

## Basic Carnatic musical forms

**Programme(s) in which it is offered: All UG and PG programmes**

<b>Course Category:</b> Value Added	<b>Course Code:</b> CVO9901
<b>Total Number of Hours:</b> 30 hours	<b>Contact Hours Per Week:</b> 2 hrs
<b>Medium of Instruction:</b> English	<b>Short Name of the Course:</b> BCMF
<b>Grading Method:</b> Pass/Fail, Regular	<b>Repeatable:</b> Credit/Audit/Non Repeatable
<b>Course Level:</b> Beginner	<b>Skill Focus:</b> Life skills

### Course Description

This is a Value added course offered to students of all UG and PG programmes. This course can be taken up by all those enthusiasts who have an elementary exposure to music. It is aimed at enabling students to understand and learn the basic musical forms in Carnatic music - Geetam, Jatiswaram Nottuswaram and Varnam.

### Course Introduction

This course is visualised as one which will enable students to sing basic Carnatic compositions for the first time. It is a cross over from rendering basic swara exercises to singing with lyrics. After familiarising with the initial musical forms the student is finally introduced to Varnam, where embellished rendering (gamaka-s) of a raga is first learned. Understanding and rendering Varnam-s is the foundation stone for handling raga-s.

The content includes initial 10 hours of basic preparation which will equip the students with the prerequisite mettle for attending the course. This will be followed by

2 Geetam-s (raga-s Saveri and Arabhi)

2 Jatiswaram-s (raga-s Sankarabharanam and Hamsadhvani)

2 Nottuswaram-s (raga Sankarabharanam)

1 Varnam (raga Katanakutuhalam)

### Course Objective

The objectives of this course are to:

- Lay foundation with 10 hours of swara based exercises
- Learn basic Carnatic musical forms - Geetam, Nottuswaram, Jatiswaram and Varnam
- Learn the application of Janta, Vakra & Dhattu Prayoga-s in the raga in which Varnam is taught
- Understand the characteristic Sanchara-s (phrases) in the selected raga
- Understand the concept of Gamaka and learn to render it in the raga
- Understand and learn the structure and the notation system for Varnam

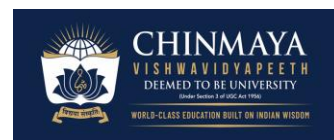
### Course Outcome

By the end of the course, the student will be able to—

- Sing 2 Geetam-s, 2 Jatiswaram-s, 2 Nottuswaram-s and 1 Varnam

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- Sing sanchara-s (swara phrases) characteristic to the learnt raga.
- Understand the concept of Gamaka in a basic level
- Understand notation technique in various basic musical forms.

### Prerequisites and other constraints

Basic aptitude in Carnatic / Hindustani music.

### Pedagogy

The methodology of instruction in this course is as follows

- Sadhakam (exercises) training during tutorials to enhance singing and rhythm
- Theory sessions to understand concepts, terminologies and relevant information for leaning basics and varnam-s
- E teaching / Video content etc may be used wherever possible.

### Suggested Reading:

1. Dakshinenthyan sangeetam by AK Raveendanath
2. Carnatic music by Suresh Narayanan
3. The splendour of South Indian Music by PT Chelladurai

### Module Sessions

#### Module 1: Introductory exercises

**No. of Hours: 10**

Practicing basic vocal exercises like varisai-s and Alankara-s in different modes with rhythm  
Reverse rendering of alankara-s  
Learn & practice Janta, Vakra and Dhattu prayoga-s  
Basic terminology used in Carnatic music

#### Reading:

- (1) Raveendranath, AK. Dakshinenthyan sangeetam. Kerala: Department of cultural publications, Government of Kerala. P: 279, 290-293
- (2) Narayanan, Suresh. Carnatic music. Wayanad, Kerala: Suvarnaragam musicals, P: 28-41

#### Activities:

Individual/group practice sessions of Janta Varisai-s, Dhattu Varisai-s.  
Attempt on Alankaram-s in different raga-s  
Listen to the audio/video content and e content provided/suggested during sessions

