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**COMPOSITION OF MUTHAIAH BAGAVATAR**

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**Abstract**

Tamil Nadu plays a vital role in enunciating culture and tradition through fine arts as music is the finest of all arts, it is proved that divinity dwells in music. More over Tamil Nadu is a scared place for arts and literature; it has been produced more and more artist and legends throughout the era.

**Keywords:** Muthaiah Bagavatar, Sangeetha Kalanidhi, Sahesa Iyer, Madurai Mani Iyer, shanmugapriya, mohana kalyani

**Harikesanallur Muthaiah Bagavatar: (1877-1945)**

Harikesanallur Muthaiah Bagavathar (Nov, 15 1877 - june, 30 1945), commonly known as Muthaiah Bagavathar, is one of the famous carnatic classical musicians in the twentieth century. He was born in Harikesanillur a small village in the thirunelveli district of Tamil Nadu in India, into an affluent family. He was exposed to music from a very early age, as his father was a patron of musicians. He lost his father at the young age of six years, and his maternal uncle M.Lakshmana Suri took over the responsibility for his education, initiating Muthaiah into Sanskrit and vedic studies. However, the of music that had been implan ted in him led Muthaiah to leave his home town of Harikesanallur, Tamil Nadu when he was only ten years in search of a teacher. He found the gifted teacher padinaindu veetu Sambasiva Iyer at thiruvarur, who recognized muthaiah's talent for music. Sambasiva Iyer was the father of T.S Sahesa Iyer, a contemporary who also went on to win the prestigious Sangeetha Kalanidhi award from the madras music academy. during the nine years he spent with sambasiva iyer, Muthaiah cultivated this talent and made his name as a Harikata vidhwan. His rich voice and excellent tanam singing made him one of the era's most highly coveted concert artists.

**Composer**

He has to his credit almost 400 Musical compositions; the largest among the post-trinity composers that included many different types of varmas, lerithis as well as thillanas, the songs were on a number of the Hindu pantheon, his patrons. He composed them in four languages telugu, tamil, sanskrit and kanada.

Some of the ragams that owe their existence today to this great composer include Vijaya saraswathi, Karnaranjani, Budhamonohari, Niroshtha and Hamsanandi. They are melododious rags that make and wonder how it was not attempted prior to Muthaiah bagavathar's times. He also popularized shanmugapriya and mohana kalyani. When someone asked if he could compose something that would appeal to westerners, he composed the English notes which was popularized by Madurai Mani Iyer later.

In 1943, Muthaiah composed music for Tamil Nadu talkies then owned by S.Soundararaja for their lavakusa, a film based on theuttara Ramayana. Bagavathar initially was very reluctant but was later persuaded by Ravel Krishna Iyer, a budding contractor of Madras. Muthaiah travelled to Bombay where the film was being made at the Ranjit studios. He composed 63 songs for the film resulting in the film being renamed as sangeetha lavakusa.

#### **An Artist**

He was adept at playing both the chitraveena and mirudangam. In addition to musical talents, his theoretical knowledge was also vast. He wrote a Treatise on musical theory, angeetha kalpa drumam and regularly gave lectures on musicology at the music academy. He was the first musician to be awarded a doctorate in India when the Kerala government awarded him the D.litt for his tamil treatise in 1943. He was also the first principal of the “swathi thirunal Academy of Music” started in Trivandrum in 1939. Muthaiah bagavathar has also authored a Sanskrit poetic work called Thyagaraja vijaya kavya, Usha parinayam and valli kalyanam.

#### **Awards and Recognition**

Having impressed the maharaja of Mysore, he was appointed court musician at Mysore. At Mysore he composed 115 krithis in kanada in praise of chamundi devi, The matron goddess of Mysore dynasty. Later he was invited to the court of Travancore by the Maharaja Mulam thirunal krithi and also he wrote a book ‘sangeetha kalpadrumam’ which won him a honorary doctorate. Muthiah Bagavathar was the First president of the Annual conference at the Madras Music academy and was awarded the most prestigious award in carantic Music, ‘sangeethakalanidhi’ fill in 1930.

#### **Compositions**

Muthaiah has composed 379 songs in 178 Ragas and 10 Tanavarnams, one pada varnam, and 4 Daruvrnams. Apart from these he has composed pancharagamalika, sabata Ragamailka, Navavarna ragamailka and 11 thillanas and vara krithis for 7 days in a week.

#### **Ragas Landed by Muthaiah Bagavathar**

As We Know Muthaiah bagavathar has composed several compositions some of the compositions gain more credit because it has been composed in very rare ragas. The names of new ragas are: pasupathipriya, guharanjani, alankari, Nirostta, Hamsa Deepakam, Gamanapriya, Hamsa gamani, Hamsa nandi, karna ranjini, Gurupriya, gowda malhar, Harinarayani, Maanorama, Mayapradeeptam, Sarangamalhar, urmila, vijayanagam, veenahhari, vijaya saraswathi, Chakrapradeepam, Nagabooshani, gokila bashini and valaji.

#### **Chamundeswariashotra Krithis**

Astothram means praisity the Deit's name in 108 countries. Muthaiah Bagavathar has composed 108 songs on goddess chammundeswari of Mysore while he was an Ashana vidwan of nalvadi Krishna Rajendra udaiyars court then.

These 108 krithis are also called as group kirthis. these 108 kirthis have 6 Dyana kirthis at its prefix. Those Dyana kirthis are composed on the Deities Sri ganapathi, Maha baleswar, Narayanar, guru and Anjanayar. These kirthis are in both Sanskrit and kanada language.

In those 108 kirthis the 10<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, 60<sup>th</sup>, 70<sup>th</sup>, 80<sup>th</sup>, 90<sup>th</sup>, 100<sup>th</sup>, and 108<sup>th</sup>, kirthis have two charanas where as other kirthis have only one charanam.

In the kirthis having second charanas, Muthaiah bagavathar request the Devine mother to protect the king krishnaragendra udaiyar and to give prosperous to his kingdom.

Here comes the list of few kirthis from chamundeswari Ashtotatara kirthis and they are very popular kirthis too.

- Bhuvaneswariya - mohana kalyani - adi
- sudhamayi - Amruthavarshini - Rupakam
- vijayambika - vijayanagari - Adi
- Kalarathri - urmika - Adi
- jalandara - valaji - Rapakam
- Rathra kanjuka - kambodi - Misrachapu

#### Rare Compositions

- Tapa manni - mayapradhipam - Adi
- Girija Devye - veenadhari - Adi
- Devishri Mahalakshmi - Hari narayani - Rupakam
- Ganesa skanda janani - Naga booshani - Rupa
- Jaya devi - gowda malar - Tripuda
- Chakressi devi - chakra pradeeptam - kandachapu
- Harakeera kasthsya - umabaranam - kandachapu
- Devi Datchayani - Palahamsa - Rupakam
- Nava kshara manu - Navarathnavilasa - Adi
- Kamesabatta - buda manohari -Adi
- Runda mala-bushavali-Adi

#### Dyana krithis for ashtothra krithis

- Buddhi devi - Malahari - Missachapu
- Srimangalavani - Asaveri - Rupakam
- Mahabaleswara - Saranya - Rupakam
- Narayana - keeravani -Adi
- Gurunatha -pushpalatha -kandachapu
- Sri Anjaneya -Senjurutti -Adi

There is no doubt that the compositions of Muthaiah Bagavathar are highly precious and it is a repertoire for music world.

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