Appreciating Carnatic Music Dr. Lakshmi Sreeram

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Lecture -65

Subsidiary Accompanists-interaction among accompanists

The uppa pakka vathiyam or the subsidiary accompaniment, percussive accompaniment Gatam

and Kanjira. Now they have their own dharma that is they their own interaction with the

miruthangam player. And it is very important to make sure that the miruthangam player and the

uppa pakka vathiyam artist are comfortable with each other.

And the upa pakka vathiyam has to follow the lead of the miruthangam player, everybody

follows the lead performer vocalist or if it's the instrument player. But between the

miruthangam and upa pakka vathiyam there is another smaller level of interaction smaller world

of interaction that is happening there.

Usually in the improvisation segment swara prasthara or neraval it is normally seen that when

the violinist response you say swara prasthara or neraval, the upa pakka vathiyam accompanies

the violin alone without the miruthangam. That usually happens and its makes for a different

texture, different sound experience. Because you are all the time you are in the miruthangam

suddenly the miruthangam is quite and astound and the kanjira and gatam alone is heard so that

make for a difference experience.

Now let us watch this clip, this compositions "Brova barama raghurama" its composition of

Thyagaraja in the raga Bhaguthari the violinist is R.K. Sriramakumar who responds with the

swara prasthara as Ramakrishnamoorthy sings and we have Arun Prakash on miruthangam and

Anirudth Athraya on the kanjira. So you can take it a feel of how the level of interaction amongst

the performer here.

(Music Starts: 02:54) (Music Ends: 09:01)