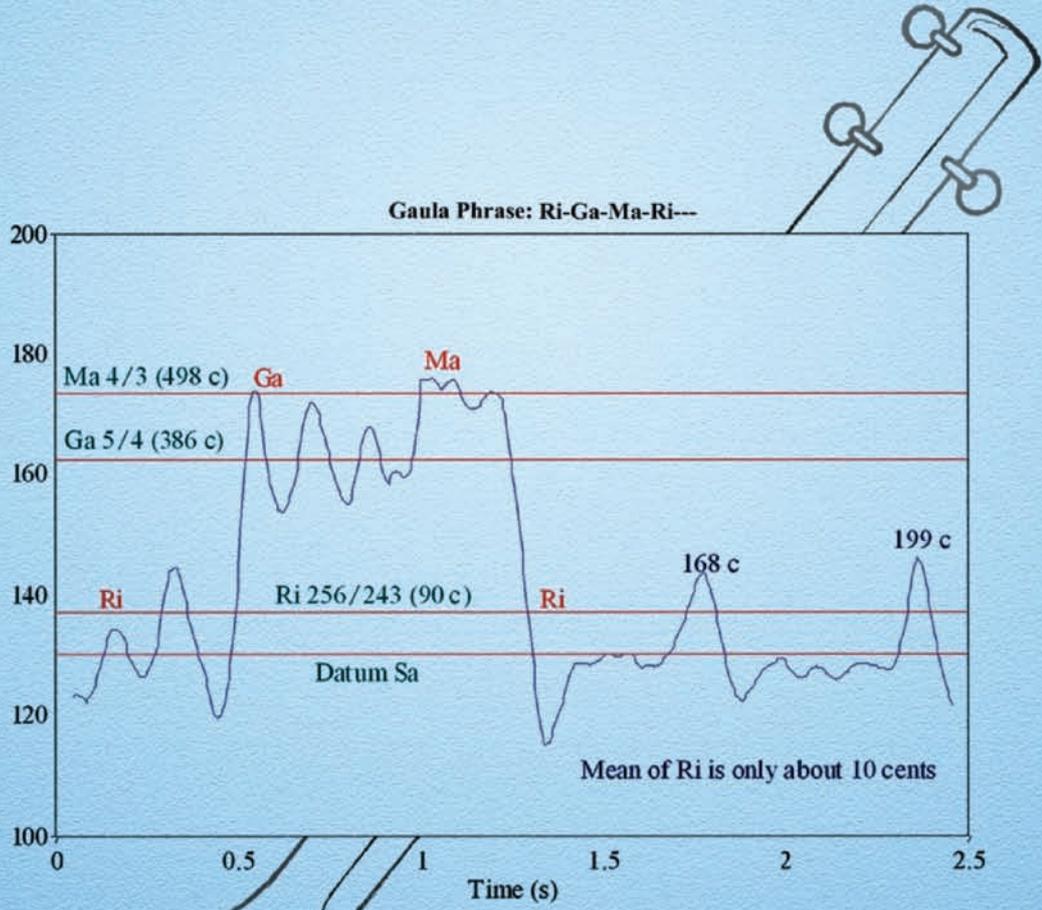


# Pitch Analysis in South Indian Music

With a Critical Examination of the Theory of 22 Śruti-s



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नाट्यशास्त्रम् ।

मध्यमग्रामे तु पञ्चमः श्रुत्यपकृष्टः कार्यः । एवं स्वश्रुत्युत्कर्षादपकर्षाद्वा यदन्तरं मादवादायतत्वाद्वा तत्प्रमाणं श्रुतिः निदर्शनं त्वासामभिव्याख्यास्यामः । तथा - द्वे वीणे तुल्यप्रमाणतन्त्र्युपवादनदण्डमूर्च्छने कृत्वा षड्जग्रामाश्रिते कार्ये ।.... । एवमेतेन श्रुतिनिदर्शनेन द्वौ ग्रामिकयो द्वविंशतिश्रुतयः प्रत्यवगन्तव्याः ।

Madhu Mohan Komaragiri

This book embodies the pioneering doctoral research work of Madhu Mohan Komaragiri. This is the first time a comprehensive pitch analysis is presented in South Indian music holistically combining ancient Sanskrit musical treatises, medieval and modern musicological interpretations, neuro-physiological hearing process and psycho-acoustical pitch perception corroborated with computer pitch analysis of actual audio samples specifically recorded for the purpose of this research. This contribution is significant and original.

In his bold and critical analysis, the author shows why the currently prevailing theories of 22 śruti-s are inapplicable to the system of rāga music. He explains why śruti is not quantifiable. The modern theories based on Western tuning concepts and mathematics, that place the 22 śruti-s among the various rāga-s, have been completely debunked. The fluidity of svāra has been clearly demonstrated with multiple characteristic Pitch Profiles of svāra-s that are context-dependent. The author talks about intonation guided by the psycho-physiologically driven tonotopic organization in the primary auditory cortex in the brain. He highlights the non-acoustical dynamic variability in intonation, influenced by perception. In line with this analysis, concepts such as the octave, intervals, scales, modal shift of tonic and consonance have been freshly re-examined.

The author explains the fundamental concepts lucidly while clearing some widespread myths. The glossary, the explanatory notes and the other technical data in the appendices provide a wealth of information. This book is indispensable for research scholars and valuable for students. The general reader will find this informative book quite stimulating.

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