

Appreciating Carnatic Music
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Lecture -57
Tillana

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Tillana is a musical form, is a compositional form that has a strong presence in dance. In Bharathanatyam, tillana has is filled with meaningless syllables. Syllables are drawn from the world of dance and percussion. And exact origin of tillana, some told that probably come from the north Indian form Tharana. Equally there are other holds that there are Melattur Veerabdraiya eminent composer who lived before the trinity.

He is he probably pioneer at this form. There are references to musical compositions, without in which the text is mostly meaningless, even in ancient text. But the Tharana has the tillana form is probably was probably pioneer by Melattur Veerabdraiya. Veerabdraiya was a eminent composer he composed varnams, krithis, tillanas and swarajathis. Now Melattur is actually associated with Bhagavatha Mela traditions, which is a traditions of dance drama and dance theatre.

And here even today we have the Narashima Jayanthi during the month of May, this dance theatre is presented ritualistic dance theatre. And in the context of dance tillana obviously is very usage in dance. But musical tillanas are very different, they are more complex. And tillanas, that are used in dance are very simple from the point of view of the music itself.

Tillanas usually contains few lines of meaning full sahithya also, in which it is dedicated to some deity. In this case it was obviously is Krishna. So every tillana has few meaningful lines as well, otherwise it is filled with it densely, the text is pretty dense. Usually and rhythmic complexities, rhythmic plays is possible. There are tillanas in various with gathibedhas.

In which there are different gathis or nadais. Oothukadu Venkata Kavi whom we have seen before was a eminent composer of tillana. But the trinity did not compose any tillana. Though Thyagarajas disciples Patnam Subramania Iyer, Poochi Srinivasa Iyengar and Mahavaidhiyanatha Iyer, they composed tillanas. In fact Mahavaidhiyanatha Iyers tillanas in the Simhanandana talas is a remarkable feat. It is the tillana, Simhanandhana tala as you know is 128 matras.

And tillana itself only two avarthanas that itself is very long. Tillana is usually performed at the end of the concerts, were the concert is winding down. As it were as performed tillanas, they are not always in concert is not necessarily have to have a tillana sometime it has.

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We will listen to a tillana it is in Poornachandrika ragam. It is composed by Poochi Srinivasa Iyengar. .This is the text ,the sahithiyam is in telugu the text the meaningful text in telugu “neethu mahimalunu thelise charanamani ninu migala korivachithi vanga” and so on.

(Music Starts: 07:41) (Music Ends: 09:00)