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## ***Kapila ji and my father Pt. Vinaya Chandra Maudgalya***

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Kapila ji – a dancer, thinker, researcher, aesthetician, writer, administrator and perhaps the greatest scholar of our times, was very closely associated with my father Pt. Vinaya Chandra Maudgalya who founded the Gandharva Mahavidyalaya, in 1939, to promulgate classical music and dance within the culturally barren Delhi of that time. Learning music was not considered very respectable, and students were hard to come by.

It was her mother Smt. Satyawati Malik, herself a writer, painter, musician and institution builder, who brought her children Kapila and Subhash to the Gandharva Mahavidyalaya as one of the first students. First as a student and later as part of Vidyalaya’s Governing Council, Kapila ji and Bhai ji, (as my father was fondly known) were able to shape the destiny of music education in India. Kapila ji was always present for Vidyalaya’s Music and Dance festivals, seminars and other activities. In fact, she delivered the memorial lecture in Bhai ji’s memory after his passing away in 1995.

I would like to present here some excerpts from this lecture which best explains their mutual bonding in Kapila ji’s own words:

*“Bhai ji not only expanded the Vidyalaya and its various sections of Hindustani music but strove hard to have music included as a subject in the school curricula. I recall distinctly the many hurdles that had to be crossed before music could be included in the arts system, and later, in the module of the socially useful productive work. I had the pleasure of working with him closely in my capacity as Convener-Chairman of the Arts group of the CBSE. Each time it was Bhai ji’s open-mindedness and his sagacity which enabled us to resolve the many knotty problems of concretizing and limiting a free-flowing open tradition into curricula modules and formats basically ill- suited for these disciplines...*

*...Bhaiji, above all, was a humble, modest man of simple taste and frugal living. Despite all the awards and honours, national and international, he remained to the last dedicated to his ideal, Vishnu Digambar (Paluskar), his guru Vinayakrao Patwardhan and his first associates, particularly my mother*

*– late Smt. Satyawati Malik. I am witness to the poignant and touching moments, as the finest of friends, in times of family distress and finally during her illness in hospital and home. Not one occasion passed when Bhai ji would fail to come and sing for her before and after his tour. With or without tanpura, there was Bhaiji, the internationally renowned musician and cultural leader singing simply ‘ payoji maine Ram ratan dhan payo’ or asking me to join in a simple song or bhajan.”*

I was very fortunate to have her affection and guidance till her very end after I took over the charge of the Vidyalaya after my father’s passing away. Her work will continue to inspire generations that follow.