

## Guest Editorial

### Music Education for Social Harmony and National Integration

Rabindranath Tagore in one of his books writes that religion is the essence of human relationship; it is a kind of cement that binds man and man together. Elsewhere we read that God is Love and this creation is the manifestation of God. If we analyze the above, we will find or conclude that love is the basic principle of the whole creation. Going against this principle means going towards destruction ruin. There appears to be a very strong relationship between the principle of love and music. Why is Shakespeare inspired to say, “ Play on my hoy, if music be the food of love.” The function of music is to create harmony. 26/11/2008 ghastly incident of terrorist attacks in Mumbai has undoubtedly made every one serious and thoughtful. The question arises can we survive completely depending on physical power? Can the guns and bombs and hand granades give us security of life and of our entire great heritage which we have got from our great ancestors? I am afraid no. Today the greatest need of the hour is unity and true relationship, a binding relationship, a caring relationship and unifying relationship. I think it is love which is the sole quality of the divine. That can save life on this beautiful earth. It is not just human life but all lives – trees, plants, birds animals and the whole environment. There is a strong relationship between Music and Love and creation.

Our Vedas say that the whole universe – the whole “Brahman” has been created from the divine sound “Om” – The whole universe is “Vibration” and exists in Rhythmic beats – a kind of unbroken “Laya and Taal”. Other philosophies also subscribe to this view as we read in Dryden’s (an English poet) poem “Song for Saint Cecilia’s Day” “from harmony, from heavenly harmony, this universal frame began”. Thus love which is a divine qualifies and music both lead to cordial and “Creative” relationship between man and man irrespective of their caste, creed or color. Music can play a very mightily and effective role in creating a harmonious atmosphere in our social and national life.

The above discussion is the legacy of our indigenous knowledge about music. This must be vehemently taught in schools and colleges to our children. Teachers must tell students about the uniqueness and greatness of our music. They must tell our children about its origin and its base which is primarily spiritual and divine. Ours is the greatest civilization of the world, based on the principles of “Satyam, Shivam and Sunderam”. Music is the best way of realizing this truth.

Music has seven main swaras – seven different individual sounds. But how wonderful that by mixing or juxtaposing these sounds, musicians create a great harmonious and melodious musical piece – you may, call it “Bandish” or Raga” or any Tune”. How beautiful various different swaras are united into one whole”. If music is taught to every student, I am sure the creative process in music will have great impact on him, on his attitude – his

thinking, his emotional disposition and ultimately his behavior. I have read somewhere that music makes people milder and gentle more moral and more reasonable. Music softens or controls or pacifies our violent passions and we will not grow as destructive beings. We will develop the attitude of creating harmony in social and national life which is the prime need of today. Music brings man and man closer to each other. Music establishes relationship between one heart and the other and develops proper understanding between them.

Today, there is a great need to convince about and make our young generation realize the supremacy of our music in the whole world. Teachers should tell the students about the great range of music a great variety and ever creating and innovating quality of our music. There is no peer to Indian classical music – whether it is vocal or instrumental. Listen to great Tabla players like Ustaaad Zakir Hussain or Pandit Kishan Maharaj. Can any rhythm, Instrument of any country of the world compete with Tabla! I doubt very much. Popularizing Indian Music among the youngsters and distracting them from today’s pop, jazz DJ, Remix can be well done by teachers of music teaching at school and college levels. They should inculcate in their students the Indian “Sanskars” of our music from the beginning. They should evolve attractive and effective methods of teaching music.

Dr. Monali Masih  
Assistant Professor  
D.A.K. Mahavidyalaya  
Jaripatka, Nagpur  
Email: [monalimasih@gmail.com](mailto:monalimasih@gmail.com)