

Contribution of Pudukkode Krishnamurthy {1923-1985} to Music - As A Composer

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Abstract

This Article attempts to introduce the Musical Compositions of Pudukkode Krishnamurthy to the classical music fraternity. As gleaned from the essay of Music of Kerala, Pudukkode Krishnamurthy belongs to the class of lesser known musicians, teachers and composers of classical music from Kerala. Pudukkode is a small village in Palakkad, Kerala. Hence most of his compositions carry the stamp or Mudra –“navakroda ”A survey of his recordings motivated this author to approach some of his family members, students, to share their experiences with him and available information on his contribution. About 150 musical compositions are found to be in manuscript form, not yet published. They have been obtained from his descendants and students. Compositions available in the manuscript are in the following genres;

- Carnatic: In Malayalam, Sanskrit, Tamizh

Varna, Kriti- Devi Pancaratna With Swara Sahitya, Navagraha Vara Keertana, Thematic krtis, Ragamalika, Jawali, Tillana

- Hindustani: In Braj Basha, Hindi

Compositions with the sections - Sthayi , Antara

Introduction

A study on the forms of musical compositions by lesser known musicians and composers and their adaptations in various other art forms of Kerala has been the area of my research.

As gleaned from the essay of Music of Kerala, Pudukkode Krishnamurthy belongs to the class of lesser known musicians, teachers and composers of classical music from Kerala.

Biography Of Pudukkode Krishnamurthy (1923-85)

Pudukkode Krishnamurthy had been initiated into music and was a disciple of Palakkad Rama Bhagavathar .Pudokkode is a small village in Palakkad, Kerala and is different from Pudukkottai, District in Tamilnadu. Hence his compositions carry the Mudra –“navakroda”

Performing And Teaching Career (1940s-1980s)

He has served at Delhi teaching Music and performing for All India Radio. Palakkad Music College, Swati Thirunal Music College, Trivandrum, Kalakshetra ,Chennai. In spite of being originally from a Tamil speaking background, Pudukkode Krishnamurthy was good at Malayalam and Sanskrit.

Contribution to Music:

Compositions available in the Malayalam manuscript ¹ and those prevalent among his disciples and musicians total about 150 is the source of this study. A few of his compositions have been recorded as sung by him in concerts and taught to his students during his teaching career in various institutions.

Compositional Style and Varieties

Navagraha Kritis (Malayalam and Manipravalam)

Song	rāgaṃ	tāla	theme
1. pratyakṣadaivame	dhanyāsi	ādi	sūrya

¹ manuscript shared by Mrs Uma Murali - daughter of Pudukkode Krishnamurthy

2. sudhākara	nīlāmbari	rūpakam	candra
3. maṅgaḷadāyaka	hindōḷam	ādi	aṁgāraka
4. bodhamaruḷuṁ	kedāragauḷa	rūpakam	budha
5. vāgadīśvaranāṁ	vasanta	miśracāpu	guru
6. kaniñaruḷ	surattī	miśrajhaṁpa	śukra
7. mellemelle	varāḷi	ādi	śanaiśvara
8. santatidoṣa	mañiraṁg	ādi	rāhu
9. chāyāgrahamāṁ	śuddha sāvēri	ādi	kētu

The compositions comparable with Navagraha Vaara Kritis of Muttuswamy Dikshitar are in Malayalam, in varied structures, but complete notations are not available .

Devi Pancaratna Krtis (Malayalam and Manipravalam)

song	rāgam	speciality	tāla	theme
1. janani	nāṭṭa	swara sahitya	ādi	devi
2. kanivoṭu	gauḷa	swara sāhitya	rūpakam	devi
3. śrīvidyā	ārabhi	swara sāhitya	miśra cāpu	devi
4. tāmasam	varāḷi	swara sāhitya	khaṇḍa cāppu	devi
5. sarvamangaḷavumtaruṁ	śrī	swara sāhitya	miśra jhaṁpa	devi

These compositions in Malayalam language are in varied structures, comparable with the Ghana rāga pancaratna kṛti s of Saint Tyāgarāja which are in Telugu.

