

RHYTHMIC DANCE PATTERNS IN COMPOSITIONS OF ŪTUKKĀḌU VENKAṬA KAVI

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ABSTRACT

India is a country of many art forms and cultures which are interrelated and inter-dependant in many ways. Especially the fine arts - music and dance are like inseparable twins- bhāva and laya being the most common factors. Music and Dance always complete each other. In South India, Carnatic music compositions are the choice for many classical dancers for their performances. Many South Indian Composers have contributed immensely towards the Dance musical forms like Jatisvaram, Padavarnam, Padam, Tillana etc., which in general figure in a dance recital. Also, there are many compositions that particularly suited for dance with many jati-s, sōlkaṭṭu syllables with svāra passages etc., though not intended specifically for dance, that are chosen for classical dance performances as they offer wide scope for the dancers for visual interpretation interspersed with dance specific jati-s and many more dance related aspects. Ūtukkāḍu Venkaṭa Kavi's compositions are one such favourite choice for many dancers belonging to classical dance forms like Bharatanāṭyam and Kūcipūḍi. The present paper aims to bring out the genius of Venkaṭa Kavi's compositions as a choice for dance performances, highlighting various aspects of dance centric rhythmic patterns present in his compositions.

KEY WORDS: Music, Dance, Rhythm, Jati, Venkaṭa Kavi, Bharatanāṭyam

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