

Appreciating Carnatic Music
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Lecture 68
Morsing

So after Mridangam, Kanjira and Ghatam we move on to very exciting percussion instrument senior most person on the stage Kalaimamani S Krishnan sir - he will talk about Morsing and his experiences of playing.

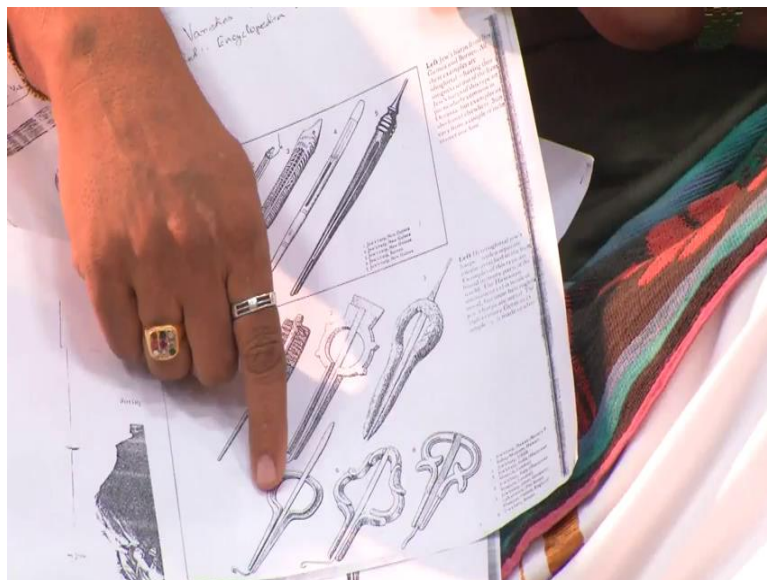
This is called Morsing: actually this is not Morsing this is called mugar-shangu.

(Tamil Explanation Begins: 00:37)

This has been made first made by bamboo only, it is called dantha vaadyam in Sanskrit. See one, it is there in primitive stage where man uses materials readily available for making music - sticks, pots, animals horns and cells and bamboo initially. Thus we may feel that musical instruments are part and parcel of human life In the iron age bells came in came into existence. Bells have an important place in Indian culture.

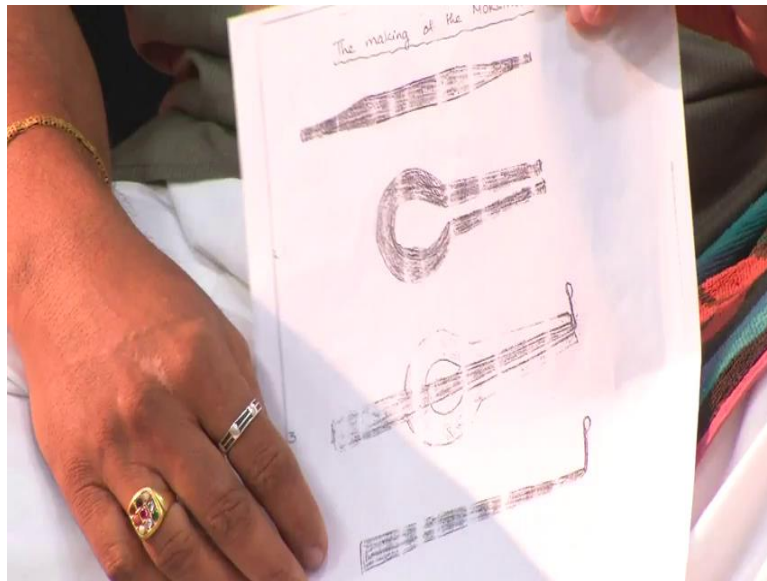
Another significant iron percussion instrument is Morsing that is called Jewish harp - these are the varieties.

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So, many varieties, this one; this one; this one; this one, it is ours actually and this also and this also. Third page this one actually it is the size of the Morsing are vary 3 inches to 9 inches.

