

## Nadopasana

*'Dayananda Sisters ' -- Kumari S. Darshana and Smt. Sowmya Jaya Ganesh -- as they are known popularly have to their musical experience with Pujya Swamiji, which they are sharing here.*

By sheer grace, we got the exclusive opportunity to learn/share music from the Yuga Prusha Pujya Sri Swami Dayananda Saraswati. We have learnt not only how to sing but also how to love music. Swamiji has shows us how to live a life of commitment to music as an upasana.



Without hesitation Pujya Swamiji can be termed as ' vaghyakara' – a technical name applicable exclusively only to those who not only know all the nuances of music but also can compose kriti effortlessly. His compositions have all the elements of best lyrics – language, in depth knowledge of subject matter of Sastra and Upanishad, raga bhavana, tala structure (in terms of varied kala-pramanam) but at the same giving abundance scope for musician's imagination. In-grained are the essence of Advaita philosophy from Kenopanishad, Mandookyopanishad as in 'Bhavaye Paramatmaanam' --just to name one. These days ragam 'Revati' has become famous by the kriti 'Bho Shambo' which is invariably used in Music as well as in dance performance. The essence of raga Sivaranjani bubbles-forth in the first phrase 'Mahalinga Vibho' itself. Unless one is endowed with Ishwara's grace in full measure it is not possible to bring out such phrases – nay, it is Ishwara himself composes!! In Swamiji's own words - " The song just came to me".

There have been hundreds of satsangs with Swamiji in the past 15 years when we have learnt many compositions directly from Him and revelled in the euphoria of having learnt it from this unassuming and effortless Musician and a loving parent that He was.

Once Swamiji made us sing a particular kriti in Anaikatti's Arsha Vidya gurukulam during a satsang. He enjoyed the lyric so much that he made us sing it about 7 times repeatedly each time showing us a beautiful dimension in the lyric and the tune. That incident induced us to consider every other kriti more seriously. We began looking into the lyric only after witnessing Swamiji revel in the tune, lyric & the rhythm together.

His latest composition on Devi Gnyaneshwari melts the heart of the listener almost instantaneously. Swamiji taught us this song line by line, word by word, over and over again. We go into a blessed musical loop each time we get into this song.

An unforgettable music class of ours happened in one of the satsangs in Anaikatti AVG when Swamiji chose to teach us the kriti 'Someshwaram bhajema' in the raga hindolam in praise of Lord Someshwara of Rajkot Ashram Temple. Swamiji showed us how to learn and teach music by fixing His eyes upon us and with absolute trust and freedom He taught us this kriti. We broke out of our fear and insecurities and let go and sang. We celebrated singing. Swamiji handheld us through the kriti and demystified us to ourselves. It was a red letter day since, along with the music lesson we also learnt to look within. Our journey inward began that day with the blessings of Lord Someshwara in the form of Swamiji and the kriti. We realized that music was our pramana to Vedanta.

Swamiji mentioned many a time with a glint in His eye and a shining smile, that "our connection is musical- pun intended" Swamiji once told that " Vedanta reaches one in a million. Music reaches one plus one million. "

Swamiji magnanimously blessed us with the precious title "**DAYANANDA SISTERS**" in Rishikesh during MahaShivaratri and encouraged us with many concert opportunities in the past decade. Swamiji once wrote in our music notebook in the first page "You are a gift to all of us and yourself" and said "read this each time you open this book and sing with the joy of knowing this fact." Swamiji never missed a chance to encourage us with his kind and motivating words. The title and the vision blessed by Swamiji has given us our path and purpose in life. To deserve the magnanimous blessing of Swamiji, we vow to work each day with gratitude, utmost sincerity and reverence.

"Thank you Swamiji for all the musical moments. We seek your grace to help us work hard to deserve the title and become worthy to fulfill your vision. "

We continue learning music from the world's best musician (as vouched by Swamiji) Arsha Kala Bhushanam Dr. Sriram Parasuram.

We seek all your blessings to continue our musical journey through music classes, concerts, workshops and musical meditation sessions.

Musically yours,  
Dayananda Sisters.