

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF SPIRITUAL SCIENCE

TEXAS, USA

CERTIFICATE COURSE IN MUSIC – CARNATIC VOCAL

Academic Year: 2026-27

CERTIFICATE COURSE - 1

Practical

Syllabus

- **Sarale Varase:** 7 (3 Speeds)
 - **Tarasthaayi Varase:** 3 (3 Speeds)
 - **Janti Varase:** 5 (3 Speeds in one)
 - **Alankara's:** 7 (1 Speed)
 - **Devaranama's or Uthsava Sampradaya Krithis :** 2
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CERTIFICATE COURSE IN MUSIC – CARNATIC VOCAL

Academic Year: 2026-27

CERTIFICATE COURSE – 2

Practical

Syllabus

- **Mandhra sthaayi varase:** 3 (3 Speeds)
 - **Janti Varase:** 5 (3 Speeds)
 - **Alankara's:** 7 (3 Speeds in one)
 - **Pillari geethe:** 2 (Malahari raaga, Roopaka Thala - Lambhodhara, KundhaGowra)
 - **Sanchari geethe:** 2 (Mohana - Varaveena, Kalyani- Kamalajadhala)
 - **Divyanama Sankeerthane & Vachana's :** 2
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DIPLOMA IN MUSIC – CARNATIC VOCAL

Academic Year: 2026-27

PRE - DIPLOMA – 1

Pre – Diploma Semester 1 – Practical

- **Dhatu varase:** 3 (3 Speeds)
- **Alankara's:** 7 (3 Speeds in one)
- **Pillari geethe:** 2 (Kereya neeranu, Padhumanaabha)
- **Sanchari geethe:** (Khambhoji, Ananda Bharavi, Begade) Any 2
- **Lakshana Geete 2 or Notu Swara 2**
- **Jathisvara:** 2
- **Adhithala Varna:** (Abhogi, Shreeraaga, Hamsadhwani, Shankaraabharana) Any Two
- **Madhyamakala Krithi:** 5
- **Vilamba Kala Krithi:** 2

(Raagas for Kritis can be chosen from Maayamaalava gowla, Kalyani, Abhogi, Hindhola, Malayamarutha, Mohana, Vasantha, Khamach, Hamsadhwani, Shudhdhasaveri.)

Pre – Diploma Semester 2 - Theory

- What is Sangeetha?
- Explain Marga Sangeetha & Dheshi Sangeetha.
- Explain Sapthaswara.
- Introduction to Bharathiya Sangeetha Padhdhathi.
- Similarities and differences between Hindustani and Karnataka Shasthriya Sangeetha systems.
- Biography of Shyama Shasthri.
- Raaga Lakshana : Maayamaalava gowla, Kalyani, Abhogi, Hindhola, Malayamarutha, Mohana, Vasantha, Khamach, Hamsadhwani, Shudhdhasaveri

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DIPLOMA IN MUSIC – CARNATIC VOCAL

Academic Year: 2026-27

DIPLOMA - 2

Pre – Diploma Semester 3 - Practical

- **Jathiswara – 2**
- **Adhi Taala Varna – 2** (Mohana, Vasantha, Kalyani, Sri Raaga) Any two
- **Madhyama Kaala Krithi – 5 ,**
- **Vilambha Kaala Krithi – 3**

(Raagas for Krithis can be Chosen from Shankarabharana, Aarabhi, Shudhdhasaveri, Bilahari, Saraswathi, Kaamavardhini, Hamsanaaadha, Hamsadhvani, Madhyamaavathi.)

- **Devaranama's or Divyanaama Sankeerthane (Any 2)**
(Ramaakodandaraama, Vandhanamu, Raghunandana)
 - **Uthsava Sampradaya Krithi or Vachana (Any 2)**
(Seethakalyana, Hechchugarike Gaara)
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Pre – Diploma Semester 4 - Theory

- The Construction Methods of the 35 Taalas
 - Classification of Musical Instruments.
 - Characteristics of Raagas (Raaga Lakshana : Shankarabharana, Aarabhi, Shudhdhasaveri, Bilahari, Saraswathi, Kaamavardhini, Hamsanaaadha, Hamsadhvani, Madhyamaavathi.)
 - Write about Sri Purandaradasa, Sri Thyagaraja, Sri Muttuswami Deekshitar, Sri Shyamashastri's Ankita (pen name), Period (Timeline), and the name of the unique compositions.
 - Classifications of Janaka & Janya Raaga. Deshadi & Madhayadi thalas
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DIPLOMA IN MUSIC – CARNATIC VOCAL

