

A Melodic Experiment on Prabhata Samgita Gharana

¹Kanika Debnath, ²Dr. Arkadev Bhattacharya

¹Department of Fine Art, Mangalayatan University, Beswan, Aligarh, UP, India

²(Assistant Professor) Mangalayatan University, Beswan, Aligarh, UP, India

Abstract: This research explores the extensive cultural legacy of Indian classical music, with a specific emphasis on the distinctive musical tradition of the Prabhata Samgita Gharana. Founded by Shrii Anandamurtiji in 1982, this gharana signifies a revolutionary period in music with its amalgamation of classical, folk, and spiritual components. This research seeks to gain a full understanding of the Prabhata Samgita Gharana by examining its historical origins, current influence, and cultural importance. The study employs a qualitative and descriptive research approach to investigate the unique features of this gharana. It utilizes analytical tools such as musical analysis and comparison studies with other musical traditions. The study focuses on analyzing the themes of love, unity, and spirituality found in the writings of Prabhata Samgita. It emphasizes the common human experiences depicted in these compositions, with the aim of fostering cultural inclusivity and developing shared understanding. This research ultimately enhances our understanding of the significant impact of the Prabhata Samgita Gharana on Indian classical music.

Keywords: Prabhata Samgita Gharana, Melodies, Gharana, Indian Classical Music, Musical Traditions

1. Introduction

Gharanas in Indian classical music encompass a wide range of music forms. Several examples of these styles include Patiala, Kirana, Jaipur-Atrauli, and Gwalior Gharana. Each Gharana is distinguished by its distinctive musical compositions and techniques, which differentiate it from the others. Gharanas, musical ensembles linked to particular families or locations, exemplify the abundant cultural legacy of Indian music. India's musical landscape not only includes classical music, but also incorporates a diverse range of genres known together as "Sangeet." The genres encompassed are classical, semi-classical, folk, devotional, cinematic, and modern music. The diverse array of musical forms, stemming from various cultural and historical origins, enhance the development of India's multifaceted musical landscape. Prabhat Sangeet is a genre of devotional music that emerged from the Bhakti movement. It largely centers around spiritual themes of love and devotion, approached from a devotional standpoint. Prabhat Sangeet, which gained popularity in the early 20th century, was created with the aim of evoking profound spiritual sentiments. The objective of this activity was to stimulate spiritual enlightenment, and it was commonly carried out during morning communal assemblies.

Samgita is a harmonious fusion of vocal melody, instrumental music, and dance. It is a remarkable fusion of multiple art genres that creates a musical expression that is both diverse and complex. The Prabhát Samgita is a musical gharana that represents a groundbreaking time in the history of melodies, distinguished by its remarkable qualities. The name "prabháta," derived from the Sanskrit word "dawn," symbolizes the fundamental nature of this gharana, serving as an indication of the commencement of a groundbreaking era in music. Founded on September 14, 1982 in Deoghar, Bihar, by the esteemed composer Shrii Prabhat Ranjan Sarkar, this music school is known for its exceptional commitment to artistic expression. Despite his busy schedule as the head of Ananda Marga, Sarkar remarkably composed a total of 5,018 songs by October 21, 1990. Moreover, the translation of one of the songs from Prabhat Sangeet, as mentioned in the Sarkar book, is as follows:

"Regardless of my thoughts,

*I have considered thoroughly
Everything I have done, I have done for the benefit of everyone.
The aroma emitted by the Champaka flower
I have disseminated from one residence to another,
Between residences,
Throughout successive lifetimes,
My beat will compel people to dance,
My perseverance will ensure the safety of others.
Upon the harmonious melody, I am transported to a distant place.
And restored the continuous stream of divine happiness. " (AnandMurthi, 2021)*

The desire for a spiritual homecoming is a common experience among all humans. The recurring theme of separation and the strong longing for reunion are both manifestations of this shared human experience. The concept that the Infinite is consistently inherent in human beings implies the presence of a fundamental oneness that is not limited by the restrictions of time and location. After encountering the deep beauty and fundamental nature of the Infinite, individuals have a sincere desire to return to that state of union. Regarding the magnitude of Prabhata Samgiita, the appeal made by Anandamurtiji to awaken spiritual awareness grows progressively significant. Moreover, it functions as a summons to explore realms beyond the explicit interpretation of the words and go into the depths of self-consciousness (Katherine Butler Brown, 2018).