#### Module 2: Geetam-s and Jatiswaram-s

**No. of Hours: 12**

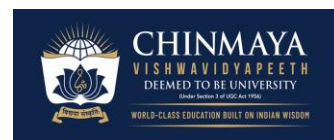
Raga lakshanam of the relevant raga-s  
Learn 2 geetam-s and 2 Jatiswaram-s  
Structure of Geetam and Jatiswaram  
Notation of Geetam and Jatiswaram  
Familiarising the Tala-s of the learnt compositions  
Learn up speed and down speed singing

#### Reading:

- (1) Raveendranath, AK. Dakshinenthyan sangeetam. Kerala: Department of cultural

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publications, Government of Kerala. P: 301, 304

(2) Narayanan, Suresh. Carnatic music. Wayanad, Kerala: Suvarnaragam musicals, P: 46, 48

### Activities:

Individual/group practice sessions of Geetams and Jatiswarams

A structural comparison of the above 2 musical forms

Listen to the audio/video content and e content provided/suggested during sessions

### Module 3: Nottuswaram-s and Varnam

No. of Hours: 8

Learn 2 Nottuswaram-s in Sankarabharanam scale

Learn Katanakutuhalam varnam (adi talam), 2 speeds

Structure of Varnam

Writing notation of nottuswaram and varnam

### Reading:

(1) Raveendranath, AK. Dakshinenthyan sangeetam. Kerala: Department of cultural publications, Government of Kerala. P: 388-390

(2) Narayanan, Suresh. Carnatic music. Wayanad, Kerala: Suvarnaragam musicals, P: 75-76

(3) Chelladurai, PT. The Splendour of South Indian Music. Dindigul, Tamil Nadu: Vaigara Publishers, P: 4-8, 64-65, 111-113, 120-121, 172-176

### Activities:

Individual/group practice sessions of Nottuswaram-s and the Varnam

Listen to the audio/video content and e content provided/suggested during sessions

## Annexure A

### Glossary

1. **Course Name:** Title of the course.
2. **Course Category:** Mention the various categories applicable to the course. It could have different categories for different programmes.
3. **Lecture:** A formal discussion by a lecturer with the students on a certain topic, during a particular time slot, with a clear purpose behind the discussion.
4. **Practical:** A lesson in which theories and procedures learned are applied to the actual making or doing of something.
5. **Tutorial:** A session focused on individual/small group interaction with the students, helping them to improve their understanding of a particular topic or concept.
6. **Short Name of the Course:** This will be the name used in the transcript. It can contain a maximum of 40 characters including spaces.
7. **Core Course:** A course that comes under the category of courses which enable students to specialise in the core area of their degree and develop expertise for gainful living. It is a series or selection of courses that all students registered in a programme are required to complete before they earn a degree.
8. **Minor Course:** A course that is not related to the core areas under a Bachelor's degree or Integrated Masters programme but which is meant for enriching and

broadening the students' knowledge base and to give them an interdisciplinary education. Students can opt for any Minor courses of their own interest. To be eligible for the award of a degree, students must successfully complete a fixed number of Minor courses, as determined by the University.

- 9. Elective Course:** A course that is related to the core areas under a programme but where students can choose whether to opt for it or not. To be eligible for the award of a degree, students must successfully complete a fixed number of Core Elective courses, as determined by the University.
- 10. Foundation Course:** A course that has been identified by the University as being central to the philosophy of enabling students to expand their thinking and discover their specific interests and passions other than “job oriented” learning. These are compulsory courses for all Programmes under which they are offered, and are common across similar degree programme types.
- 11. Proficiency Course:** A course which provides useful skills and proficiency in certain areas, thereby equipping the students to face the competitive world as they step out of the portals of the University. A Proficiency course for any Programme is compulsory for all students undergoing that Programme.
- 12. Self-Immersion Course:** A course, under any programme, that is determined by the University to be crucial for the overall development and growth of the student. Such a course may not necessarily lead to the award of credits; but it is mandatory for students to attend it and successfully complete it in order to be considered eligible for the award of their degree.
- 13. Value Added Course:** A course offered beyond academics across the University/Department/School for improving the life skills of the students.
- 14. Readings:** Different types of readings can be listed in the following formats:
  - a. <Reading 1: Second name, First name. Year. *Title of the book*. Place: Publisher. Page numbers>
  - b. <Reading 2: Second name, First name. Year. “Article name.” *Journal name*. Volume/Issue. Page numbers. >
  - c. <Reading 3: (If the item is listed in the textbook/reading material/reference material section): Second name, First name. Year. Page numbers. >