temple of Lord Hanuman. Even today the temple exist named "Hanuman Prasadik Mandali" near Khanderao Market, in Palkar Lane. The mandali, was established earlier in 1907, and got name and fame because of Balgandharva.^[1]

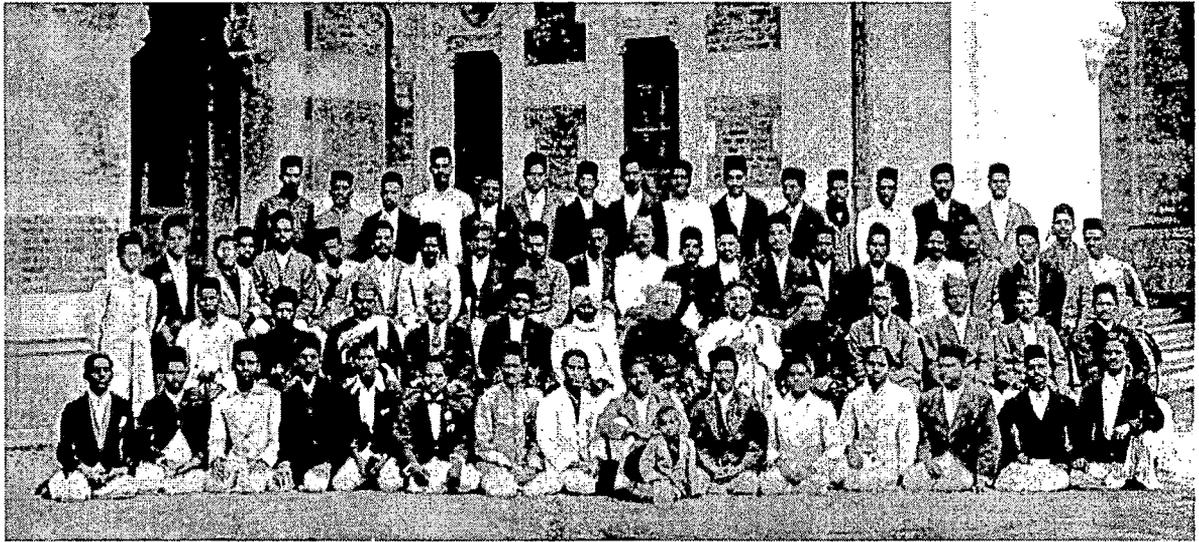


Photo on SUNDAY- 13-1-1929

1st Sitting First row Left to Right:- S. Masalkar; H.G. Ranade; D.M. Rajapurker; G.M. Korde; B.B. Ghodke; S.K.Ekbote (Shinorkar); G.B. Rainkar; S.V. Tavker; K.N. Ghaskadvi; P.T. Dindorkar; N.R. Joshi; D.S.Pandit; V.G. Varvadeker; L. Acharya; D.M. Chandorikar; S. Masalkar.

2nd Sitting Second row chairs Left to Right:- D.N. Dubhashe; G.S. Mandebuva; S.G. Palkar; V. Gadre; Master Krishnarao; R.B. Korane; N.S. Rajhauns (Bal gandharva); G.M. Tambe; B.S. Rajhauns; S.S. Joshi; K.R.Sant; S.L. Jambekar; L.R. Date.

3rd Standing Second row Left to Right:- G.S. Telang; P.B. Vinod; V.B. Captan; R.D. Mahajan; N.B. Nerlekar; M.V. Golvelkar; H.T. Chandatre; P.R. Sant; K.V. Moholkar; L.B. Dighe;

[1] Excerpts taken from interview with shri.Prabhakar Date/5-6-2012with Suresh vaidhya/
12-7-11

S.M.Vaidya; K.N. Korolkar; T.A. Dindorkar; B.M. Gokhle; P.G. Deshpande; V.D. Afle; S.M. Vaidya; N.R. Sant; B.S. Pandit; N.P. Asteke; P. Patankar; N.B. Dindorkar.

