

IIT Madras Centre for Indian Knowledge Systems

COURSE TITLE: INTRODUCTION TO CARNATIC MUSIC

Focus Area/Subject Area: Carnatic music, Indian music, Natya Shastra

Course Frequency: 4 classes per week (Class duration: 50 minutes)

Eligibility: Candidates with degree of intermediate/UG/PG

Details of the Instructor:

Dr. Deepak Paramashivan, Assistant Professor, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Madras.

Course Objectives:

This course teaches how to appreciate Carnatic music in particular and Indian classical music in general. It is designed for students with no prior knowledge of music. The course is intended to cater to both creative and intellectual curiosities of performers, connoisseurs, engineers, social scientists or music enthusiasts with a meditative predilection, regardless of their background.

Learning Outcome:

1. To be able to appreciate and enjoy one of the earliest codified systems of music in India.
2. To gain reliable knowledge about musical terms such as Sruti, Swara, Raga, Thaala, manodharma and musical forms such as varna, kritis, thillana, javali, padam etc.
3. To learn about different musical instruments used in Carnatic music, their design, physics of acoustics, from the instructor supplemented with guest lectures by instrument makers.
4. To understand and address some of the abstract philosophical questions regarding musical expression, perception, experience, aesthetics, and cognition.
5. To broaden your study of history of Indian music and its evolution from the Vedic to contemporary era.
6. To read about the lives and ingenuity of composers such as Purandara Dasa, Tyagaraja, Shyama Shastri, Mutthu Swamy Dikshitar, Mysore Vasudevacharya and others.
7. To learn briefly about Northern Indian classical music, Western Classical Music and other world music forms and their influence and interactions with Carnatic

SYLLABUS

- Adhara Shadja, Saptasvara, Vaidika Gana/Laukika Gana, Jaati, Raaga,
- Raaga classification-Melakarta, Upanga, Bhashanga, Audava, Shadava, Katapayadi Sutra
- Musical Forms- Svarajati, Jatisvara, Varna, Krti, Devaranama, Ugabhoga, Ashtapadi, Pada, javali, Raga Taana pallavi
- Music in performance, concert format.

References:

- **All the relevant reading material, audio samples and YouTube links will be provided in the class.**

Reference Books

1. The Natyashastra ascribed to Bharata-Muni, translated by Dr. M.M. Ghosh, Vol. I, Chapters I-XXVII, revised second edition, published by Manisha Granthalaya, Calcutta, 1967; VOL. II, Chapters XXVIII – XXXVI, Calcutta 1959.
2. Karnataka Music as Aesthetic Form by Dr R Satyanarayana.
3. South Indian Music Books I- VI Prof. P Sambamoorthy.