

Music, Language & Creativity - A1

Sreeja Guduru

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1.	TALA	JATI	ALANKARA
	ekatala	4	S R G R (4)
	rupakatala	4	S R G M S R (6)
	triputatala	4	S R G M G M G M (8)
	madhyatala	3	S R G R G M P D (8)
	dhruvatala	4	(14) S R G M S R S R G S S R G M
	atatata	3	S R G R G S R (7)
	jhampatala	5	S R G M P M P D (8)

2. Song - Teye Yashoda (by Venkata Subbaiah)

- The song follows aditalam (tripeta talam with chaturashra gaathi)

1	2	3	4	1	2	1	2
taye	yasho	da..un	daan	a...	yas..ku	la..Hu-	di..ta
ma...	yan..go	pa..la	ks..shn	shey..yum	...ja	la..hai.	keladi
Taiyal	E..key	la..di.	undan.	..paia	naipo..	la..ve.	in..da.
vaiya	ghatil	o..ru.	pi..lai	amma	manan	kan..da	di..lai
ka..li	nilshi	lam..bhu.	konig	kai..va	laiku	lunga-	mu..thu.
maalai	gala	shaiya	...tesu	va..sha	liban	...	daan...
vaanon	galal	laam..na	gisha	maani	dhari..el	lamp..pu.	ga..zha
..neela	..nighe	kan..na	i..van	..nestha	nama	a..dee	naan...
baa..la	nenzu	tha..vi.	a..nai	..thenn	..a.	nai..ma	en..nai
maalai	yit..ta	van..pel	vaajil	mutham	il..tan	de...	...
baalen	a..la	di..un	maghan	jaalem	nighan	sey..yum	ks..shnan
naaku	pergal	ket..taka.	cholla	naana	nijha...	vaa..ghu	dha..di

- This is the pallavi, anupallavi and charanam (ci) of the krithi.

- The song is about the mischief of Lord Krishna, as described by the gopis to mother Yashoda.

- There are multiple examples where the words are elongated and this adds to the meaning of the poem.

- Throughout the song, we notice that usually the vowels are elongated.

- eg: "Taye Yashoda" - means "Oh Mother Yashoda"

These words are drawn out to span three beats and emphasize how the gopis call out to Yashoda. The letters 'A' and 'O' are also elongated to suit the pattern and are sung using various ornamentations (gamakas).

- "keladi" has been elongated at the end to emphasize the beckoning of the gopis for mother Yashoda to listen to them.

- in the annupallavi is emphasis on the word "pillai" which means son. It is referring to Lord Krishna, and has been elongated.

- in the chazanam, "vendaan" has been spaced out across 3 beats. This line emphasizes the entrance of Krishna with his anklets and bangles, and this elongation adds to the depiction of the scene.

- we ~~also~~ also notice that most words that fall on the first beat are automatically important :- "magan" - son ; "vanargellan" - celestial beings.

- The song is sung in Tamil and describes the story of how Lord Krishna is up to all kinds of mischief - especially stealing butter.

The rhythm is quick and happy and it sets the tone for the playful stories that are being recited.

Something I noticed was the use of poetic devices all through. One example is rhyming "pillai" (son) and "kandadillai" (never seen).

The song also uses descriptive adjectives to create a visual picture of what is going on. Finally, the song alternates between narrating and using dialogues - which adds to the storytelling.

3.

MUSICAL ENSEMBLES

Music is often described as a structured sequence of rhythm, melody and harmony. It is thus very fundamental to the idea of music itself, to get different elements to work together and create something beautiful. This is the very essence of musical ensembles as well.

A musical ensemble is used to refer to a group of musicians that come together to play different instruments and create different elements of a common musical piece. Musical ensembles constitute an important part of how we consume music because any song that we listen to is most likely not the work of one person, but lots of people's efforts together. The word ensemble actually comes from the French word meaning "together", and it involves teamwork, harmony and effective communication between the various musicians.

Ensembles can be of many types depending on the type of music they play, the type of instruments they use in their performances, and the number of musicians performing together.

Based on the size, the ensembles could be either described as small or large. The small ones range from two to eight people, and they are called a specific thing. Duets are two musicians playing together, either on the same or similar instruments. The term could also be used to refer to compositions meant to be played by two musicians, or a music piece that includes two instruments. Similarly, three, four, five, six, seven or eight musicians playing together is called a trio, quartet, quintet, sextet, septet and octet respectively. "The Girl is Mine" by Michael Jackson and ~~Paul~~ Paul McCartney is an example of a very famous duet and Beethoven's Septet in E-flat major, is composed of a bassoon, cello, clarinet, double bass, horn, violin, and viola (septet).

larger ensembles range from hundreds to thousands of people. A chamber orchestra is an ensemble that refers to the forty or fewer musicians that commonly play the compositions called chamber music. A symphony is a piece of work that is usually made for orchestras and involves three to four movements. These orchestras are called symphony orchestras or philharmonic orchestras. Instruments include winds (flutes and piccolo, English horn, trumpets), strings (violin, viola, cello) and optional percussion.

We could also describe ensembles using the type of instruments they involve. For example, a choir is a vocal ensemble that may perform a cappella or with instrumental accompaniment. Choirs vary in size and type, including chamber choirs (small ensembles), symphonic choirs (large groups with orchestra instruments), and gospel choirs (associated with religious and spiritual music). A string quartet is an ensemble consisting of two violins, a viola and a cello. This combination is very widely known and prominent in the classical world because a lot of famous compositions use this ensemble. Composers like Haydn, Mozart, and Beethoven composed extensively for it. As the name suggests, a brass band refers to ensembles with a focus on brass and percussion. These ensembles are particularly popular in military, ceremonial, and community music traditions. A pretty mainstream ensemble is a rock band which includes many iconic fan-favourites like Pink Floyd, The Beatles etc. They typically consist of a lead singer, electric guitars, bass guitar, and drums.

All of the ensembles discussed till now were traditionally Western ensembles. However, music does not follow the boundaries of language and country and thus, there are examples of musical ensembles in every culture, differing from their instruments, to their singing. In a lot of cultures, their music is so inherently bound to their identity that music is considered to be a way of bonding and cooperation.

Gramelan is the term for a traditional musical ensemble in Indonesia, typically referring to a percussion orchestra composed of tuned gongs of various types and metal-keyed instruments. In Mexico, any celebration is incomplete without a ~~Marachi~~ mariachi. It is an ensemble of violins, trumpets, guitars, vihuelas, etc. Indian classical music has both Carnatic (South Indian) and Hindustani (North Indian) ensembles, with traditional instruments like the sitar, tabla, violin, flute and mridangam. Deeply rooted in Andalusian culture, is flamenco which is characterized by guitarists, singers, dancers, and percussionists using handclaps and castanets. It is very popular in Spain and is accompanied by a box drum.

Ensembles are not only a tool to spread music, but they bring a lot of benefits to the performers as well. Apart from doing their own part, they also have to keep time with the others by listening, coordinating and adjusting themselves. They are also exposed to a wide variety of genres and instruments and ensembles often involve the interplay of two genres that ~~are~~ were previously thought to be separate and foreign. Lastly, it provides a space for musicians to connect, exchange ideas and reduce performance anxiety.

Humans are inherently social beings, and thus ensembles have existed from pre-historic times when we would hunt and gather food together, and signal to other groups using sound. Thus, it is of no surprise that ensembles still play a huge role in our lives, and continue to shape our musical expertise.