4th G.A. Joshi; B.G. Panse; L.V. Boradkar; S.M. Bhadalkar; V.B. Thosar; Y.N. Datar; P.M. Vaijanapurkar; K.G. Berad; S.N. Jagtap; S.K. Malshs; Y.A. Vaidya; R.K. Mengde; P.G. Dindorkar; V.B. Devlalikar;

10:1:2 Swar Vilas:



This is one of the oldest organizations in Baroda. Dr. Sudhalkar, Shri Bipin Modi, Shri V.N. Jikar have done a hard work and contributed a lot for bringing up and for the success of this organization. This organization has always invited dignitaries and well known classical musicians to perform in their programmes in Baroda. Due to Swar Vilas, Pt. Bhimsen Joshi, Pt. Malini Rajurkar, Ustad Rashid Khan, Pt. Hari Prasad Chaurasia, Pt. Shivkumar Sharma gave their programmes in Baroda for the first time.^[1]

[1] Excerpts taken from interview with Bal Marathe/14-10-2011

Swar Vilas also conduct Annual Classical Music Competition for the aspirants of classical music. Young classical musicians from all over India participate in the same. Some participants of such competition are Ulhas Kashalkar, Kumar Madhur etc.

“Swar Vilas”, Music Circle, Baroda, has already completed twenty four years – the years of its infancy, childhood, youth and is now stepping into the years of mellowed maturity which lie ahead. In 1963 the late Dr. M.S. Sudhalkar, eminent eye-surgeon who had an equally keen ear for music, had a dream which saw its fulfillment in the form of this organization. He was constantly helped and encouraged by a set of his distinguished friends like Dr. Satish Dighe, Dr. Prabhakar Gupte, Dr. (Miss) Malini Varde, Shri Advalpalkar, and the late Shri Baburao Pradhan, Shri Mohan Sabnis. The primary objective of this dedicated group was to promote Indian classical music by keeping alive its rich heritage. Over the years, Swar Vilas has arranged concerts by numerous artists, small and big provided platform for young, budding musicians and held music competitions of the national level. The winners of these competitions received prizes from Rajmata Smt. Shantadevi Gaekwad. Princess Sau. Shubhangini Raje Gaekwad, Late Shri Bhailalbai Contractor, Late Shri Markand Desai, Shri K.J. Divetiya and Shri Vinchurkar, renowned local artists like Pt. Madhusudan Joshi, Pt. Shivkumar Shukla, Ustad Ghulam Rasul Khan and Smt. Meerabai Badhkar were fecilitad by Swar Vilas. Shri Mukundrao Koranne, the well known harmonium player was publicity honored when he completed 60 years of age. The portrait of Dr. Sudhalkar was unveiled by Shrimant Ranjitsinh Gaekwad, M.P. Looking at all these events in retrospect, one

feels that Swar Vilas has done substantial work and has made a rich contribution to the cultural life of Baroda City.^[1]

Dr. Sudhalkar had a lion's share in these achievements. This soft spoken, warm hearted man had a rare toughness about him. He chose his friends well and got the best out of them. Under his leadership Swar Vilas grew and became well known not only in Gujarat but all over the country. Under him Swar Vilas became a registered body in the control of its trustees who continue to work for it in a silent, disciplined way even today. The trustees appointed by him include Shrimant Ranjitsinh Gaekwad, Dr. Satish Dighe, Dr. V.V. Modi, Dr. Divatiya, Mrs. Sarojini Amin, Shri Subhash Kirtane, Shri Y.N. Vinchurkar, Shri Vishnu Mahajan, and Shri Bal Marathe. Dr. Sudhalkar passed away in 1982 leaving the torch in the able hands of Dr. V.V. Modi the present President, Shri Vishnu Mahajan, the treasurer and Shri Bal Marathe the Secretary.^[2]

Swar Vilas has always depended on some people for their help. The foremost among them is Shrimant Ranjitsinh Gaekwad who is an artist in his own right. He has always lent a generous support to this organization. The Dean, Faculty of Performing Arts, M.S. University, Baroda, also has helped a lot by allowing the organization to use the concert hall. 3-A Association and Nalanda Press in the past have always willingly undertaken the printing jobs of Swar Vilas and rendered a very satisfactory service. Mr. Sham Bhagwat of Majestic Sound Service looks after the P.A. System at the concerts. Patrons, Life Members,

[1] Sovinior of swar vilas on silwar jubili celebration/1986

[2] Excerpts taken from interview with Subhas Chafalkar/24-3-2011

Industrialists, Advertisers and music lovers all have contributed to the success of the organization.^[1]

10:1:3 Swar Smruti:

Shri Bhagwat started a new organization called 'Swar Smruti'. In Swar Smruti 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, Shri. Anil Dahiwalkar, Shri. Vasant Kulkarni and many friends of Bhagwat, they also played a major role in the success of 'Swar Smruti'

This organization invited some of the mentors 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.

