



# Carnatic Music - Melodic Instrument Syllabus

## General instruction:

The student should always have Shruti on at his/her end.

| Practical test   | Theory (Oral test)  | Theory (Aural test)  |
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| <b>LEVEL 1</b>   |   |  |
| <p>The student should be able to play the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sarali Varisais (1st speed)</li> <li>2. Janta Varisais (1st speed)</li> <li>3. Mel sthayi Varisais (1st speed)</li> <li>4. Dhattu Varisais (1st speed)</li> <li>5. Alankarams (1st speed)</li> <li>6. Any 1 Geetham or Nottuswaram</li> </ol> | <p>The student should be able to answer the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sruthi related questions (About tambura or Shruthi box)</li> <li>2. Names of Sapta Swaras</li> <li>3. Demonstrate the following talas – Adi, Rupakam (3 beat), Khanda chapu, Misra chapu</li> <li>4. 1-minute talk about any one of the following composers: Thyagaraja / Annamacharya / Purandaradasa</li> <li>5. 1-minute talk about Violin/Veena/Flute and their parts</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Student should know swara sthanams of a melakarta raga (to be chosen by the student) and answer aural questions (recognize apaswarams when a pattern is sung or played)</li> <li>2. The student should be able to find or play swarams of a basic raga sung by EE</li> </ol> |

## LEVEL 2

### Includes syllabus from level 1

The student should be able to play the following:

1. All Varisais & Alankarams – 3 speeds
2. Any 5 Geethams (Not more than 2 Malahari geethams)
3. Any 2 Swarajathis
4. Any 1 Adi Tala Tana Varnam - 1st speed

The student should be able to answer the following:

1. Names of all Swara sthanams
2. Demonstrate the Sapta talas in various jathis and name their angas
3. Explain 10 basic Carnatic music related terms (list of terms to be given by student)
4. 2-minute talk about any two of the following: Thyagaraja / Dikshitar / Shyama Shastri / Annamacharya / Purandaradasa / Instrument specific composers or Great maestros
5. Name some different styles of playing (Violin/Veena/Flute)

1. Student should hear swara pattern and recognize if it is a shuddha madhyama vs. prathi madhyama raga
2. Raga recognition: Student should hear 2 brief snippets in different ragams (say, A and B) and recognize if a 3rd snippet is in Raga A or B
3. The student should hear short swara phrases of a basic raga and 2 other ragas (including 1 prati madhyama raga) of student's choice and should be able to repeat the phrase on the instrument
4. Fine tuning the instrument (Veena/Violin/Flute)

## LEVEL 3

### Includes syllabus from level 1 and 2

The student should be able to play the following:

1. Alankarams in any 3 Melakarta ragas (excluding the basic raga), 1 Shadava-Shadava raga and 1 Audava-Audava raga - 3 speeds
2. Any 3 Adi Tala Tana Varnams (2 speeds)
3. Any 8 Krithis (includes at least 1 krithi by each of trinity, may include 1 Khanda chapu and 1 Misra chapu tala)

The student should be able to answer the following:

1. Explain 15 basic Carnatic music related terms (list of terms to be given by student)
2. Demonstrate any of the 35 basic talas
3. 2-minute talk about any 3 of the following: Varnam/Kriti/Papanasam Sivan/Bhadrachala Ramadasa/MS Subbulakshmi / Instrument specific composers or Great maestros
4. Student should be able to play swara phrases in a raga chosen by EE (student can share a list of 5 different ragas that includes 2 audava ragas)
5. A brief analysis of different playing styles (if any)

1. Student should hear swara pattern and recognize if it is a shuddha madhyama vs. prathi madhyama raga
2. Student should hear swara pattern of an audava / shadava / sampurna raga (excluding vivadi ragas) and be able to play arohanam / avarohanam
3. Raga recognition: Student should hear 3 brief snippets in different ragams (say, A, B and C) and recognize if a 4th snippet is in Raga A or B or C
4. Kriti appreciation: Student should hear a song snippet (to be sung by EE) and answer simple questions – like recognizing the composers from their mudhras or name of the God to who it is dedicated etc.
5. The student should hear akaarams of short swara phrases of any 5 ragams (includes 1 prati madhyama raga, 1 audava & 1 shadava ragam) of student's choice and should be able to repeat the phrase on Violin/Veena/Flute

