= Geet Ramayan =

Geet Ramayan (Marathi : ??? ?????? , English : The Ramayana in Songs) is a collection of 56 Marathi language songs chronologically describing events from the Indian Hindu epic , the Ramayana . It was broadcast by All India Radio , Pune in 1955 ? 1956 , four years before television was introduced in India . Written by G. D. Madgulkar and the songs being composed by Sudhir Phadke , Geet Ramayan was acclaimed for its lyrics , music and singing . It is considered a " milestone of Marathi light music " and the " most popular " Marathi version of Ramayana .

The team of Madgulkar and Phadke presented a new song every week for a year with every song being aired first on a Friday morning and then again on Saturday and Sunday morning , between 8 : 45 AM and 9 : 00 AM IST . The program 's first song " Ku?a Lava R?m?ya? G?t? " was aired on 1 April 1955 . Though Geet Ramayan is based on sage Valmiki 's epic Ramayana , Madgulkar chose a different narrative format and was praised for the lyrics , and was called ?dhunik Valmiki (the modern Valmiki) . The Geet Ramayan is considered as " the crescendo of Madgulkar 's literary vigour " . Phadke mainly used ragas of Hindustani classical music to compose the songs . He also selected the raga and the T?la of a song to suit the time of the incident and the narrative mood . The poet and composer were praised for their contribution to the series .

The series showcased a total of 32 various characters from Ramayana . Rama (avatar of Vishnu and hero of the Ramayana) being the lead character of the series was given maximum number of songs (10) , followed by eight songs for Sita (Rama 's wife and avatar of the Hindu goddess Lakshmi) . Madgulkar expressed their various moods , ranging from their divinity to the human weaknesses . Incidentally , the central antagonist of the Ramayana and Geet Ramayan , the demon @-@ king Ravana , was not given any song . The series is narrated by Kusha and Lava , twin sons of Rama and Sita , and the writer of Ramayana (Valmiki) was also given one song in the series .

With increasing popularity since its release , Geet Ramayan has been translated into nine other languages : five Hindi translations and one each in Bengali , English , Gujarati , Kannada , Konkani , Sanskrit , Sindhi and Telugu . It has also been transliterated into Braille .

= = Concept = =

Geet Ramayan was conceptualized in 1955 , four years before the introduction of television in India in 1959 . During the early days of All India Radio , Pune (also known as Aakashwani Pune) , station director Sitakant Lad wanted to begin a radio programme which would be entertaining and provide moral education . He hence outlined his plan to poet and writer G. D. Madgulkar (popularly known as " Ga @-@ Di @-@ Ma ") . Since the Ramayana (written by Valmiki) is an Indian epic , Lad and Madgulkar came up with an idea of a version in singable verse . Madgulkar accepted the challenge , enlisting his music @-@ director friend Sudhir Phadke (popularly known as " Babuji ") for the collaboration .

The team of Madgulkar and Phadke would present a new song every week for a year . Every song would be aired first on a Friday morning and then again on Saturday and Sunday morning , between 8 : 45 am and 9 : 00am IST . The programme was initially planned for a year (with 52 songs) with the concluding song Tr?v?r Jayajayak?r R?m? where Rama becomes the King , but 1955 in the Hindu calendar had an extra month (Adhikm?s) ; therefore , four songs were added to extend the series to a total of fifty @-@ six . The series ended with the song " G? B???no , Shr?r?m?ya? " where the part post crown ceremony was added . Apart from the number of songs , Madgulkar and Phadke left music , lyrics and choice of singers ad libitum . Madgulkar was given artistic liberty for the choice of the meters for the song , execution of the story line , and the message he could convey through it .

Initially , the programme was scheduled to begin on the occasion of Gudi Padwa , beginning of the New year according to the lunisolar Hindu calendar but later finalized to be Rama Navami , traditional birthday of Rama . The program 's first song " Ku?a Lava R?m?ya? G?t? " was aired on 1 April 1955 at 8 : 45 am IST . Vidya Madgulkar , the poet 's wife , recalled in an interview that Madgulkar wrote the first song and gave it to Phadke the day before the recording ; however ,

Phadke lost the lyrics . With the broadcast already scheduled , station director Sitakant Lad requested Madgulkar to re @-@ write the song which was readily declined by an angered poet . Lad then decided to lock the poet in one of recording rooms equipped with all the required writing material and agreed to unlock the door only when Madgulkar is ready with the lyrics . Madgulkar then rewrote the lyrics from memory in fifteen minutes so Phadke could compose the music .

