

Notes of an *everyday* singer: Producing harmonious collaborations every day in every way

I love people. I derive my energies from the people whom I have met—or will keep coming in touch with—during my life-time. Long-time collaborators. Short-term acquaintances. Passengers across the seat. What I try to give to myself each day is ultimately the chance to be immersed in a generously reliable pool of collaborators who make me more creative managerially to render greater benefits for a larger humanity.

You can read about my current journeys to advance global good with Collaborative Doers: www.cartha.org and www.carthaglobal.com. I have attempted to craft for myself a world in which reaching out to people empowers me to undertake my work to connect academic research to humanitarianism. I delve in to explore various aspects of the *Collaborative Arts* which enable *Collaborative Competence* skill sets. How can we be human-centered in innovation design by cultivating—and vocalizing the need for—academic-practitioner networks with humanity-centered purpose?

Having grown up in India (New Delhi and Mumbai), I moved to the United States of America after an arranged marriage at age 20. I have lived with my husband and two children in Iowa City since 1986. I am very grateful to my teachers, my parents, my husband, and other family members and friends who have provided me with the moral support to continue singing. I am a daily singer because of the household culture of vocal singing I was born into. A culture that had been created and nurtured by my father (who loved to hear South Indian Carnatic music but could not sing) and my mother (who sang beautifully while doing her household chores and gathered other South Indian women in her home to whom she would teach ancient poetic healing verses). I sang with my brother and sister as well. Taking for granted such a plain and uncelebrated culture of vocal singing collaborations, I realized its relevance and importance—as a mechanism that invisibly affects moods and doings each day in the most positive ways—only in 2008 after a series of stunning interactions with colleagues being influenced by my singing to them as a prayer for their good health.

I am now fascinated by singing rituals that foster various forms of *Collaborative Arts* by:

- Connecting people to build human-centric bonds;
- Representing shared “sound” experiences and vibrations that can build stronger friendships, memories, and rejoicings for people to gain healthful empowerments and social harmony; and
- Energizing our capacities for self-healing, meditative focus, and stress reduction in a globalized world.

I hope you enjoy my rendition of the **Gayatri Mantra** provided in a CD recording with 108 repeats of this auspicious Sanskrit chant. My brother Sridhar Ramamoorti offers the following translation of the chant:

Peace chant (AUM)
Meditating on the effulgent glory of the radiant Light (SAVITUR)
May we enlighten our intellect and inspire our understanding

You could play this CD wherever you wish and whenever you wish. I hope my singing provides you with the same sort of calm and warmth that I derive when I sing. During my moments of singing, I pause in a way that allows me to reflect and appreciate more all of the blessings of wonderful experiences with the human beings I have cherished along life’s journeys.

If my work or my singing intrigues you, please feel free to get in touch with me. You can call me at 319-248-9625 or write to me at cartha.global@gmail.com.

Please know that while I am unwilling to price my CDs (because I cannot gauge the value that it may produce to any listener), I welcome contributions from satisfied souls. To send your contributions, you can mail checks to:

CarthaGlobal Ventures LLC (attention: “Come. Sing. Heal. Project”)
33 Buchanan Court, Iowa City, IA 52246, USA.



Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Usha R. Balakrishnan'.

Usha R. Balakrishnan
March 26, 2011