



# ANALYTICAL STUDY OF THE COMPOSITIONS OF SHIROMANI RAGI BHAI BAKHSHISH SINGH IN CONTEXT WITH HINDUSTANI MUSIC

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## ABSTRACT

*Music is a gift given by God in ancient times. The worship of God was carried by music. If the talk of Sikhism, then the first place of music in Sikhism. The holy book of skihis Guru Granth Sahib is entirely based on 31 Ragas, leaving 'Japji Sahib'. The action of singing Gurbani is called Gurmat Sangeet. This music is not very old music. The origin of Gurmat Sangeet was originally with the birth of **Guru Nanak Dev Ji**. He was the first Guru of Sikhs. The Guru Granth Sahib's verses is based on Ragas. Many great Ragis sang the verses of Guru Granth Sahib ji. But Shiromani Ragi Bhai Bakshish Singh's name is mainly taken. Bhai Sahib sang Gurbani in Hindustani Ragas apart from the ragas of the Guru Granth Sahib. In Guru Granth Sahib contains 31 main Ragas and 31 Raga parkar. Bhai Sahib had the treasure of ancient compositions on YouTube channels which is necessary to keep the futre and for the future. So my research work is also based on their singing style.*

**Keywords:** Guru Granth Sahib, Shabad Kirtan, Spiritual music, Sikhism, Ragi, verses.

## Introduction

Speaking of music, the combination of soul and God is called music. Music relation is directly with human emotions. With these emotions, Man can sit a lot time in the worship of God. So the Sikh Gurus have considered the means of worship is music. Maintaining the importance of music mainly the Gurus originated Gurmat Sangeet. Gurmat Sangeet means, Guru's mouth delivered words. The act of singing the verses is called kirtan and the one who sings the kirtan is called Kirtaniya and Ragi. So the singing of Gurmat Sangeet did many great Ragis. These names are as follows: - Bhai Sumand Singh, Bhai Surjan Singh, Bhai Gurcharan Singh, Bhai Giyan Singh allmast and Bhai Bakhshish Singh. These Bhai Bakhshish Singh had a collection of ancient compositions. His compositions were in ragas according to Gurmat Sangeet. But Bhai Sahib made many compositions on Indian ragas and sing. The countless collection of those compositions are lying on the YouTube Channels. These compositions are also very liked today. So firstly must be known the life of Bhai Bakhshish Singh Ji.

## Research Objectives

This study aims to:

- Document and showcase Bhai Bakhshish Singh Ji's lie achievements and contributions, promoting awareness and appreciation.
- Transcribe, analyze and publish his musical compositions, facilitating comprehension and preservation.

These objectives emphasize the importance of preserving cultural heritage and making it accessible.

## Significance of Study

There is need to research this topic because very old bandishes were sung by Bhai Bakhshish Singh Ji. In this research work, notation will be prepared by listening to his signing so that the coming generation can be familiar with the singing of Bhai Bakhshish Singh Ji. Let the whole know that Bhai Bakhshish Singh Ji preserved the ancient tradition of kirtan in Sikhism and handed it down to the next generation.



## **Introduction of Shiromani Ragi Bhai Bakhshish Singh Ji.**

The great Ragi of Gurmat Sangeet was born in 29 June 1933. Sardar Kirpal Singh his father name and mother's name was Ram Kaur. His father and grandfather both were famous Ragis at that time. Bhai Sahib is village name was Saido Layla in District Amritsar Sahib Punjab. Bhai Bakhshish Singh was fifth generation in Gurmat Sangeet. Bhai Sahib got musical education from his home.<sup>1</sup>

## **Kirtan Style of Bhai Bakhshish Singh Ji.**

Bhai Bakhshish Singh's name is taken from proudly in Gurmat Sangeet. Their voice was very loud. They interpreted the words very accurately. His voice sparked easily in three saptaks. He had made the composition in some time. He had complete grip on every swar and every saptak. They used expand their kirtan with Alap, Tanas, meed and Murkian. Bhai Sahib Gurbani also conducted in Hindustani music. Bhai Sahib Harmonium played with great and sharpness and he was also proficient in playing Tabla. Bhai sahib made thousands of composition in 31 Ragas in Gurmat Sangeet. The Ragas of compositions in Indian music are like this: - Raga Jaije vanti, Raga Bilwal, Raga megh, Raga marwa, Raga Jaunpuri etc.