Academic Year: 2026-27

DIPLOMA

Diploma Semester 1 - Practical

- Sarale Varase – 7 (3 Speeds)
 - Taarastaayi Varase – 3 (3 Speeds)
 - Mandhraasthaayi – 3 (3 Speeds)
 - Dhaatuvarase – 3 (3 Speeds)
 - Janti Varase – 5 (3 Speeds)
 - Alankara's – 7 (3 Speeds)
 - Pillari Geethe - 3
(Malahari Raaga, Roopaka – Lambhodara, Kundagowra, Kereya Neeranu, Padhumanaabha)
 - Sanchari Geethe – 3
(Mohana, Kalyani, Kambhoji, Ananadabhairavi, Begade)
 - Lakshana Geethe 2 or Notu Swara 2
 - Jathi Swara 3
 - Aadhithaala Varna 3
(Abhogi, Shreeraaga, Mohana, Shankarabharana, Kalyani, Hamsadhvani)
 - Madhyama Kala krithi – 8 , Vilambha Kaala Krithi – 4
Choose from the following Raagas (Maayamaalava gowla, Kalyani, Abhogi, Hindhola, Malayamarutha, Mohana, Vasantha, Khamach, Shudhdhasaveri, Hamsadhvani, Shankarabharana, Aarabhi, Bilahari, Saraswathi, Kaamavardhini, Hamsanaadha, Madhyamaavathi.)
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Diploma Semester 2 - Theory

- What is Sangeetha?
 - Explain Marga Sangeetha & Dheshi Sangeetha.
 - Explain Sapthasvara.
 - Introduction to Bharathiya Sangeetha Padhdhathi.
 - Similarities and differences between Hindustani and Karnataka Shasthriya Sangeetha systems.
 - Classifications of Janaka & Janya Raaga.
 - Deshadi & Madhayadi thalas
 - The Construction Methods of the 35 Taalas
 - Classification of Musical Instruments
 - Raaga Lakshana : (Maayamaalava gowla, Kalyani, Abhogi, Hindhola, Malayamarutha, Mohana, Vasantha, Khamach, Shudhdhasaveri, Hamsadhwani, Shankarabharana, Aarabhi, Bilahari, Saraswathi, Kaamavardhini, Hamsanaadha, Madhyamaavathi.)
 - Write about Sri Purandaradasa, Sri Thyagaraja, Sri Muttuswami Deekshitar, Sri Shyamashastri's Ankita (pen name), Period (Timeline), and the name of the unique compositions
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DEGREE IN MUSIC – CARNATIC VOCAL

Academic Year: 2026-27

Degree 1st Year

Degree Semester 1 - Theory

- Brief Description of Paaribhashika Shabdagalu?
B. Swara, Amshaswara, Nyasaswara, Jeevaswara, Vaadhi, Vivaadhi, Samavaadhi, Anuvaadhi.
- The Construction Methods of the 72 Mela.
B. Explain Katapayaadhi Soothra
- Classification of Raagas.
B. Explain Janakaraaga, Janya Raaga, Bhasahana Raaga, Upanga Raaga.

Degree Semester 2 - Practical

- In Thishrajathi and Khandajathi Sulaadhi saptathaalas alankaras.
- Lakshana geethe – 2 (Govindacharaya's Rachana)
- Swarajathi – 2 (Mohana, Harikaambhojhi, Aanandabhairavi)
- Varna's in Aadhithaala – 2 (2 Speeds) (Begade, Kaanada (22nd Mela Karta Karahara Priya Janya), Dharbar)
- Varna in Atathala – 1 (Shankarabharana, Kaambhoji)
- Pancharathna Krithi – 1 (Naata, Aarabhi)
- Madhyamakaala Krithi's – 6 (For 4 raagas Alaapane and swarakalpane)
(Chakravaaka, Kharaharipriya, Sriranjani, Kamavardhini, Bilahari, Dhanyaasi, Madhyamaavathi, Vasantha, Saraswathi, SHanmukhapriya, Keeravaani, Naata.)
- Vilambakaala Krithi's – 4
- Devaranama – 2
- Thillana

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DEGREE IN MUSIC – CARNATIC VOCAL