Ultimately, the exploration of Prabhata Samgiita Gharana as a novel endeavor in musical compositions offers an exhilarating journey into the intersection of spirituality, music, and cultural advancement. This study aims to explore the gharana and uncover its unique amalgamation of melodies. Additionally, it seeks to examine the historical roots of the gharana, evaluate its contemporary impact, and explore its cultural significance. This study lays the foundation for a deeper understanding of the influential impact of Prabhata Samgiita Gharana.

2. Objective

The Prabhata Samgiita Gharana originates from the profound musical compositions of Shrii Anandamurtiji, who established this musical tradition in the peaceful surroundings of Bihar. The compositions of Shrii Anandamurtiji, included in Prabhata Samgiita, demonstrate a fusion of various musical components and traditions (**MURTI, 2009**). The gharana has transcended traditional norms, exploring classical, folk, and spiritual components.

The Prabhata Samgiita Gharana is notable for its assimilation of various musical components. The gharana incorporates classical ragas, traditional folk sounds, and spiritual themes into its melodies (**Nettl & Stevenson, 2019**). The integration of several components forms a complex arrangement of auditory stimuli, challenging conventional musical limitations.

The song "Dure Esechi Suru," meaning "From Far I Have Come to Start," serves as a prime example of how the gharana reflects cultural diversity (**Ranjan Sarkar, 2021**). The lyrics express a feeling of travel, reflecting common encounters with difficulty, optimism, and fresh starts. The Prabhata Samgiita Gharana embodies universal human experiences that surpass cultural limitations.

The gharana serves as a reflective medium that showcases the wide range and opulence of cultural traditions. Shrii Anandamurtiji's compositions, documented in Prabhata Samgiita, derive inspiration from a diverse range of cultural backgrounds (**Rush, 2023**).

The analysis of the topics present in Prabhata Samgiita's songs demonstrates a conscious endeavor to engage with a wide-ranging audience. The songs of the gharana encompass themes such as love, unity, and spirituality, which have universal significance (Sharma et al., 2021).

3. Methodology

The research methodology employed in this study is a qualitative and descriptive research design, specifically selected to thoroughly explore the intricacies of the Prabhata Samgiita Gharana. The methodology procedure consists of multiple essential steps:

- Initially, a comprehensive literature review will be undertaken to collect current information on the gharana's origin, development, and unique characteristics within the wider framework of Indian classical music. This will require a thorough examination of musical texts, scholarly publications, and historical sources in order to provide a strong basis for the study.
- Subsequently, a crucial aspect will be the musical analysis, which will entail a meticulous scrutiny of the compositions of the Prabhata Samgiita Gharana in order to identify its distinctive elements, such as the organization, tonality, and rhythmic patterns. In addition, the process of document analysis will involve thorough examination of different publications, journals, and musical notations related to the gharana in order to extract valuable information about its historical beginnings and development.
- Moreover, a thorough examination will be conducted to compare the gharana with other established musical traditions, aiming to emphasize its innovative aspects and ascertain its standing within the realm of Indian classical music. Thematic coding will be used to categorize and organize data collected from many sources, including interviews, literature, and musical analysis.

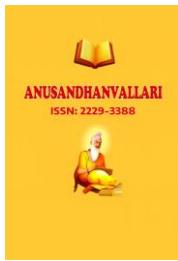
These methods will be employed to ensure accurate gathering and analysis of data. Ultimately, these methodologies aim to streamline the process of collecting and analyzing data, providing valuable insights on the experimental melodies and wider cultural importance of the Prabhata Samgiita Gharana.

4. Result and Discussion

To summarize, Gharanas in Indian classical music represent a diverse range of musical styles, characterized by their distinct compositions and techniques, showcasing India's vast cultural legacy. The Prabhata Samgiita Gharana, originating from the profound musical works of Shrii Anandamurtijii, signifies a revolutionary period in music by combining classical, folk, and spiritual aspects. Shrii Anandamurtijii's extensive collection of 5,018 songs highlights the profound and wide-ranging nature of his musical creativity. Prabhata Samgiita reflects common human experiences by exploring themes of love, unity, and spirituality. It promotes cultural inclusion and fosters shared understanding. The study employs a qualitative and descriptive research design, coupled with numerous analytical techniques, to investigate the historical origins, current influence, and cultural importance of the Prabhata Samgiita Gharana. This study explores the distinctive combination of melodies in the Prabhata Samgiita Gharana, which contributes to a better understanding and recognition of its significant impact on Indian classical music.

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