

## Alliance Française d'Ahmedabad presents A Conference by Mr. Norbert Rouland

### The discrimination of the women in musical traditions of India and in Europe: a comparative approach

Norbert Rouland was born in 1948. Ancient member of the Institute universitarian of France, where he created the pulpit of legal anthropology, he is Professor in the Faculty of law of Aix-en-Provence, where he directs the Master of law of artistic activities, which he created in 2002. He is the author of about twenty works, from which several are translated into various foreign languages. He also wrote two historical novels concerning Roman antiquity, published by editions Actes Sud. He practices the choral singing (directory of baroque period) and plays of instruments with keyboard.

In his intervention in India, he shall try to undertake a comparative approach of the situation of the women in various artistic domains, mainly in music and

dance, where the woman appears as categorising, from stereotypes of type. The woman would be on the side of emotion and of sensuality, man of reason and of intelligence. Consequently, the woman is supposed to be able to interpret, but not to compose. At the same time, some instrumental positions are forbidden to the women. Christian Occident was on the whole hostile to the song of the women. Islam was in general hostile to music and to song, with geographical and historical variants. In monotheism, God is masculine.

In the Indian mythology, which will be explored, Shiva is incomplete without its double feminine, his Shakti. However, the role of the woman was eclipsed and reduced. Although they were numerous in palaces as dancers and musicians, no woman appears in the genealogy of gharana, dynasties of the classical musicians. As in Europe, the woman belongs to the private space in Hindu and Muslim traditions. She cannot occur publicly. But as in Europe, mystics Muslim and Hindu make on the contrary a broad part to the women.

The role of the courtesans and of eunuchs, as well as dualism women / men in Hindu thought will be more particularly studied in India.

#### Baroda

Date: 27 February 2015  
Time: 6:00 pm  
Venue: Alliance Française  
d'Ahmedabad – Baroda Annexe

#### Ahmedabad

Date: 28 February 2015  
Time: 7:00 pm  
Venue: French Gallery,  
Alliance Française  
d'Ahmedabad