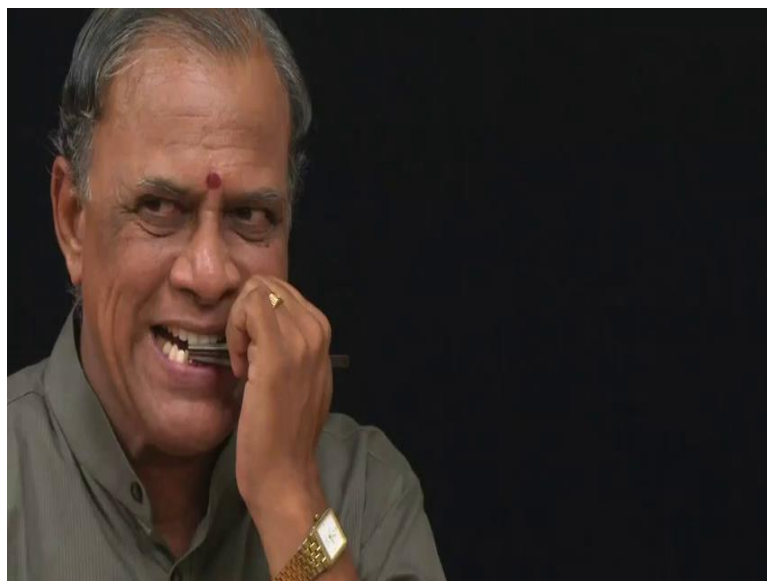
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And then now we are using this one we only invented the vibrations of music. This is called hacksaw blade, this centre one is the hacksaw blade. First they will cut like this, this is cast iron; this is cone shaped instrument, this is cone shaped, this is cast iron. And they will fold like this because we have to fold this instrument, they will hold like this and they will insert and rivet it.

But if once it breaks you cannot use again. Because shruti will vary, it will not sit in proper shruti, so we can use only one time. Suppose if it breaks, we have to throw it out. This is the hacksaw blade.

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You see we are plucking like this. This is cone-shaped, this is cast iron actually making. Rajapalayam people make very good instruments like, nobody is making like that.

What do you exactly do to produce a beautiful musical tone now? What do you exactly can you play now again.

See, I will come to that right.

So how mridangam they are playing Tha Thi Thom Num but in this instrument, no Thom, Thom means we have to close the lips.

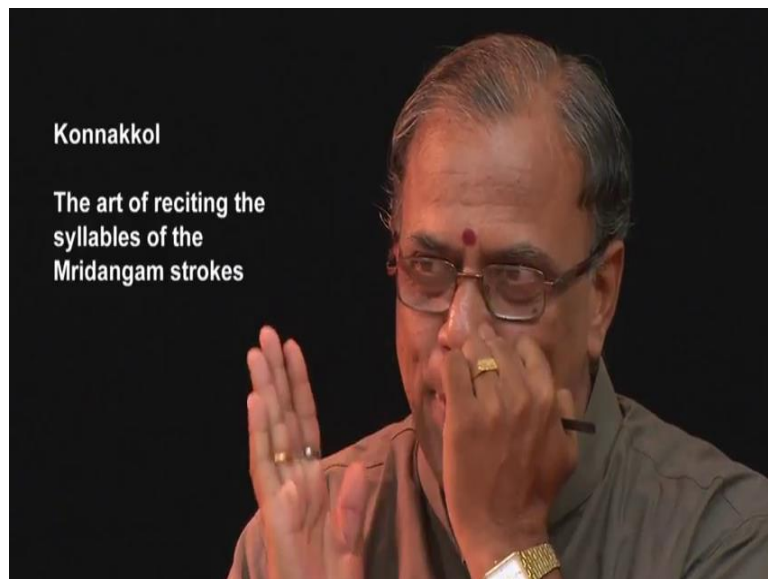
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So, if you are keeping instruments how can you close your lips using that so that is called Jho, you see that is Tha, we have to sustain the sound, then Thi slightly we have to inhale, we have to say Thi air, that is the thing, when you are keeping it here you tell Thi, now you see Tha, then Thi, then if you say Thom, Thom means you have to play like this, you have to breadth forcibly.

