

## Preface

After I completed *Gitanjali for English-speaking Singers*, I felt that though Rabindranath Tagore is more renowned as a poet and philosopher, his dramatic achievements are also reasonably noteworthy. So, the singers around the English-Speaking world, might be interested in his drama related songs also. Probably because of the same reason, the poet himself made one of his symbolic dramas, namely *Phalguni*, translated to **The Cycle of Spring**.

The Cycle Of Spring is the English version of original Bengali drama *Phalguni* [of or about the spring month of *Phalgun*, which covers February-March]. The poet had some agenda [submission for Nobel Prize] when he translated the poems and songs from his Bengali *Gitanjali* and other books of poems into English *Gitanjali*. But the aim of translation of *Phalguni* to The Cycle Of Spring, was not the same. This play *Phalguni*, in Bengali, was written to be staged by the school boys of Shanti-Niketan (an abode of peace), at Viswa-Bharati University, founded by the poet himself. After experiencing its aesthetic appeal of musical extravaganza, he planned to stage it in the outer world. Later in 1921, it was staged in the city of Heidelberg, Germany with great success.

Cycle of Spring is one of his symbolic dramas. It is a play, nested in another play. Dr. Edward Thompson, Lecturer in Bengali, University of Oxford, comments, "The songs were of ravishing beauty, and far more important than the words of dialogue." Since the melody surpasses the dialogue, staging of this play might be an important variation on the stages across English-Speaking world. To make the singers ready with the fundamental concepts of Indian music, a textbook on this subject, **Indian Music for English-Speaking Singers** has already been designed and published by the present writer.

The cover of the book is designed and drawn by the present author. The Spring is imagined as a young boy with a bunch of red *Krisnachurha* flower on his ear and bow and arrows of flowers like Indian Cupid *Madan*, as it is depicted in the song No. 20. The color green represents the Spring and the color gray does so the Winter.

Most of the information in the glossary is taken from the website [www.vishwayan.com](http://www.vishwayan.com). To ensure correct tune and accurate accent, the learners may visit the above site, and then to the link "abasar", and then to 'Gitabitan-archive', where the recorded versions of these songs are available.

.Lastly I am deeply grateful to my sister Mrs. Krishna Banerjee of Calcutta for supplying all materials to complete the book and my young niece Madhury to create the web-page at [www.geocities.ws/rayuma2003](http://www.geocities.ws/rayuma2003).

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