



Voice of Indian Song

The Voice

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The first and foremost quality and the most important quality you need to have is a good voice it is not actually your doing, you get it from God. That's God-gifted, we always say he or she has a God-gifted voice. So that's the most important thing and then intensive talim or to get a good guru or to get a good teacher is also important. Because then there are many people we see and they have good voice but... they have chosen a wrong teacher so their voice is, you know, they cannot be that good or they cannot attain that state or that perfection. It was not possible. And also the practice. These three makes a good musician, not only a good vocalist.

You can't start it at a very mature age. You have to be.... your vocal chords have to be really tender and soft so it is a difficult thing if you start doing it maybe at 20 or something, you have to start at six.

The paltas, you know?

(she sings what sounds like scales)

But this, I sing it in a very high speed or a medium speed. The kid or the child who's coming for a first lesson will sing it

(she sings it slower)

maybe this speed. And then when he or she has mastered this speed, the teacher will say that you increase the speed

(she sings faster)

Next day she masters that, next day the speed increases (sings a bit more) then more, more, more, and then it increases to the optimum speed level and then here you make the ornaments and we have paltas in different ornaments. When we get a palta, we first do it in sargam of course and then when we can sing it the way we can then we go switch over to the akar. Yeah, akar should be afterwards. First you know what you're singing, first you have the grammar, you know the notations, you know what notations you're singing and then you switch over to 'aah'. That's the best way. Then you don't make mistakes afterwards.

I demonstrate the simple one

(she sings at two speeds, sargam then akar)

Like this. And first it is not that I start in the speed, I can start at a much slower speed and then the speed increases, and this is the practice.

There are so many different embellishments or ornaments found in the music. Murki is (she sings). This is what murki. if you sing the notation it is (she sings) This is what is murki.

Khatka is more like (she sings) but not so intricate like the murki (she sings)

It's also like a glide but mirh is, or glide is, more you know slow (she sings). There should be no jerk, khatka is more like a jerk but mirh has no jerk (she sings mirh, then khatka).

This is khatka. And the other one is mirh without the jerk.

It is a very old tradition of Indian music that we sit down in this posture, our legs crossed like this, and our spinal chord should be straight and the whole, you know, voice should come

from this level, not like, my head is drooping down or up like this, it should be in this level and this is how we have seen all the stalwarts doing it, this is how we have seen our teachers doing it and this is how we also do it. So this is a tradition and I think this is, this is the most scientific way of singing the Indian style of music. When we stand I think the breathing is not that what we do when we are sitting, you know. We feel much more comfortable when we are sitting because our breathing is then in our control.

There is and there should be, when you sing you should think that you are a woman and a man is having his own expressions, apart from the ornaments and the raga and the embellishments or whatever you are singing the alap and things like that are the same. But still there are some ragas as well as there are some ornaments which mostly the men have mastered. The woman and it doesn't suit also the woman's voice, like too much of gamak (she shows). This doesn't suit woman voice so when a woman is singing she should be careful that she shouldn't use too much of gamak (she sings)

I can sing it like that (she sings). If a man sings like that, it will sound nice but if I sing like that it not sound nice. If I sing like that (she sings) it will sound much nicer. So this is the basic difference between the woman's voice and the man's voice.