
Malini Rajurkar's Evening Concert

A review by Mohan Ranade

Malini Rajurkar, born in Ajmer (Rajasthan) is a Mathematics graduate of Rajasthan University, a "Sangeet Nipun" from Ajmer Music College and a recipient of the two-year merit scholarship from Rajasthan Sangeet Natak Academy, Jodhpur.

Her training began under Pandit Govindrao Rajurkar (her father-in-law), a nopted disciple of Pandit Govindrao Poonchwale of Gwalior Gharana. Today Malini Rajurkar is ranked high among India's top classical vocalists. This was her second visit to USA and of course second visit to the Delaware valley. Her first performance in the area was held on 7 November 1980. Therefore, the music listeners attended the concert organized by Sruti with a great anticipation and Malini Rajurkar fulfilled all the expectations.

Malini Rajurkar started the concert with Raga Marubihag (even though it was a bit early according to the time scale of the raga). She started the Khayal with a composition in slow Ek Taal (12 beats). She developed the raga with a superb "Saragam" and presented various catching

"taans" to arrive at the "sama". After the khayal she presented another composition in fast teen tal (16 beats) carrying the presentation to its peak. She marvelously demonstrated her ability and command on the raga by superb "tihias" in this composition. She presented a small piece in Raga Khamaj before the intermission.

At the request from a Sruti member, Malini started with Raga Chandrakans after intermission. She presented the Khayal in slow teen taal and after that sang a fast composition also in teen taal in Raga Malkans. She concluded her concert with her favorite Tappa in Raga Bhairavi which was presented in a Punjabi taal.

She was accompanied on Tabla by Subhash Kamat and on Harmonium by Dr. Arvind Thatte. The intermediate duets between the two were as thrilling as the vocal presentation by Malini. Prabha Subramaniam and Poornima Narayan provided the tanpura accompaniment.

[Mohan Ranade is a connoisseur of Hindustani Music and plays Tabla]