## **Award received by Shiromani Ragi Bhai Bakhshish Singh Ji:**

- Bhai Sahib received the degree of Gaini in 1954 A.D from Punjab University Chandigarh.
- Exceptional honor from Punjab Government.
- Specially honor to Bhai Sahib from Shiromani Akali Dal.
- Awarded by Guru Ramdas Seva Society Patiala.
- Bhai Mardana Award
- Special honor to Bhai Sahib his picture has been put in place at the central Sikh museum at Amritsar Sahib.
- Exceptional awarded from Shiromani Gurudwara Parbandhak Committee.
- Shiromani Ragi Award from Department of Language in Punjab.
- Award by Canadian Singh Sabha Vancouver Canada.
- Specially honored by Governor of Punjab in 1978 AD, at the initiation of Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar Sahib, Punjab.

## **Shiromani Ragi Bhai Bakhshish Singh's demise time in the worldly journey.**

Bhai Bakhshish Singh spent all life singing the Guru's verses. Bhai Sahib had a large number of collection of ancient compositions. He was the owner of cold nature. If the error was taken from Bhai Sahib's compositions, they would explain loudly. He almost made Gurbani Sangeet is service of 50 years. In the lost time of their life, Bhai Sahib was living in Chandigarh. When he was walking, someone shot Bhai Sahib. Due to bullying November 27, 1991, Bhai Sahib died. This incident had a profound effect on the hearts of music lovers. The world has a great loss with the death of Bhai Sahib. My research most will be a genuine tribute to Bhai Bakhshish Singh Ji.

## **Bhai Bakshish Singh as a Radio Artist.**

Singing Gurbani kirtan with purity was an important effort to Bhai Sahib. According to Principal Jasbir Kaur, "Bhai Sahib had singing the same composition by a mixture of many ragas."<sup>2</sup> He was 'A' grade artist from Doordarshan Radio Station Jalandhar in Punjab (India). He was also member of the All Indian Radio Listener Panel. Bhai Sahib's programs were typical at the Radio station and the Sangat was very



like. In his time, Bhai Sahib was the famous Ragi. His singing is also very liked today. Bhai Sahib sings a large numbers of compositions based on Indian Ragas. Details of these compositions are as follows:

SN	Composition	Raga	Site	Date	Seen
1.	Har ko naam	Marwa	Sewapanthi	10 years ago	22 Aug 2024
2.	Ram Bhaj Ram Bhaj	Jaijivanti	Prasar Bharti Archives	4 years ago	25 Aug 2024
3.	Satgur Pura Bhatia	Bilawal	Shabad Gurbani	2 year ago	25 Aug 2024
4.	Mai Mero Pritam Ram	Jaunpuri	Shabad Gurbani	8 years ago	25 Aug 2024
5.	Bijliyan Chamkan Nanak	Megh	Ws3ks3	13 years ago	25 Aug 2024

These are the compositions of Bhai Sahib was granted in the ragas of the Indian music ragas from Guru Granth Sahib. It is important to make it clear that Indian music is based on ragas and Gurmat Sangeet special attention is paid to shabad. Raga and Taal are the later process. Pronunciation of Gurbani is very important to be pure and clear.

### 1. Raga Marwa

Raga Marwas is the raga of her that Marwa. This is calm nature of Raga. In this composition of Bhai Bakhshish Singh is telling the way to meet the God through Marwa Raga. This is very cute raga and comforts feelings of the mind. Marwas Raga notation is as follows:-

Raga Marwa (R , M<sup>1</sup>)

Taal – Teen Taal

Har Ko Naam Sada Sukhdai

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<b>STHAYI</b>									<b>(Sawar)</b>	G	M <sup>1</sup>	D	M <sup>1</sup>	M <sup>1</sup>	G	G
									<b>(Words)</b>	Ha	R	Ko	Na	S	M	S
<b>Sawar</b>	M <sup>1</sup>	G	<u>R</u>	S	N	S	<u>R</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>R</u>	G	G	G	M <sup>1</sup>	D	N	D
<b>Words</b>	Da	S	su	kh	Da	S	at	S	S	Ja	S	kao	si	m	r	Aa
<b>Sawar</b>	G	M <sup>1</sup>	G	<u>R</u>	<u>R</u>	S	Ś	S	Ś	Ś	Ś	Ś	N	D	M <sup>1</sup>	D
<b>Words</b>	Ja	S	Ma	l	<u>Ao</u>	<u>Dh</u>	ri	ao	S	Ga	ni	ka	Hu	S	Ga	Ti
<b>Sawar</b>	D	Ś	N	D	M <sup>1</sup>	M <sup>1</sup>	G	G	G							
<b>Words</b>	Pa	S	S	S	ai	S	S	S	S							
<b>ANTARA</b>									<b>(Sawar)</b>	G	G	G	M <sup>1</sup>	M <sup>1</sup>	D	D
									<b>(Words)</b>	Pan	Cha	S	Li	S	Ka	O
<b>Sawar</b>	Ś	Ś	Ś	Ś	N	R	Ś	Ś	Ś	Ś	Ś	Ś	N	D	M <sup>1</sup>	D
<b>Words</b>	Ra	s	J	Sa	Bha	S	Meh	S	S	Ra	S	M	Na	am	Su	Dhi
<b>Sawar</b>	D	Ś	N	O	M <sup>1</sup>	M <sup>1</sup>	G	G	G							
<b>Words</b>	Aa	S	S	S	ai	S	S	S	S							

