

Annual report (August 2020-April 2021)

Music Archives and Listening Room (Baithak Society)

The Music Archives and Listening Room (MALR), and the Baithak Society, Indraprastha College for Women, University of Delhi, provides a unique platform, not only to listen and explore the richness of Hindustani Classical Music but also to impart some knowledge towards the work of archiving and cataloguing the collections of various music aficionados who have shared their collection with the college, for archiving.

The year 2020-21 has been an enriching one but at the same time, extremely challenging also, amidst various adversities posed by the pandemic. In the given context, despite beginning to schedule its work, only in the month of March this year, the Society could manage to achieve considerable progress in its regular agenda, ranging from the appointment of new advisors, followed by the constitution of the new core committee, appointments of the new office bearers, that is, Ms. Sucheta Yadav, as President, Ms. Avantika Dash, as Secretary and Ms. Pratibha Yadav, as Joint Secretary. Additionally, towards further discharge of responsibilities of the Baithak Society, another core committee member, Ms. Richa Giri, took charge, as Technical Head, of designing e-posters.

Since on campus presence has not been possible due to the pandemic, the work of archiving cannot be scheduled till the situation is back to normal. However, the Baithak Society swiftly switched over to the online mode of functioning in carrying out other programmes and activities of the Society and managed to organize orientation and two online events within a short period of two months with the encouraging guidance and support of our Principal, Prof. Babli Moitra Saraf and the MALR coordinators, Dr. Pragati Mohapatra, and Dr. Anita Banerjee. The Society remains dedicated to the cause of rich cultural heritage of Hindustani Classical Music towards its preservation and propagation, in the form of archiving work as well as in the form of lecture-demonstration, interactive listening sessions and various programmes, related to classical music as of now.

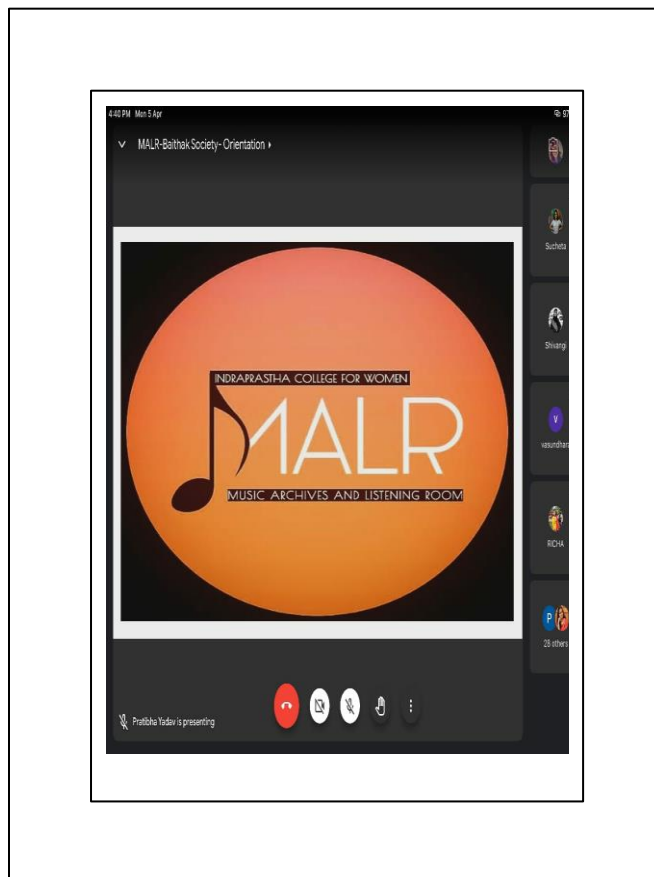
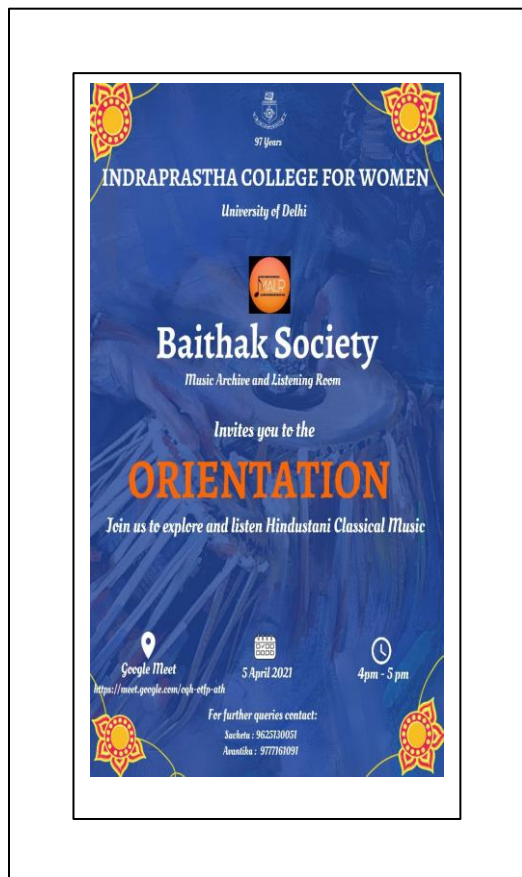
Despite the hurdles that came our way due to the pandemic, Baithak society has managed to keep the musical journey moving ahead with even greater efforts, energy and enthusiasm.

