

Recent Books of Performing Arts – February 2008

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The power of performance : Actors, Audiences and Observers of
Cultural Performances in India / Edited by Heidrun Bruckner
New Delhi : Manohar Publishers and Distributors, c2007
290 p. : ill. ; 22 cm.
81-7304-768-5
\$ 25.00

[The volume aims at examining the transformative power of performances from three perspectives of the audience and of the observer.

Part 1 : The Performer : Power and presence in the enactment of the performer

Part 2 : The Audience : The Interplay Between performer and audience

Part 3 : The Observer : Reconsidering the categories of the observer.]

Violin Maestro-V. Lakshminarayana Iyer : his life and contributions to the world of
Music / M. Lalitha and M. Nandini
New Delhi : Sundeep Prakashan, 2008
xvi, 275 p. : ill
Includes Bibliography
81-7574-184-8
\$ 26.00

[This book violin Maestro V. Lakshminarayana Iyer is the first of its kind. It provides interesting insights on the Man and his Music.

It throws light on the legendary, multi-faceted Professor V. Lakshminarayana Iyer who was a vocalist, Violinist Composer, Teacher and Musicologist of great eminence. He belonged to a family of musicians and his musical lineage could be traced back to the Trinity of Carnatic Music- Saint Tyagaraja, Muthuswami Dikshitar and Syama Sastri and also beyond the Trinity to Sri Narayana Thirthar, which is a rare phenomenon. His patantara or version of songs traces back to both the Umayalpuram and Walajapet schools of Saint Tyagaraja. The book highlights the various milestones in his illustrious career spanning several decades.]

Knowledge tradition text : Approaches to bhārata's natyasastra / Edited by Amrit Srinivasan
New Delhi : Sangeet Natak Akademi and Hope India Publications, c2007
xi, 178 p. ; 23 cm
81-7871-124-9
\$20.00

[The volume provides delightful food for thought even for the lay reader and public alike, by presenting to them one of the most original and difficult works on theatre anywhere, in the familiar language of disciplines such as philosophy, history, sociology and indology. Today, the vast expansion of interest in India's "intangible cultural heritage" in diverse settings of learning has created new needs. The volume attempts to meet these by inviting well wishers and practitioners of the arts to

introspect and reflect on their practice, through the medium of Bharata's Natyasastra, presented for their delight on these pages.]

Movement and Mimesis : the idea of dance in the Sanskritic tradition / Mandakranta Bose

New Delhi : D.K. Printworld (P) Ltd., 2007

xii, 332 p. ; 23 cm.

Includes Bibliography and Index.

81-246-0421-5

\$ 16.25

[The present book reconstructs the evolving discourse on dancing in India by making an exhaustive comparative study, the first of its kind, of all available Sanskrit works. The author traces the growth of the techniques and forms of dancing and shows how the central tradition of the art, and also the oldest, expanded by contact with peripheral regional styles, including foreign ones, and eventually merged with them into a synthesis that forms the basis of present-day classical dances of India.]

Nyasa in Raga: The Pleasant Pause in Hindustani Music / Ananya Kumar Dey

New Delhi : Kanishka Publishers, Distributors, c2008

xxi, 250 p. ; 22 cm.

Includes Bibliography and Index.

978-81-8457-028-1

\$ 15.00

[The book, titled "Nyasa in Raga: The Pleasant Pause in Hindustani Music" deals with the concept of nyasa, a very important aspect in the performance of a Hindustani raga. The book takes a wholistic approach while dealing with the subject of nyasa. It covers the views of the ancient, medieval and modern authors regarding nyasa. It also gives a comprehensive definition of nyasa and then proceeds to explain various aspects of nyasa vis-à-vis the Hindustani raga. The book is replete with suitable examples wherever necessary, to enable the reader to fully understand the finer details about the concept of nyasa. It also has several examples of how nyasa is important during the performance of a raga, as also how nyasa svaras (notes) are instrumental in differentiating allied ragas. In dealing with the concept of nyasa in Hindustani raga, the book also explains in minute detail, the finer nuances of the performance of a raga, whether from an artiste's perspective, the listener's point of view or simply in terms of the raga's aesthetics.]

The Forgotten Forms of Hindustani Music / Rabindra Bharali

New Delhi : Kanishka Publishers, Distributors, c2008

xiii, 110 p. ; 22 cm.

Includes Bibliography and Index.

978-81-8457-002-9

\$ 9.00

[Contents :

Chapter 1 : Analysis of Compositional Forms from the Historical Point of View

Chapter 2 : Historical Perspective of the Lesser known Forms

Chapter 3 : Analysis of the Lesser Known Forms from the Point of View of Practice Today

Chapter 4 : Prospects and Problems of Preservation

Chapter 5 : Compositions with Notations Collected from Different Authoritative Books and Musicians]