### 2. Raga Jaijivanti

Raga Jaijivanti is a Hindustani Classical Raga belonging to Khamaj Thaata. According to Guru Granth Sahib, the raga is mixture of two others Bilawal and Sorath Raga. This verses described that how important the worship of God. Raga Jaijivanti notation is as follows: -



Raga Jaijvanti (G, N)

Taal – Teen Taal

Raam Bhaj Raam Bhaj

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
<b>STHAYI</b>																	
<b>Sawar</b>	R	R	R	<u>R</u>	G	G	M	M	<u>R</u>	<u>GR</u>	S	N	S	D	D	N	
<b>Words</b>	Ra	S	S	S	S	S	Ma	S	Bh	ss	aj	Ra	G	M	M	M	
<b>Sawar</b>	D	<u>N</u>	D	<u>P</u>	<u>D</u>	M	G	M	R	<u>GR</u>	S						
<b>Words</b>	Ra	S	S	S	<u>S</u>	<u>S</u>	S	at	Hai	SS	S						
<b>ANTARA</b>																	
<b>Sawar</b>	ś	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	(Sawar) (Words) Ka	M	M	D	<u>N</u>	P
<b>Words</b>	Ba	S	S	S	S	S	S	R	Ba	S	R	ś	Sam	Jha	ta	na	ha
<b>Sawar</b>	<u>N</u>	D	<u>N</u>	<u>N</u>	D	P	D	D	M	G	M	M	M	D	<u>N</u>	D	
<b>Words</b>	Kio	S	S	S	S	Ga	wa	S	S	R	S	Bin	Sa	ta	N	He	
<b>Sawar</b>	ś	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	ś	<u>N</u>	O	M	G	
<b>Words</b>	La	ge	S	S	S	S	S	S	Ba	S	R	ao	Re	Sa	S	M	
<b>Sawar</b>	M	M	M	M	Ra	R	<u>G</u>	R	ś	N	S						
<b>Words</b>	Ga	S	S	S	S	S	ta	S	hai	S	S						

3. Raga Bilawal

Raga Bilawal is a raga and thaat in Hindustani classical music. It is morning raga. The pitches of Bilawal are all Suddha Swars. Bilawal raga is very beautiful raga. This composition is sang that God is perfect that has created the entire creation. Bilawal raga is very popular in Hindustani music and Gurmat music. Raga Bilawal notation is as follows: -

Raga – Bilawal

Taal – Teen Taal

Satgur Pura Bhatia

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<b>STHAYI</b>																
				(Sawar) (Words)	G	R	S	N	S	S	G	R	R	G	P	M
					Sa	t	Gu	R	Pu	S	Ra	S	S	Bhe	S	ta
<b>Sawar</b>	G	G	G	G	R	R	S	ś	S	G	P	P	P	P	DN	śś
<b>Words</b>	Aa	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	Ji	N	Ba	na	t	SS	SB
<b>Sawar</b>	N	P	D	P	D	P	M	G	G	G	P	P	P	P	DN	śś
<b>Words</b>	Na	S	S	S	ai	<u>S</u>	<u>S</u>	S	S	Ji	N	Ba	na	t	SS	SB
<b>Sawar</b>	D	P	P	P												
<b>Words</b>	Na	S	ai	S												



<b>ANTARA</b>										<b>(Sawar)</b>	P	P	P	N	D	<u>N</u>	N
<b>Sawar</b>	Ś	Ś	Ś	Ś	N	R	SR	N		<b>(Words)</b>	Ta	S	ti	va	S	aw	S
<b>Words</b>	Na	S	S	La	S	ga	ai	S	Ś	Ś	Ś	N	D	N	Ś	R	
									S	Pa	S	r	Bhash	M	Sa	r	
<b>Sawar</b>	N	Ś	N	Ś	D	N	D	P	P	P	P	P	R	G	MD	P	
<b>Words</b>	Na	S	S	S	S	S	Ai	S	Chao	Gir	D	Ha	Ma	S	res	S	
<b>Sawar</b>	G	M	R	S	R	R	S	S	S	Ś	Ś	Ś	<u>D</u>	ND	P	P	
<b>Words</b>	Ra	S	S	M	ka	S	r	S	S	Du	Kh	La	ge	SS	Na	S	
<b>Sawar</b>	N	D	P	P													
<b>Words</b>	Bhai	S	S	ai													

