

CARNATIC MUSIC - MELODIC INSTRUMENTS

Subject Code - 032

Class IX- X (2025-26)

Introduction

The course in Carnatic Melodic Instruments at Secondary and Senior Secondary level, is being offered for the students, who develop an aptitude and creative ability in the art of playing melodic instruments and carry forward their capabilities in music through education. The syllabus offered in this course envisages the holistic development of the students by introducing to them, the intangible values and rich cultural heritage of our country, which have been in coexistence with music and art forms practiced through ages. The ethos and philosophical concepts that are mirrored in the ancient system of Indian music, can be appreciated by the students who learn this course. Along with the intricacies of music, this course induces a historical consciousness among the students who wish to pursue higher studies in Music. To some extent this course may even be considered as a stepping stone to vocational studies.

Objectives

- To introduce to students, an understanding of certain principles related to the origin and development of Indian music through ages and to familiarize students with the rich history and diversity of Carnatic music and Melodic instruments.
- To inculcate curiosity about the formation of grama, moorchana, jaati, and further development to the raga system and intricate tala system etc.
- Music is very closely associated with many Science and Arts disciplines. One of the objectives is to make the students focus on the interdisciplinary approaches in various musical concepts.
- To develop the ability, techniques and skills of playing the instrument opted for, thus grooming the students to become professional musicians.
- To motivate students to take up melodic instrumental music as a career as well as to open avenues for different careers in related fields.
- To make students aware and efficient in other subjects through integrated learning.
- Students not only learn a vital aspect of Indian culture but also develop skills and qualities that benefit their overall growth and personality development.

Learning Outcomes

By learning this course, students:

- Will be able to understand the concepts of Melodic Instruments in Carnatic music.
- Will be able to understand the ragas and talas in Carnatic music.
- Will be able to understand the art of playing techniques of melodic instrumental music and other creative aspects of Carnatic music.
- Will be able to assimilate musical concepts with other disciplines.
- Will be able to develop a scientific approach in all aspects through the systematic training opportunities offered during teaching – learning process.
- Will be able to appreciate Music as a career oriented subject.

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Assessment Design

S.No	Component	Marks
A	Theory	30
B	Practical	50
C	Internal Assessment	20

Curriculum & Examination Structure

(A)Theory

Max. Marks: 30

Time: 02 hours

S.No.	Topics
1.	Brief history of Carnatic music with special reference to Saint Purandara Dasa, Saint Tyagaraja, Muthuswamy Dikshitar, Syama Sastry, Swati Tirunal, Annamacharya and Bhadrachala Ramadasa.
2.	Brief lakshanas of the following ragas: Mayamalavagoula, Kalyani, Sankarabharanam, Hamsadhavani, Mohanam, and Suddha Dhanyasi.
3.	Definitions of the following terms : Sangeetam, Nada, Arohana, Avarohana, Shruti, Sthayi, Alankara, Poorvanga, Uttaranga Laya - Vilamba, Madhya, Dhruva, Swara – Suddha & Vikrita, Raga, Tala, Graha - (Sama, Atita, Anagata), Anya Swara.
4.	Knowledge of Musical Forms : Swaravalis - Sarali, Jantai, Dattu, Hechchusthayi–Taggu Sthayi, Alankaras, Geetam and Swarajati.
5.	Ability to describe the following Talas : Adi and Sooladi Sapta Talas
6.	Notation of Gitams in Rupaka.

(B) Practical**Max. Marks: 50**

S.No.	Topics	Marks
1.	Introduction of Swara exercises and Sapta Talaalankaras in two speeds.	6
2.	Learning of 02 Pillari Geetams, 02 Sadharana Geetams/ Sanchari Geetams, 01 Swarajati, 02 Adi Tala Varnams in one speed.	12
3.	Brief outline of Ragas: Mayamalavagoula, Sankarabharanam, Hamsadhvaniand Mohanam .	10
4.	Basic techniques and construction of any one of the chosen instrument. a) Violin b) Veena c) Flute d) Mandolin	10
5.	Rendering of any two of the following: a) Devotional Song b) Patriotic Song c) Folk Song	12
	Total	50

* Teachers will refer to the distribution of marks while examining the candidate for practical examination.

(C) Internal Assessment**Max. Marks: 20****1. Project- File****(05 Marks)**

- Writing in notation the musical compositions of all Ragas prescribed in the syllabus.
- Identifying the Tala of Musical compositions.
- Draw and label any one instrument (Melodic).
- Identifying and interviewing neighborhood Artists.
- Knowledge about any one of the melodic Instrument artist.

2. Project**(05 Marks)****Suggestive Topics* Interrelationship of the following:**

- Music and Physics (Sound- Frequency, vibration, pitch, intensity, timbre)
- Music and Mathematics (Mathematical Calculation of laya.
- Music and History (Development of Music during the medieval period.
- Music and Geography (Development of Music in varied cultural zones e.g. songs, instruments in mountainous or hilly areas)
- Music and Languages- Dialects in folk Music.

* Students may choose any one of the above topic for project in consultation with the teacher.

3. Periodic practical Test, restricted to three in an academic year. (10 Marks)

Average of best two tests to be taken for final marks submission. Each test will examine a candidate for one Raga from the syllabus, one Folk song or Patriotic song.

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S.No	Component	Marks
A	Theory	30
B	Practical	50
C	Internal Assessment	20

Curriculum & Examination Structure

(A) Theory

Max. Marks: 30

Time: 02 hours

S.No.	Topics
1.	Raga classification in General
2.	Raga lakshanas of Suddha Saveri, Sriranjani, Kambhoji, Abhogi, Nata, Hindolam and Hari Kambhoji
3.	Writing notations of Adi tala Varna in two speeds and Gitams set in Roopaka tala.
4.	An outline knowledge of 72 Melakartas
5.	Detailed knowledge of musical forms Kriti, Jati Swaram and Varnam.
6.	Life sketch and contribution of Lalgudi Jayaram and M.S. Gopala Krishnan, S. Balachandar & T.R. Mahalingam
7.	Basic knowledge of opted instrument

(B) Practical

Max. Marks: 50

S. No.	Topics	Marks
1.	One Adi tala Varnam in two speeds.	8
2.	Three Kriti in the prescribed ragas - Sriranjani, Suddha Saveri, kambhoji, Abhogi, Nata, Hindolam and Harikambhoji	12
3.	At-least one Jati Swaram and one Swarajati	8
4.	Explanation of the details of the ragas prescribed.	14
5.	Tuning of the instrument opted for	8
	Total	50

(C) Internal Assessment and Project work

Max. Marks: 20