Ārupaḍai viḍu Krti-s (Tamil)

niṛai mati	hamsanādam	ādi
sentilvāḷuṁ	dharmavati	ādi
kumarā	bāgēśrī	rūpakam
praṇavaporuḷ	kāmbōji	ādi

aruḷpurivāy	ranjani	ādi
kāviripāyum	dēs	ādi

Rāgamālīka-s (Malayalam and Sanskrit)

avatariccu	ādi	rāmāyaṇa	pallavi anupallavi 10caraṇā s	purāṇa
utpalākṣa	rūpakam	daśāvatārā	pallavi anupallavi 10caraṇā s	purāṇa
nādamaya	rūpakam	śiva	5 caraṇā s	pañcākṣara
kanakādrisute	miśracāpu	dēvi	pallavi anupallavi 7 caraṇā s	śrīvidyā

Jāvaḷi-s (Malayalam)

entinadhunā	khamās	ādi	kṛṣṇa	sakhi, viraha
pōkarutē	uttaravasantaṁ	rūpaka	kṛṣṇa	nāyaka, viraha
sāddhyamalla	kāpi	ādi	kṛṣṇa	sakhi, viraha
prāṇanāthaṁ	Kāpi	ādi	kṛṣṇa	viraha

Tillāna-s (Malayalam)

dhīm nādrutīm	behāg	tiśra gati ādi	kṛṣṇa
tānitōmta	khamās	rūpaka	dēvi
tadhīm̐ta	ranjani	tiśra gati ādi	guruvāyurpurēśa

Rāga mudra-s in krtis

ennu kaniyumo	ranjani	ādi	viśālākṣi
jaganmohana	mohana	ādi	viṣṇu
akhilalokanāyaki	nāyaki	rūpakam	
duṛgge	dūrgga	rūpakam	duṛgga
mahādeva	naḷinakānti	ādi	śiva
dhanyāśrī	dhanyāsi	miśra cāpu	viṣṇu

kalaye	kāṃboji	ādi2kaḷa	mūkāmbika
karuṇāmruta	amrutavarṣiṇi	rūpakaṃ	devi
sakala aganmohini	jaganmohini	ādi	devi
jagadaṃbā	ānandabhairavi	ādi	devi
aṭimalariṇa	āndolika	ādi	devi

Navakroḍa sthala mudra

kṛti	rāgaṃ	tāla
pālikkeṇaṃ	rītigauḷa	miśracāpu
akhilalokaṇāyaki	nāyaki	rūpakaṃ
paradēvate	pūrvikalyāṇi	miśra cāpu
akhilatāpahara	malayamārutaṃ	ādi
akhila loka janānī	nīlāṃbari	rūpakaṃ
dhanyaṃ kuru	hindoḷaṃ	rūpakaṃ
śaraṇamenikkakhila	kalyāṇi	ādi
sakala jaganmohini	jaganmohini	ādi
jagadaṃbā	ānandabhairavi	ādi
aṭimalariṇa	āndolika	ādi

Hindustani Compositions Braj/Hindi By Pudukkode Krishnamurthy

song	rāgaṃ	speciality	tāla	theme
1. kṛpā karo	pīlu	hindustāni	ādi	kṛṣṇa
2. prabhu more	jeñcōṭṭi	hindustāni	ādi	prabhu
3. jāgo	jogi	hindustāni	ādi	manasa
4. satya vacana	bilahari	hindustāni	rūpaka	jīva
5. karuṇāmaya	kalyāṇi	hindustāni	rūpaka	kṛṣṇa

6. binatī suno	kānaḍa	hindustāni	ādi	devi
7. abhayado	hindoḷam	hindustāni	rūpakam	kṛṣṇa

Sangeethamapi Sahityam 1966² is a compilation of Malayalam poems by various poets of these five were tuned and notated by Pudukkode Krishnamurthy.

1. Sumanomohanam Vailoppilli Sreedhara Menon raga Sahana Adi tala
2. Andhata kalaraate Vailoppilli Sreedhara Menon raga Suratti Misra chapu
3. Jawaharlal 2 N.V Krishna Vaaryar raga Keeravani Adi tala -2 kala
4. Jawaharlal 5 N.V Krishna Vaaryar raga Sama Adi tala
5. Sayujyam Kaarmukile-by Kavalam Narayana Panicker ragamalika Adi tala

Vallathol poems³

Pudukkode krishnamurthy has composed for and sung Malayalam patriotic poems of Vallathol Narayana Menon; one of his main contributions to the music world.

1. vāstavaṁ tanneyō nēr- tannayō kaṛukaṛutta lipyuvrujattil-
2. nammuṭe maṛupaṭi bhāratamāṇenre janmabhūvu āsyamadīra ṛṣīsrēṣṭar-

Apart from the above, hundred more compositions are in the manuscript. In conclusion, their textual, structural, musical, thematic analysis reveal Pudukkode Krishnamurthy as a *uttama vāggēyakāra*. Among the less popular performers of Kerala, Pudukkode Krishnamurthy stands out as a top grade musician, a passionate teacher and a versatile composer.

² Published by Kerala Sangeeta Nataka Academy collected by me from Swati Tirunal Music college, Trivandram, Kerala and second edition from Kerala Sangeeta Nataka Academy, Trissur, Kerala.

³ Vallathol kavitalakal -album-Kerala kalamandalam