## LEVEL 4

### Includes syllabus from level 1 - 3

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Dhattu Varisais, Janta Varisais and Alankarams in any 5 Melakarta ragas (excluding the basic raga) and 2 Shadava-Shadava and 2 Audava-Audava ragas - 3 speeds</li><li>2. Any 5 Adi Tala Tana Varnams (2 speeds)</li><li>3. Any 10 Krithis (at least 1 krithi by each of Trinity, 1 Khanda chapu and 1 Misra chapu tala)</li><li>4. Introduction to Alapana and Kalpana swarams (Any 1)</li><li>5. Any 2 tukkadas: including Tevaram, Thirupugazh, Tiruppavai, Ashtapadi, Kavadihindu, Devanama</li></ol> | <p>The student should be able to answer the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Explain 15 basic Carnatic music related terms (list of terms to be given by student)</li><li>2. Names and all Swara sthanams (including vivadi)</li><li>3. 3 min talk about each of the following – Saptatala system; Melakarta scheme; Classification of ragas</li><li>4. 3-minute talk about any three of the following: Your favourite musician / Mrudangam / Veena / Violin / Flute/ Pre-trinity composers / Post – trinity composers</li><li>5. Student should be able to play swara phrases in a raga chosen by EE (student can share a list of 3 different ragams that includes 1 sudhha madhyama, 1 ghana raga and 1 prati madhyama raga)</li></ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Student should hear swara pattern of an audava / shadava / sampurna raga and be able to play arohanam / avarohanam and recognize the swara sthanams</li><li>2. Student should be able to attempt a spontaneous swara sancharam when an arohanam / avarohanam of an audava / shadava raga is given</li><li>3. Raga recognition: Student may give a list of 10 ragams from which they will be tested</li><li>4. Kriti and Concert appreciation: student should hear a concert audio or spontaneous performance by EE and answer questions based on that (like recognizing the composer from the mudhra, name of the God to who it is dedicated, what type of manodharma was performed; eduppu for which Kalpana swaram was sung; tala structure for a pallavi line)</li><li>5. Student should listen to spontaneous performance of Alapana &amp; Kalpana swaram (for a raga of student's choice) by EE and repeat the same on Violin/Veena/Flute</li></ol> |
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## LEVEL 5

### Includes syllabus from level 1 - 4

The student should be able to play the following:

1. Pada varnam (Any 1)
2. Varnams - 10 (at least 2 of dharu / ata tala / pada varnam)
3. Special kritis of the Trinity – any 5 (from Pancharatna / group kritis of the Trinity /Swarajatis)
4. 5 kritis in different ragas with manodharma – raga / basic neraval / Kalpana swaram in 2 speeds (list can be provided by student and should include at least 1 Chaapu tala kriti)
5. 10 Carnatic kritis in major ragams (including at least 4 Trinity compositions; 1 Khanda and 1 Misra chapu tala)
6. Any 5 tukkadas: including Tevaram, Thirupugazh, Tiruppavai, Ashtapadi, Kavadihindu, Devarnama, Padam, Javali, Tillana etc.

The student should be able to answer the following:

1. Explain 20 basic Carnatic music related terms (list of terms to be given by student)
2. 3 min talk about each of the following – role of Trinity; Concert planning; Manodharma elements
3. 3-minute talk about any 3 of the following: Your favorite musician / Your favorite composer / Types of gamakams with examples / Kritis / Role of accompanists in a Carnatic concert
4. Student should be able to play should be able to play swara phrases in a raga chosen by EE (student can share a list of 5 melakarta and 5 janya ragas for this exercise)
5. Student should be able to attempt spontaneous Alapana / Kalpana swarams for a given raga (list of 8 ragas to be given by the student)

1. Student should hear swara pattern of an audava / shadava / sampurna raga (including Vivadi ragas) and be able to sing arohanam / avarohanam and recognize the swara sthanams
2. Student should be able to attempt a spontaneous swara sancharam when arohanam / avarohanam of an audava / shadava raga is given
3. Raga recognition: Student may give a list of 20 ragas from which they will be tested
4. Kriti and Concert appreciation: student should hear a concert audio or spontaneous performance by EE and answer questions based on that (like recognizing the composer from the mudhra, name of the God to who it is dedicated, what type of manodharma was performed; eduppu for which Kalpana swaram was sung; tala structure for a pallavi line)
5. Student should listen to spontaneous performance of alapana & kalpana swaram (for any 5 ragas of student's choice) by EE and repeat the same on Violin/Veena/Flute

## LEVEL 6

### Includes syllabus from Level 1-5

The student should be able to play the following:

1. 10 kritis in different ragams with manodharma – ragam / basic neraval / swaram in 2 speeds (list to be provided by student and should include at least 1 Chaapu tala kriti)
2. 3 comprehensive RTPs (list to be provided by student)

### **Level 1 and 2 (fees to paid for each level from Oct 1 2024)**

- For students in India Rs 4000
- For Asia students outside India Rs 6000
- For non-Asia students USD 150

### **Level 3, 4, 5 and 6 (fees to paid for each level from Oct 1 2024)**

- For students in India Rs 5500
- For Asia students outside India Rs 8000
- For non-Asia students USD 200

### **Points to note:**

- **Evaluation fee** for those looking to skip directly to level 2 or 3: For students in India Rs 1500  
For Asia students outside India Rs 2000; For non-Asia students USD 50
  - a. Student should submit video sample (Google Drive / Youtube) from a selection of Level 1 and 2 practical (Soumya will select 3 items from level 1 and 2 practical syllabus and inform AT)
  - b. Soumya evaluates the video sample (Vidya to give inputs if needed)
  - c. Direct skipping application accepted / rejected; if rejected, student is sent a note in prescribed format as to why
  - d. AT should thereafter submit a declaration that student is generally conversant with the syllabus of the skipped level
  - e. Student, if approved, takes level 2 or 3 directly
  - f. No direct entry beyond level 3

### **2. Post exam:**

- a. Standardized grade sheet with score for each aspect (practical / theory / aural)
- b. Score in each category out of 100
- c. Average of the 3; If above or = 70% - honors; above or = 50% - merit; below 50% - participation
- d. Those who miss their test appointment or score below 50% get one free re-test opportunity
- e. EE to submit Grade sheet to Soumya within 1 week of exam
- f. Exam certificate to be signed by Vidya & Soumya; feedback form signed by EE; both exam certificate and feedback form emailed to student within 3 weeks of exam date