



A SHORT SKETCH ON THE LIFE OF
GAYAKAKESARI PALGHAT RAMA BHAGAVATHAR.

PALGHAT RAMABHAGAVATHAR WAS BORN IN THE YEAR 1888 in Mundakmukha Village in Shornur, Kerala, in a Revenue Officer's family (Grama Adhikari).

He derived his early inspiration for music from his elder brother Sri Venkatakrishna Bhagavathar, a Kathakali Vocalist, rendering 'Kathakali Padams' in Carnatic music. At his instance at the age of 11 he went to Palghat where he was introduced to "Gayakasikhamani" Palghat Anantarama Bhagavathar who accepted him as his disciple. After a couple of years of training, he accompanied him in all his concerts.

At the request of Tiruvaduthurai Adheenam Sri Anantarama Bhagavathar had occasion to settle down in Kumbakonam for a few years. During that period Sri Ramabhadragavathar had also the opportunity to learn music from Umayalpuram Sri Swaminatha Ayyar. Both Maharajapuram Sri Viswanatha Ayyar and Sri Rama Bhagavathar were colleagues during this study period. After stay in Kumbakonam they moved to Madras where he improved upon his musical talents. After a twelve year Gurukulavasam at the age of twenty four he was permitted by his guru to give concerts independently.

After his guru's demise in 1918, he settled down in Palghat. In the beginning he was performing Harikatha Kalakshepams and music concerts for a few years. Thereafter he switched over to Carnatic music concerts alone. Between 1930 and 1955 he gave a series of concerts throughout India.

He was a great devotee of Lord Sri Rama. He used to perform Sadguru Thyagaraja Aradhana festival on the same lines as in Tiruvaiyaru for 4 days at Ramadhyana Madham in Kalpathi-Palghat every year. Even to-day the festival is being conducted with due reverence.

He was accompanied by almost all contemporary violinists and mridangists and to mention a few of Violin Vidwans viz; Malaikottai Govindaswamy Pillai, Kumbakonam Rajamanickam Pillai, Mysore T. Chowdiah; Papa Venkataramaiah, Palghat C.R. Mani Iyer; Mridangam Vidwans viz; Azhagan Ambi Pillai, Pudukottai Dakshinamurthy Pillai, Thanjavur Vaidyanatha Ayyar, Palghat Subba Ayyar, Palghat Sri Mani Ayyar.

He had imparted music free to many disciples with devotion, without reservations and rewards. It is to be noted that both his first and last performances were in the KALPATHI VISWANATHA SWAMY TEMPLE. He attained the Lords Feet in June 1957.

Puducode Krishnamoorthy Bhagavathar

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