Orientation of Baithak society (Music Archives and Listening Room)

Date: 5 April, 2021

Time: 4 p.m.

Venue: Online Platform GoogleMeet



The Orientation of the Baithak Society, Indraprastha College for Women, University of Delhi, was organized on 5th April, 2021 on Google meet by the Core team members under constant guidance of the Society advisors, Dr. Pragya Parmita and Ms. Diksha Jain. Valuable suggestions and inputs offered by previous core members and previous Society advisor, Dr. Shruti Dubey proved to be of great help. The orientation this year was a whole new experience as it was held on digital platform for the first time. A Power Point presentation describing the history of the society, importance of classical music, why and how to archive rare pieces of music and the functions and events of the society such as lecture demonstrations, listening sessions, documentary screening and music appreciation course, organized by the Society since its inception, from time to time. The power point presentation was followed by a short video describing the activities of the society and glimpses of the various events. The previous office bearers and the current members also shared their experiences of being part of the society. Towards the end, the advisors were invited to address the gathering. It was attended by 35-40 students from first, second and third year. The great amount of response made the orientation a success. This success may serve as a good example of team work along with dedication, sincerity,

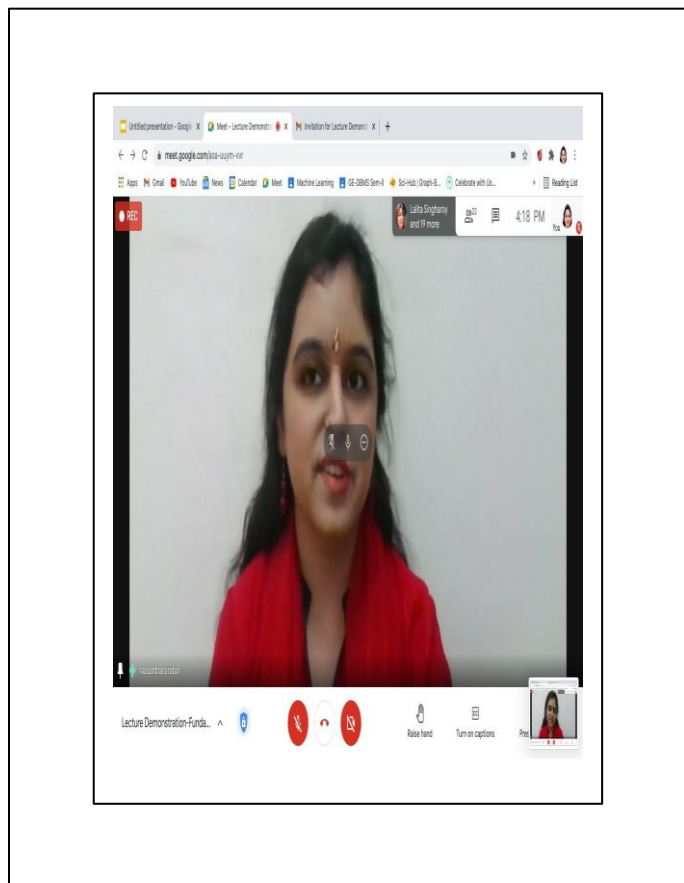
and hard work. The queries from the students were duly addressed and the announcement was made about opening up the registration for the society through circulation of google form.

Lecture Demonstration on the theme ‘*Fundamentals of Raga*’ followed by an interactive session

Date: 20 April 2021

Time: 4 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Venue: Online Platform using GoogleMeet



Considering Raga as the foundation of various genres of Indian music ranging from classical form of Dhrupad and Khayal to semi-classical forms of Thumri, Dadra, Ghazal and Qawwali, the first event of the Society centered around the fundamentals of Raga. The first event for the new members of Baithak Society was a lecture-demonstration on the topic "The Fundamentals of Raga" by Ms. Vasundhara Raturi, a student of M.A. Hindustani Music in the University of Delhi, an alumna of Indraprastha College for Women and a former member of Baithak Society. She spoke about different types of Ragas, methods and techniques to identify and sing them, and also