Then Num,

so lot of breathing control is also there when you play this, yes, ok, breathing only we are playing. This is very, very difficult instrument but some people will play and they say konnakol also.

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You see; that is very, very difficult actually. It is disturbed also to others. So, we have to say by breathing only this sound.

(Musical Demonstration Begins: 04:47)

You see, sustain, again and again this four sound will come, this four sound is; this is the four sound.

(Musical Demonstration Begins: 05:07)

This is the four sounds. This is a shruti instrument actually, percussion instrument according to the mridangam; first before playing Morsing we have to play mridangam then we can play according to that. What they are playing, suppose; we have to soft it, if they play loudly then we have to play loudly.

And most common thing is that language of all of us is the same - the theory remains the same.

Whatever the Thaka Thi Dhina is the same for four of us, only the presentation of each instrument is differs. In Morsing we would not say Thaka Thi Dhina, it is Thaka Dhin Tha, you see.

(Musical Demonstration Begins: 05:55)

This is called Thaka Dhimi Thaka Junu. Now;

(Musical Demonstration Begins: 06:08)

Suppose if you are if you are playing in first speed, 6 speeds, in second speed it will come in 3 beats you see

(Musical Demonstration Begins: 06:24)

We have to play first speed

(Musical Demonstration Begins: 06:30)

By breathing only we are able to play - breathing is the control part.

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This is the string, sound is produced by the vibration of the sound breathing, vibration You see;

(Musical Demonstration Begins: 06:50)

See he is playing; we can also play in this instrument.

(Musical Demonstration Begins: 06:59)

Same only according to the mridangam only we will play. This not separate actually but some people they use konnakol while playing you see;

(Musical Demonstration Begins: 07:23)

We will get disturbance definitely, so we have to play by breathing only we have to say that Thaki dakita in air.

(Musical Demonstration Begins: 07:36)

Now vibrating this. suppose without keeping it in mouth if you play like this no sound only tow, tow no sound at all. By breathing only we are playing we have to pluck hear the sound is sound will come from this side, not here. We should not bite, this we are just have to hold this and keep here, lower and upper jaw. But this is the main part actually.

Can you show the difference of holding and leaving while playing.

(Musical Demonstration Begins: 08:11)

Suppose if you close this, sound will not come properly that is the main point. The skill is here, yes, the skill is here only apart from breathing technique that is always we have to open here then only air will come freely otherwise it will not come then you close it like this sound will not come.

Very fascinating, the sound will be very hard. This is the beauty of the range of percussion instrument is so know highly technical.

The hand acts like a chamber to amplify the sound that is produced because the sound that is produced as that instrument it needs to be amplified and this hand acts as a chamber. So, it resonates here and comes out and amplifies here. But this is very, very high frequency instrument. This one and then also already explain the we can reduce of a pitch. We should not increase that is, we can only reduce, and we cannot increase the pitch.

But in one we have to have separate keeping one for one, for one and half another is there, this is 2 and half. So, this we can use up to two that is the main point we have to hold it properly no damage sometimes it will scratch your lips.

(Tamil Explanation Begins: 09:35)

That is the myth that but it would not cut your tongue definitely.

(Tamil Explanation Begins: 09:45)

No sharp here, you have to hold it properly that is the main reason here

(Musical Demonstration Begins: 10:03)

Fine

(Tamil Explanation Begins: 11:22)

That is called $8 + 8 = 16$ like that 3 times and then 3 eights four Kaarvais and then

(Tamil Explanation Begins: 11:32)

That is then khanda nadai convert to khandam

(Tamil Explanation Begins: 11:40)

That is thisuram, that is, it will convert as thisram

(Tamil Explanation Begins: 11:46)

Eight, he will playing it in chathusra and 10 then it becomes khandam, tempo changes and 12 it becomes thisram; in between 4, 4 karvais according to the kaarvai.