= = Lyrics = =

 Though Valmiki was the main inspiration for the Geet Ramayan , Madgulkar chose a different narrative format . He used a simple lyrical format with a flexible number of stanzas (from five to eleven stanzas , with three or four lines of varying length) . The metre used was similar to Bhavageete , with roughly the same number of m?tr?s in each line . The metre was also suited to the narration and the characters who sang the song . Madgulkar used various formats , including narrative , descriptive and communal songs . He was praised for his lyrics , and was called " ?dhunik Valmiki " (the modern Valmiki) ; and the Geet Ramayan is considered " the crescendo of Madgulkar 's literary vigour " .
 Madgulkar 's narrative format was different from that of Valmiki 's where he did not end the series with the coronation of Rama and Sita , but included Sita 's abandonment by Rama , and her giving birth to the twins , Lava and Kusha . However , he chose not to include the last episode of Sita 's final confrontation in Rama 's court and her entering the earth . Madgulkar ended the series with the song " G? B???no , Shr?r?m?ya? " which was voiced by Valmiki where he tells his disciples , Lava and Kusha , how they should recite the Ramayana in front of Rama . Evidently , this also completes the cycle of songs where it had begun , with Lava and Kusha singing in Rama 's court .
 Madgulkar did not make any attempt to provide new interpretation or meaning to the Ramayana but told the same story in the simpler and poetic format . With inclusion of characters like Ahalya and Shabari , he included the sentiments of religious devotion (Bhakti) and also gave divine touch to the story while describing the marriage of Sita and Rama as a union of Maya and Brahman . He composed songs on all seven chapters or K???a of Ramayana . Out of 56 songs , poet composed twelve songs on Balakanda , seven on Ayodhya Kanda , fourteen on Aranya Kanda , three on Kishkindha Kanda , four on Sundara Kanda , twelve on Yuddha Kanda and three on Uttara Kanda .
 As the series became popular , the daily newspapers in Pune began to print the text of the new song every week after its first airing . The first official edition of the text of these fifty @-@ six poems and their prose narrations came out on the occasion of Vijayadashami , 3 October 1957 , published for Akashwani by the director of the Publications Division , Delhi , in pocketbook size .

= = Music and singing = =

 Musical director Sudhir Phadke composed the songs based on the ragas of Hindustani classical music , including Bhopali , Bhimpalasi and Madhuvanti . The raga and T?la of a song was selected to suit the time of the incident and the narrative mood . For example , the song " Cal? R?ghav? Cal? " is composed as a Bibhas (morning) raga , and the song describes an event taking place in the morning . The songs " ?j M? ??pmucta J?hale " and " Y?ck? , Th?mbu Nako D?r?ta " are not based on a specific raga , but include several ragas in each song .
 The singers , which included Vasantrao Deshpande , Manik Varma , Suresh Haldankar , Ram Phatak and Lata Mangeshkar , were familiar with the vocal style of Indian classical music . Phadke voiced all the songs for Rama , and well @-@ known Kirana gharana singer Manik Varma voiced the character of Sita . Lata Mangeshkar sang one song for Sita , " Maj S?ng Lak?ma?? " , in which Sita questions Rama about her abandonment but her question remains unanswered .

= = Characters = =

 A total of 32 characters from the Ramayana were voiced in the Geet Ramayan . Madgulkar expressed the emotions of characters such as Rama , Sita , Hanuman ? the monkey (vanara) god

and devotee of Rama ? and Lakshmana (Rama 's brother) ; he also attempted to give voice to the humblest characters in the epic . The vanara are given a song (" Set? B?ndh? Re S?gar? ") describing a bridge forming over the ocean so Rama and his army could cross to Lanka . The poet noted that the song described the sacrifice of joint labour and was an example of the principle , " Union is strength " . Nishadraj Guha (King of Kevati , kingdom located by the banks of Ganges river) and the boatmen who helped Rama in crossing the Ganges river expressed themselves in " Nakos Nauke Parat Phir? " . The author of the Ramayana , Valmiki , was also given a song (the final song , " G? B???no , Shr?r?m?ya? ") with his advice to Rama 's sons Kusha and Lava before they appear before Rama .

