# S.N.D.T. Arts and Commerce College for Women, Pune

# **Department of Music**

**Conducted workshop Series:** Every year, department of Music arranges Workshop and Lecture – Demonstration series for which various stalwarts and resource persons are invited from the field of Hindustani Classical Music. This year, the workshop series was held in the month of February – March 2024. For the assessment of the putcomes of workshop, Manthan series was arranged in which live performances of students were organized. Then details of Mathan are given below. Total Four workshops were conducted on variety of subjects. Details of these workshops are given below:

# 1.Workshop: Taan Prakaar - Dr. Sanika Goregaonkar

Date: 14th February 2024

The workshop on Taan Prakar conducted under the guidance of Dr. Sanika Goregaonkar proved to be highly beneficial. In this session, she taught various types of taans in a practical and engaging manner. Dr. Goregaonkar demonstrated each taan by singing it herself and encouraged the students to replicate them. This approach not only allowed students to enjoy the art of listening but also gave them the opportunity to practice singing the taans themselves.

Taans are an integral part of the academic curriculum in music, but different gharanas have unique styles of presenting them. Dr. Goregaonkar provided an in-depth explanation of the nuances of taans as performed in various gharanas. She highlighted that while some gharanas focus on rhythm and technique, others emphasize an emotional rendition of the same taans.

The highlight of the workshop was her experimental lecture, where she practically illustrated taans from different gharanas. She addressed students' queries promptly and emphasized the subtle techniques required while performing taans. This interactive and hands-on approach helped the students better understand the essence of taans and significantly boosted their confidence.

Overall, this workshop was a valuable addition to the students' comprehensive and diverse learning in the field of classical music.





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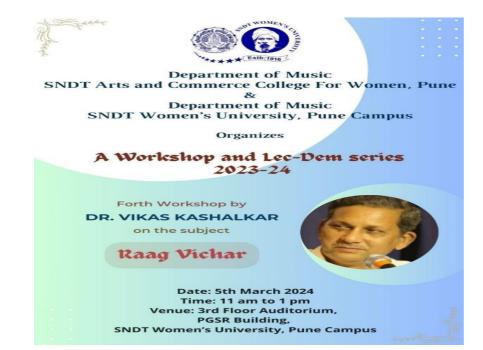
# Workshop *Raag Vichar* was conducted by Dr. Pt. Vikas Kashalkar on 5th March 2024,

A workshop on *Raag Vichar* was conducted by the esteemed Dr. Pt. Vikas Kashalkar on 5th March 2024, offering students an invaluable learning experience. Dr. Kashalkar delved into the intricacies of *raag* presentation, shedding light on how certain notes (*swaras*) that might not traditionally belong to a raag can be subtly incorporated to enhance its beauty. He explained that while rendering a raag, if a note naturally feels right and adds to the aesthetic appeal, it can be artistically included, provided it aligns with the overall mood and structure of the composition.

During the workshop, Dr. Kashalkar emphasized the importance of systematic *riyaaz* (practice) and demonstrated how to approach it effectively. He guided the students on how to develop a raag systematically, ensuring that its essence remains intact while exploring its creative possibilities. His explanation of raag structure (*raag maandani*) was both theoretical and practical, enabling students to grasp the nuances of raag elaboration.

A major highlight of the workshop was his teaching of various *bandishes* (compositions) from different raags. These bandishes showcased the unique characteristics and emotions of the raags, allowing students to understand their application in performance. Dr. Kashalkar's interactive teaching style encouraged students to participate actively, ask questions, and practice under his guidance.

This workshop served as a profound exploration of the art of raag rendition, helping students enhance their musical understanding and presentation skills. The insights and techniques shared by Dr. Kashalkar will undoubtedly contribute to their growth as classical musicians.







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# Workshop on "Merukhand " Subject Expert by Dr. PT.Vijay Bakshi, Date 28.02.2024

A special workshop on the "Merukhand Method" was conducted under the guidance of Dr. Pt. Vijay Bakshi to enhance the understanding of Indian classical music and aid vocalists in exploring the depths of ragas.

# **Essence of the Merukhand Method**

Dr. Vijay Bakshi explained how to create diverse and intricate improvisations (alaap) using just three notes (swars) of a raga. The Merukhand method is a systematic approach in Indian classical music, designed to explore the creative possibilities within a raga by rearranging and presenting its notes in various sequences and rhythmic patterns.