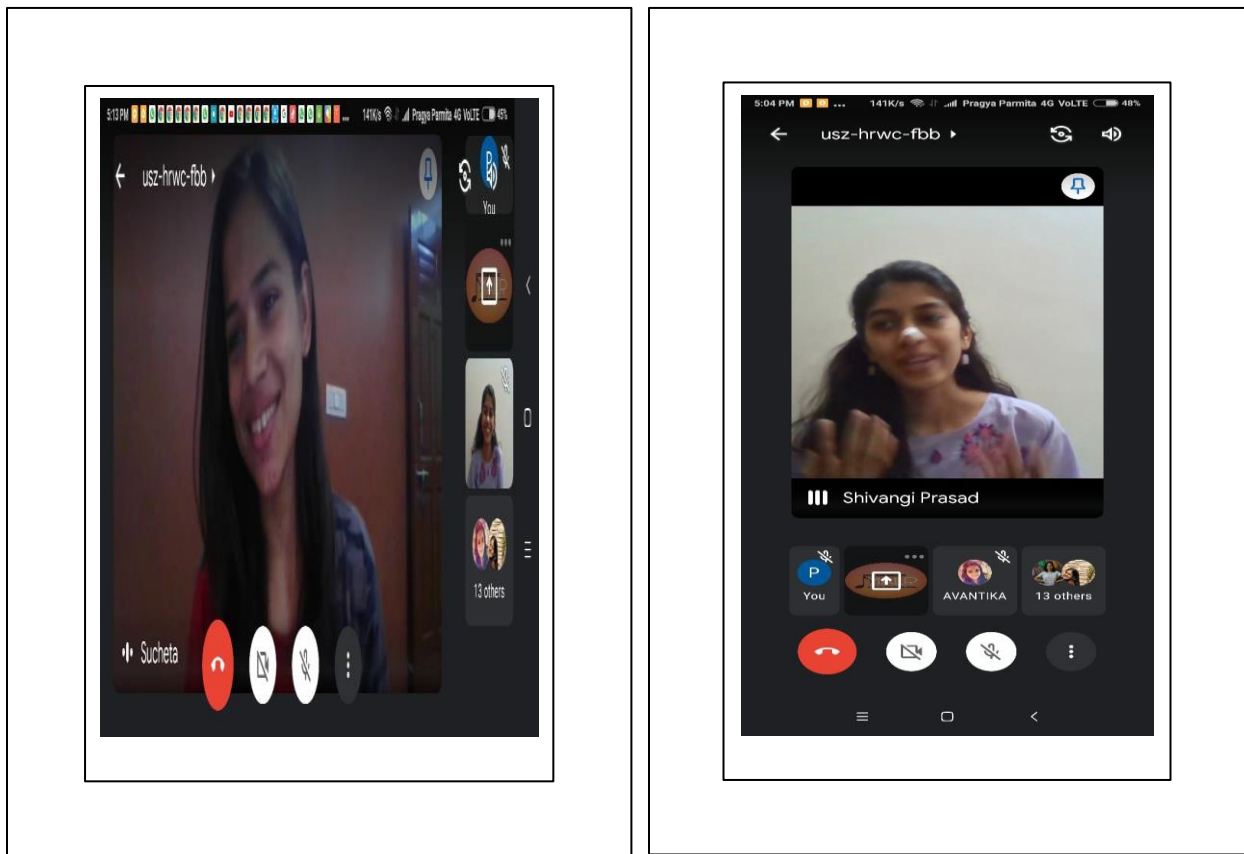
elaborated upon various elements of Raga to impart basic understanding of Raga. Vasundhara also sang a bandish in Raga Yaman to explain concepts like aaroh-avroh, vaadi-samvaadi swar, purvaang-uttarang parts of Raga and many other fundamentals of Raga. Around 23 students attended the session. The members of Baithak Society found the session extremely insightful, informative and relaxing at the same time. The lecture was followed by a question-answer session which further ensured clarity on the subject of the lecture. The event came to an end with a vote of thanks.

Interactive session on Society members' perspective on the significance of music in their lives

Date: 21st May 2021

Time: 4pm - 5:30pm

Venue: Online platform on GoogleMeet



Baithak society organized an informal interactive session on Google meet to discuss general themes related to classical music and its other aspects related to the society. The session began with the self-introduction by the first year members being new to the Society, followed by an

engaging dialogue with the previous members on questions like what motivated them to join the society, what expectations they have from the society, their interest in classical music, importance of music in their day-to-day life, healing powers of music, etc. The first year students enthusiastically came forward with their experiences and experiments with music in day-to-day life and acknowledged its strong impact and talked about especially the attraction towards classical music because of its depth, richness and versatility. The session was attended by about 15-16 students. Amidst the Covid-19 pandemic, when fear and misery is capturing everyone, talking out about the worries and hardships was a great way to escape the burden of bearing all that pain alone and lighten our hearts a bit.

This year taught us not just about Hindustani music but a lot more than that. Baithak society has been successful in completing another year in the journey of demystifying Hindustani music and invoking the interest of young people in listening and appreciating it. The Baithak society would like to express it's sincere gratitude to our principal, Prof. Babli Moitra Saraf and core committee members Dr. Pragati Mohapatra and Mrs. Anita Banerji for their valuable suggestions and guidance throughout the year. The Baithak Society is also thankful to ex-advisor Dr. Shruti Dubey for sharing her inputs from time to time. Extending our gratitude to previous office bearers, we would specially like to thank Ms. Vasundhara Raturi, Ms. Shambhavi Jha, Ms Stuti and Ms. Pallavi for their advices and support in every event.

Submitted by

Ms. Diksha Jain
Dr. Pragya Parmita
(Advisors, MALR, Baithak Society)