

# **PUTHEN PANA**

A musical Study
By

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## PUTHEN PANA: A MUSICAL STUDY



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CHRISTIAN MUSICOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF INDIA



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#### PREFACE

The music of <u>Puthen pāna</u> is an important part of the memories of my childhood. I grew up listening to <u>Puthen pāna</u> at home and Syriac liturgical music in our parish church in Kerala, South India. At that time it did not occur to me that the two musical styles were related or that one day I would study them. Today, the practice of singing <u>Puthen pāna</u> and Syriac liturgical music are on the decline. A few melodies of Syriac chants are still sung in Kerala, but <u>Puthen pāna</u> is hardly ever performed. The average age of people who can sing <u>Puthen pāna</u> is steadily on the increase, and there has been no attempt to record their performances. This study aims to preserve the <u>Puthen pāna</u> tradition and to create a new interest in Christian music of India.

Many people contributed to this study. I am grateful to the informants from the Kerala communities in New York and India, who found time to sing for me and answer my questions. I am specially thankful to Dr. Barbara Hampton who has been my guide and mentor all through my academic pursuits in the United States. Dr. Hampton's insightful comments and queries helped in clarifying many issues related to this study. I thank Dr. Meena Alexander for reading this manuscript and for her valuable suggestions. I am also indebted to Dr. Joseph Aquilina for his support and



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