 Being hero of the Ramayana and Geet Ramayan , Madgulkar expressed the varied moods of Rama ; he was the most @-@ voiced character in the Geet Ramayan with ten songs , followed by Sita with eight . He portrayed Rama as a complex character full of emotions and passions , with some of the questionable deeds , yet bound by a traditional virtue and the sanctity of a promise . Madgulkar voiced Rama 's personal ethical dilemmas (in " V?l?vadh N? , Khalnidr?lan " and " L?nate , C?r?te , S?te ") along with his courage (in " Nabh? Bhedun? N?d Ch?lale ") , and steadfastness (in " L?nate , C?r?te , S?te ") . He was shown to be patient with his brothers and mothers (in " Par?dh?n ?he Jagat? Putra M?nav?ch? ") , obedient of father and sages (in " Cal? R?ghav? Cal? ") , heroic on the battlefield , and diplomatic when dealing with the monkey king , Vali (in " V?l?vadh N? , Khalnidr?lan ") . Madgulkar is said to have successfully shown Rama 's divinity alongside his human weaknesses . He was shown to be distracted at the loss Sita (in " Ko?he S?t? Janakanandin? ? ") , and wailed in Lakshmana 's presence (in " H? Ticy? Ve?itil Phule ") . In another situation , he uttered some heart @-@ wrenching words to Sita , in front of his army with blaming her for all the happenings (in " L?nate , C?r?te , S?te ") , and then he was also shown to explain his behavior with oaths and confessions of loyalty to Sita (in " Lokas?k?a Shuddh? Jh?l? ") .

 Rama 's mother , Kausalya , sang three songs ; his brother Bharata , his father Dasharatha , Hanuman , Lakshmana , the demon Surpanakha (sister of Ravana) , Rama 's guru @-@ sage Vishvamitra and Kusha @-@ Lava have two songs each . The central antagonist of the Ramayana , the demon @-@ king Ravana , was not given a song ; his oppressive presence was expressed in prose narration , poetic descriptions and songs sung by the other characters (such as Ravana 's demon brother Kumbhakarna in " Lankevar K?? Ka?hin ?l? ") .

= = List of songs = =

= = Performances = =

 After Geet Ramayan 's original broadcast was over in March of 1956 , requests of re @-@ broadcast were flooding the radio station . All @-@ India Radio repeated the entire series of fifty @-@ six weekly songs due to popular demand . After the broadcast , Phadke produced public concerts of selected songs . The first public performance was held in the Madgulkars ' bungalow , " Panchavati " at Wakdewadi , Pune on 28 May 1958 . In 1979 , a Silver Jubilee celebration of the programme took place at the New English School in Pune for eight nights . Atal Bihari Vajpayee , the then Minister of External Affairs , attended the show as the guest of honour along with the then Deputy Prime Minister of India Yashwantrao Chavan , Bollywood film director Basu Bhattacharya , actor Dada Kondke , and celebrated classical singers such as Bhimsen Joshi and Kishori Amonkar . Vajpayee also attended the Golden Jubilee celebration with Sharad Pawar and Bal Thackeray . National Award @-@ winning art director Nitin Chandrakant Desai designed the stage depicting scenes from the Ramayana . The event featured all the songs from the original Geet Ramayan now vocalized by Madgulkar 's son Anand Madgulkar , Shridhar Phadke , Suresh Wadkar , Upendra Bhat , Padmaja Phenany Joglekar and others .

= = Reception = =

As the radio programme became popular , daily newspapers in Pune began printing the lyrics of the new songs each week . The publication department of All India Radio also compiled the lyrics and excerpts from the introductory comments in a book form . The 179 @-@ page volume , then priced at ? 2 , was launched on 3 October 1957 on the occasion of Vijayadashami . In 1965 , the HMV released ten LPs featuring the voice of Sudhir Phadke . In 1968 , the Gramophone Company of India released a 10 @-@ cassette set , again featuring Phadke 's voice , and 50 @,@ 000 records were sold . Madgulkar 's son , Anand , produced a televised version showcasing twenty @-@ eight episodes of the Geet Ramayan on Zee Marathi which was well received by the audience . He has also written a book , Geet Ramayanache Ramayan , describing the birth of each Geet Ramayana song.This book was extremely well received and is well into its second edition already.He also did a radio program by the same name . Live shows of Geet Ramayan are still produced on occasion of Rama Navami.Anand Madgulkar himself has religiously been performing ' geet ramayana ' concerts in India , USA , Australia , Canada , Europe and UAE for the last 30 years .

= = Other languages = =

Geet Ramayan has been translated into nine other languages including Bengali , English , Guajarati , Kannada , Hindi , Konkani , Sanskrit , Sindhi and Telugu . It is also transliterated into Braille . This is the first and only collection of Marathi language songs got translated in so many languages . The translation is done in such a way that the basic the basic length and other specification of poem are unchanged . The translations are :