

Bhupali भूपाली

Bhupali, which is also referred to as Bhup or Bhup kalyan, is one of the most prominent pentatonic ragas performed today. Its origin can be traced back to the 16th century and, according to Faqirullah (1666), it was then a combination of ragas Gunkali and Kalyan.⁶² Somanatha's poetic description of Bhupali who, in expectation of her lover, nervously puts on her bracelets and is "moving hither and thither like a swing" is not incongruent with the mood of this lively raga when it is performed in medium fast tempo.⁶³ However, Damodara (c.1625) writes that Bhupali has a quiescent mood and is pained by the separation from her lover.⁶⁴ Many present-day musicians insist that Bhupali should be performed in a slow and dignified tempo.

The ascent-descent is straightforward. Ga and Dha are important notes, and phrases commonly end on Ga and Sa. A notable feature of Bhupali is that in ascending movements Re, Ga and Dha are usually approached from above, while in descending movements Ga and Dha are frequently linked with glides, as in P\G and R\D/S. In performance, sharp Ma and natural Ni can sometimes be heard in these glides, thus emphasising Bhupali's affinity with Kalyan. In such a case, it is not easy to distinguish Bhupali from raga Shuddh kalyan.

Raga Deshkar has the same ascent-descent as Bhupali but the note treatment and the melodic progression are different. In Deshkar Pa and Dha are much more prominent, and Re is weaker and never sustained. There can be a slight oscillation on Dha, which reveals its affinity with the Bilaval group. Moreover, Deshkar is a lively early morning raga. It avoids the typical Bhupali glides and moves mainly in the upper part of the middle and the high register. The characteristic melodic movements of Deshkar are: S- RGP- D~P, GP~D~D'S, DDPGP- GPDPG- RS.

Time: Early night, 9 - 12.

Ascent-descent

S R G P D Ṣ, Ṣ D P G R S (D S)



Melodic outline

Ṣ Ḍ Ṣ Ṛ G̣ Ṛ P̣ G̣, G̣ Ṛ P̣ G̣, G̣ P̣ Ṛ G̣—R S, G̣ Ṛ G̣ P̣ Ḍ Ṣ, Ṣ Ḍ P̣ G̣,



Ṛ G̣ Ṛ P̣ G̣, P̣ Ṛ G̣—R S



Performance by Hariprasad Chaurasia

S — R — G — P — ^DŚ — D — ^DŚ — , Ś — D P P —

G R R — S D S — , S D S R R R G —

— G — , G G G ^{RG} P G R — R — , G R S D P D

P S — , G R G P P — , G P D — D — ^{DR}Ś

D P P — , G P D P Ś — D R Ś D Ś R

^DP R G P G — , Ś — P G R — , D D Ś R Ś R

G R S D S —

Composition
follows in
fast *ektal*
(12 counts)

Time 3.35