#### 4. Raga Jaunpuri

Jaunpuri Raga is a raga of Hindustani classical music. This raga is considered to originate from Asawari Thaat. All seven swars are used in this raga. This is a very attractive raga. This raga notation is as follows:

Raga – Jaunpuri (G, D, N)

Taal – Teen Taal

Mai Moro Pritam Ram Betavoh

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<b>STHAYI</b>									<b>(Sawar)</b>	Ś	<u>N</u>	Ś	D	P	PD	MP
<b>Words</b>	Ta	S	VO	Ri	a	ai	Me	RO	ho	hri	Bi	N	thi	n	PS	LS
<b>Sawar</b>	<u>G</u>	<u>G</u>	R	S	R	M	P	P	-	<u>G</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>G</u>	R	S	RP	MP
<b>Words</b>	Re	h	S	Na	Sa	S	Kao	S	Jese	Kar	h	L	Be	S	L	Ri
<b>Sawar</b>	Ś	<u>N</u>	Ś	Ś	<u>N</u>	D	P	P	P							
<b>Words</b>	Tha	S	S	S	ai	S	S	S	S							
<b>ANTARA</b>									<b>(Sawar)</b>	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
<b>Words</b>	R	Ka	t	Bh	ao	S	S	S	Har	dar	Sa	N	Mi	S	Ta	Ke
<b>Sawar</b>	P	P	P	<u>N</u>	D	D	P	P	P	<u>G</u>	R	<u>G</u>	Ś	Ś	Ś	Ś
<b>Words</b>	R	Ka	t	Bh	ao	S	S	S	Har	dar	Sa	N	Mi	S	Ta	Ke
<b>Sawar</b>	Ś	Ś	<u>N</u>	Ś	<u>N</u>	D	P	P								
<b>Words</b>	Ta	S	S	S	Ai	S	S	S								

#### 5. Raga Megh

Megh raga is a Indian classical raga. It is very popular and beautiful raga megh raga is belonging to Kafi Thaat. This raga is mostly sung or played in the monsoon season. Megh raga is a nature of charming. In this composition is shown how the electricity shines and getting just rains. Megh raga notation is as follows: -

Raga – Megh (N)

Taal – Teen Taal

Nanak Bijliyan Chamkan



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
<b>STHAYI</b>									<b>(Sawar)</b>	R	R	<u>N</u>	S	S	R	MP	
									<b>(Words)</b>	Bi	Ji	li	a	S	Ch	MS	
<b>Sawar</b>	Ś	-	-	-	P	P	R	R	R	R	R	<u>N</u>	S	S	R	MP	
<b>Words</b>	K	S	S	S	N	S	Na	na	K	Bi	Ji	Li	a	S	Ch	Nas	
<b>Sawar</b>	Ś	-	-	-	P	P	P	P	R	R	M	P	<u>N</u>	D	P	P	
<b>Words</b>	Ka	S	S	S	N	S	Na	na	ghu	R	Ni	gh	ta	S	S	S	
<b>Sawar</b>	R	R	N	S	<u>S</u>	S	S	S	S								
<b>Words</b>	aa	S	ti	ka	S	Li	a	S	S								
<b>ANTARA</b>									<b>(Sawar)</b>	N	N	M	<u>N</u>	P	N	N	
									<b>(Words)</b>	Ba	ra	S	n	Me	S	gh	a
<b>Sawar</b>	Ś	-	-	-	Ṛ	<u>N</u>	Ś	Ś	Ś	Ṛ	Ṛ	M	Ṛ	Ṛ	S	Ś	
<b>Words</b>	Pa	S	S	S	S	S	R	S	S	Na	Na	K	San	S	G	M	
<b>Sawar</b>	<u>N</u>	<u>N</u>	D	D	N	N	Ś	-	-								
<b>Words</b>	Pi	ri	S	Su	h	Di	a	S	S								

Bhai Bakhshish Singh sang Gurbani Kirtan in Hindustani classical music. Singing based on Ragas, Bhai Sahib's shine the name in the country and abroad. Bhai Sahib was full of knowledge of all ragas and rhythm. He also did always singing of the padtal very beautifully his name will be alive in the world. The music sang by him is inspired for the future. So, it needs to kept by handling. This great music can be kept by compositions.

### Conclusion

Hindustani classical music is very rich music. Its built compositions are useful for human life. They have kept us with our rich ancient heritage. Composition notation system proves to keep up to the future time. This will be true tribute to Bhai Bakhshish Singh. This study completely based on Bhai Bakhshish Singh is singing style. This research will present the important role of Bhai Bakhshish Singh is giving Gurmat Sangeet and preserving the rich traditional music. Bhai Sahib worshiped God through music all his life. His personality was completely spiritual.

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