

Old-Time Great

A 'Legend Passes' (Sept.19) made good reading. With the demise of Mallikarjun Mansur, Indian music has lost a legend. He is the third in a row of Hindustani musicians the country has lost within a short span of time. The first two were Basavraj Rajguru and Kumar Gandharva. Mallikarjun Mansur was one of the old time greats who had the style of the Jaipur gharana. He certainly made Hindustani music popular in India and abroad by his mastery over the art.

Interestingly, Mansur headed the list of musicians from Karnataka who dominated the Hindustani music field. Others in the list are Bhimsen Joshi, Basavraj Rajguru, Gangubai Hangal and Kumar Gandharva. Mallikarjun Mansur was particularly great because he learnt music the hard way. He spent his music learning days in the gurukula atmosphere and served his guru day and night.

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