[1] Excerpts taken from interview from interview with Bal Marathe/14-10-2011

Unfortunately, after the demise of Shri Bhagwat, from 1996 onwards due to lack of manpower and funds (financial backing) this organization could not continue its good work.^[1]



10:1:4 Komal Nishad:

Shri Shankar Jha established this organization in approximately 1988. Shri U.C. Parikh, Shri Nandkishor Muley and many more worked very hard to bring this organization to what it is today. This organization arranges many classical music programmes in Baroda. Their specialty is they organize all their programmes free of charge. All the credit of the success of this organization goes to Shri S.K. Jha.^[2]

10:1:5 DMRCM:

Two brothers Shri Hemant Kothari and Shri Devendra Kothari had established DMRCM in the memory of their father Late Shri Dinkar Kothari. They not only organized classical music programmes but also conducted workshops and lecture sessions. Every year this organization gives Momentous to the student who stands first in Vocal, the exam conducted by Music College. They also organized classical music programmes free of charge.^[3]

[1] Excerpts taken from interview with Shital Bhagwat/14-10-2000

[2] Excerpts taken from interview with U.C.Parikh/26-2-2008

[3] Excerpts taken from interview with Hemant Kothari/14-10-2011

10:1:6 Aamad:

Pandit Sudhir Kumar Saxena's students run this organization on the idea given by their teacher. This organization arranges various programmes only to promote Tabla. Here an artist gets a chance to give his solo performance. Here well known Tabla player like Pt. Bhai Gaytonde, Shri Arvind Mulgaonkar, Pt. Yogesh Samshi and Ustad Akram Khan and many more have given their performances. They are working very hard to promote Tabla. They also arrange programmes free of charge.^[1]

Other than that of above mentioned many other small time organizations organizes classical music programmes free of charge.

10:1:7 Sa Ni Dha :

This organization had started by Smt Alaknanda Patel. Their organization had arranged some good programmes for few years. Now-a-days this is not functioning.^[2]

10:1:8 Fiyazkhan Memorial Trust :

This organization was established around forty years back, in Baroda, mainly for arranging classical music programmes for Vocal, Instrumental, music of the artists of all levels, and to encourage the

[1] Excerpts taken from interview with Dr.Bhaskar Pedse/12-3-2010

[2] Excerpts taken from interview with U.C.Parikha/24-4-2009

young generation, to listen to and perform the Indian Classical music. H.H. Shri Fatehsinhrao Gaekwad, Shri Ranjitsinh Gaekwad, Smt Pratibha Pandit & Shri Ashok Pandit were founder trustees of this organization. This organization is still arranging the conferences of classical music, on the death anniversary of Late Ustad Faiyaz Khan.

Legendary artists like Pt. Bhimsen Joshi, Smt Gangubai Hangal, Pt. Kumar Gandharva, Smt Kishori Amonkar, Smt Prabha Atre, Ustad Ali Akbar Khan, Pt. Jasraj, Pt. Hariprasad Chaurasia, etc. have given their humble services in respect of Late Ustad.

Trust has its own account, and they are arranging the programmes for the listeners at free of cost in order to create the interest in coming generations, for our great heritage of Indian Classical Music.^[1]

10:1:9 Parashruti

This organization had started by Pandit Ishwarchandra. Their organization had arranged some good programmes for few years. Now a days this is not active.

In Baroda people attend the programmes on classical music in a very big number. Here people have good knowledge about classical music, so organizers take more interest and enjoy organizing programmes. Here many a times the programmers go on overnight: Many corporate sponsor such programmes.

[1] Excerpts taken from interview with Ranjitsing Gaekwad/9-10-2008

The programmes organized by these organizations are famous all over India. Here artists also are eager to come and perform enthusiastically. They have played a major role in propaganda of classical music in Baroda.^[1]

[1] Excerpts taken from interview with Pandit Ishwarchandra/18-8-2012