

GURUPADAM INSTITUTE OF MUSIC

Carnatic Music Syllabus

A structured learning journey from foundational exercises
to creative exploration and manodharma.

BEGINNER • INTERMEDIATE • ADVANCED

Beginner — Level 1

BEGINNER	Level 1
• Understanding the student's goal / objective • Introduction to Carnatic music • Concept of Melakarta ragas & Janya ragas • Sarali Varisas • Nottu Swarams • Pranayama • Madhyastayi Varisas • Melstayi Varisas • Janda Varisas • Voice culture exercises • Fun exercises • Bhajans / songs of your choice • Two-way feedback	
LEARNING OUTCOME	After Level 1, the student should have a fair knowledge of the background of Carnatic music and be able to sing the prescribed exercises in correct pitch and rhythm.

Building Musical Fluency

BEGINNER

Level 2

- Vakra Janda Varisas
- Dhattu Varisas
- Sapta Tala Alankarams
- Fun & creative exercises
- Voice culture exercises
- Bhajans / songs of your choice
- Two-way feedback

LEARNING OUTCOME

Greater alignment to pitch and rhythm is expected. The student should be able to sing in different pitches and identify the pitch of different songs.

INTERMEDIATE

- Geethams
- Swara positions
- Pitch identification
- Swarajathis
- Jathiswarams
- Voice culture exercises
- Fun & creative exercises
- Bhajans / songs of your choice
- Two-way feedback

LEARNING OUTCOME

Exposure to different ragas begins at this level. The student should not only sing geethams in different ragas, but also imbibe those ragas. Mastery over the 12 swara positions and pitch identification is expected.

Advanced Study

ADVANCED

Level 1

- Adi Tala Varnams
- Ata Tala Varnams
- Brain-training exercises
- Voice culture exercises
- Songwriting techniques & exercises
- Two-way feedback

LEARNING OUTCOME

Mastery over various varnams and the basics of songwriting.

ADVANCED

Level 2

- Kirtans of the Trimoorthis & other great composers
- Pancharatna Kirtans
- Two-way feedback

LEARNING OUTCOME

Delivery of kirtans with ease is expected at this level.

ADVANCED

Level 3

- Raga alapana, Niraval & Manodharma Swara
- Two-way feedback

LEARNING OUTCOME

The student's imagination, coupled with hard work, comes into play at this stage—elaborating and delving deeply into the kirtan through Alapana, Niraval and Manodharma Swara.