

Indian Cultural Centre, Suva
Indian Classical Vocal-Carnatic Music

BEGINNERS CLASS:

- Introduction to the concept of Sur, Taal and Laya – the three building blocks of all music.
- Introduction to Sapta swaras in Raga – Mayamalavaqowla; Tal – Aadhi.
- Sarali Varisaigal – The simplest combination of the swaras in aadhi tal.
- Madhyasthaayi Varisaigal – the swaras gandhara, madhyama and panchama are emphasized.
- Melsthaayi Varisaigal – the focus is now on the swaras dhayivatham, nishatham, shadjam and higher octaves.

INTERMEDIATE CLASS:

- Alankarams – Students are familiarized with the seven Taals (dhruvam, madyam, rupakam, jampa, tripuda, ada and eka) set to the various sapta swara combinations.
- Dhatu Varisaigal – A complex criss – cross pattern of swaras is taught to the students and proficiency in this enables them to sing the sapta swara combination starting from any of the swaras.
- Dhatu Jhanta Varisaigal – A complex criss – cross pattern of swaras with double swara combination. This is the progression from Dhatu Varisaigal and is the most complex of the Varisaigal.
- Breathe control techniques.

ADVANCED CLASS:

- Geethams – introduction to the first Vigneshwara Geetham by Purandra Das in rag malahari. Students learn the translation of the composition. They also learn about the composer and the raga on which the geetham is based.
- Students are taught various other Geethams in other ragas such as Mohanam, Anandha Bhairavi, Ketharam and Begada.
- Jathi Swaram – This is step followed by Geethams. Students sing the swaras and the Sahityas set in various ragas and various Taals.
- Varnams – This starts the concert performance level and is based on very complex combination of Krithis, Charanams and Mukthayi swarams.
- Keerthanams – These are Kritis sung with Manodharma alapanas in the beginning, followed by neravals and concluded with a Manodharma Swaras. Keerthanams form the pinnacle of performance in Carnatic classical music.