## Key Highlights of the Workshop:

#### 1. Rearranging Notes:

- Understanding the fundamental notes of the raga and their unique presentation in different sequences.
- Techniques for crafting improvisations based on clusters of three notes.

#### 2. Rhythm and Tempo:

- Integrating rhythmic patterns with notes to create structured improvisations.
- Synchronizing tala (rhythmic cycles) with swaras.

#### 3. Creativity and Expression:

- Utilizing the Merukhand method to add depth and innovation to alaaps.
- Developing new melodic patterns through creative thinking.

#### 4. Practical Demonstrations:

- Dr. Bakshi provided live examples to illustrate the diversity within a raga.
- Participants were encouraged to practice and apply the techniques themselves.

#### Impact of the Workshop:

This workshop offered music enthusiasts a new perspective on understanding the intricacies of ragas. It highlighted how the Merukhand method can enhance a vocalist's improvisation skills, adding depth and creativity to their performance.

#### Audience Participation:

The workshop saw active participation from students and experts in the field of music. Dr. Vijay Bakshi's insightful guidance inspired everyone to delve deeper into the art of raga improvisation.

The Merukhand method stands as a valuable tool not just for vocalists but for anyone studying Indian classical music. This workshop reinforced its significance as a means to explore and expand the boundaries of musical creativity.





SNDT Arts and Commerce College For Women, Pune Department of Music Organizes

> A Workshop and Lec-Dem series 2023-24

Third Workshop by

PT. VIJAY BAKSHI

on the subject

MERUKHAND

Date: 28th February 2024 Time: 9 am Onwards Venue: Music Department, SNDT Arts and Commerce College For Women, Pune For more details please contact: Mrs. Minakshi Baswant (HoD, Music Department) Dr.Sanika Goregaonkar (Asst. Professor)

Dr. Anjali Kadam Principal







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# **Workshop: "Essays in Music" by Dr. Keshavchaitanya Kunte Date:** 23rd February 2024

A workshop focusing on various aspects of Indian classical music, with a special emphasis on the role of the accompanist in Sabha Gayana (concert singing), was conducted by the esteemed musicologist and performer, Dr. Keshav chaitanya Kunte. The workshop provided a deep understanding of the dynamic relationship between the lead performer and the accompanist in a concert setting.

# Role of the Accompanist in Sabha Gayana

Dr. Kunte elaborated on the pivotal role of accompanists, such as tabla players, harmonium artists, and tanpura players, in enhancing the performance of the lead artist. He emphasized that while the lead vocalist takes center stage, the accompanist's contributions are integral to the overall impact of the performance.

# Key Highlights of the Workshop:

### 1. Symbiotic Relationship:

- Dr. Kunte explained how the lead artist and accompanist complement each other, creating a cohesive and enriching musical experience.
- He stressed that the accompanist must be attentive, adaptable, and sensitive to the lead artist's nuances.

# 2. Understanding the Raga and Tala:

- The accompanist must have a thorough understanding of the raga being performed, its mood (bhaava), and its structure to provide appropriate support.
- In rhythm, the tabla or mridangam artist must synchronize seamlessly with the vocalist's improvisations.

# 3. Balancing Individuality and Support:

- While the accompanist plays a supportive role, they also contribute creatively, adding depth to the performance.
- Dr. Kunte highlighted instances where a subtle improvisation by the accompanist can enhance the emotional appeal of the raga.

#### 4. Teamwork and Communication:

- The workshop underscored the importance of non-verbal communication during a performance.
- Eye contact, subtle gestures, and an intuitive connection between artists play a vital role in ensuring a smooth and harmonious concert.

#### 5. Practical Demonstrations:

- Dr. Kunte demonstrated how slight variations in accompaniment could dramatically alter the overall mood of a raga.
- Participants were invited to explore the dynamics of lead and support roles through live exercises.

## Takeaways from the Workshop:

The participants gained a profound appreciation of the accompanist's role, understanding it as both a technical and an artistic endeavor. Dr. Kunte's insights shed light on how the accompanist not only supports the lead artist but also enhances the overall aesthetic and emotional impact of the performance.

## **Audience Participation:**

The workshop was attended by seasoned performers, and music scholars. Interactive sessions allowed attendees to ask questions, share their experiences, and apply the learnings in a collaborative environment.

This workshop reinforced the idea that a successful Sabha Gayana is not just the result of an individual artist's excellence but a harmonious blend of collective effort and mutual respect among performers.



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