Academic Year: 2026-27

Degree 2nd Year

Degree Semester 3 - Theory

- Explain Taala Shadanga?
B. The Construction Method of the 35 Thala
C. Explain Chaapu Thala, & Dheshadhi Madhyadi Thala's
- Explain Raga Lakshana (Along with Sanchara)
Mayamalavagowla, Khambhoji, Mohana, Hindhola, Thodi, Simendra Madhyama, Madhayamaavathi, Saveri, Vaachaspathi, Kedharagowla, Bhairavi.
- Biography of Sri Vasudhevacharya's and Patnam Subramanya Iyer

Degree Semester 4 - Practical

- In Chathurashrajathi and Mishrajathi Sulaadhi Saptathalas, Alankaaras.
- Swarajathi's – 2 (Hamsadhwani, Bilahari, Vasantha)
- Varna's in Adi Thala – 2 (2 Speeds) (Saveri, Sahana, Thodi)
- Varna's in Atathala – 1 (2 Speeds) (Kalyani, Reethigowla)
- Pancharathna Krithi – 1 (Sriraga Gowla)
- Madhyamakala Krithi – 6 (For four raagas Alaapane & Swarakalpane)
(Mayamalavagowla, Khambhoji, Mohana, Hindhola, Thodi, Simendra Madhyama, Madhayamaavathi, Saveri, Vaachaspathi, Kedharagowla, Bhairavi.)
- Vilambhakala Krithi – 4 (Along with Swarakalpane)
- Javali's - 2
- Vachana's – 2

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DEGREE IN MUSIC – CARNATIC VOCAL

Academic Year: 2026-27

Degree 3rd Year

Degree Semester 5 - Theory

- Brief Description of Paaribhashika Shabdagalu?
B. Naadha, Sthayi, Graha, Sangathi.
- Classification of Musical Instruments.
B. Description of two stringed Instruments with Diagram
- Description of Musical Structures.
Thanavarna, Krithi, Keerthane, Javali, Thillana.
- Raagalakshan's: Malayamarutha, Chakravaka, Shankarabharana, Kalyani, Aarabhi, Bilahari, Sriraaga, Hamsadhvani, Mohana, Kamach, Hindhola.
- Sangeetha Lipi:
A. Set one Practiced Madhyamakala krithi to one swara.
Or
B. Biography of Any two of the following personalities.
(Veene Sheshana, Veene Subhanna, Peetilu Chowdayya.)

Degree Semester 6 - Practical

- Lakshana geetha's 2
- Notusvara of Muthuswamy dheekshithar - 2
- Varna's in Ata thala 2 (2 Speeds)
(Kamavardhani, Bhairavi, Kamboji, Shankarabharana, Reethigowla)
- Madhyama kala krithi's 8 (Along with Aalapane and Svarakalpar
- Vilamba kala krithi 6 (Along with Svarakalpana)

Practical – 2 Concert (Optional)

- Raagamaalikaa varna - 2 (2 Speeds)
- Madhyamakala krithi (Along with Aalapane and Svarakalpana)
- Chaaputhala krithi or Prathi madhyama raaga krithi 1
- Vilambakaala krithi 1 (Along with Aalapane and Svarakalpana)
- Dhevaranama - 1
- Thillana -1

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DEGREE HONOURS (Optional)

Practical:

- In Chathurashra jathi and Khandajathi Sulaadhi sapthathalas Alankaras.
 - Lakshana geetha's - 3
 - Svara jathi - 3
 - Adhithala Varna - 2 (2Speed) (Dharbar, Shahana, Begade, Saveri, Thodi, Kaanada)
 - Atathala Varna - 2 (2 Speed) (Bhairavi, Kalyani, Shankarabharana, Kaamavardhani, Reethigowla)
 - Pancharathna krithi 1 (Krabhi, Shreeraaga)
 - Madhyamakaala krithi - 10 (Along with Raagalaapane, Svarakalpane)
 - Vilambakaala krithi 8 (Any 4 in Svarakalpane.)
 - Dhevaranaama's 2
 - Thillana – 2
 - Javali's or Vachana's – 2
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Theory

- Brief description of Paaribaashika Shabdhagalu?
B. Svara, Amshasvara, Nyasasvara, Jeevasvara, Vaadhi, Vivaadhi, Samvaadhi, Anuvaadhi. Naadha, Sthayi, Graha, Sangathi.
- The Construction method of the 72 Mela.
Explain Katapayaadhi Soothra.
- Classification of Raagas.
B. Explain Janakaraaga, Janya raaga, Bhashangaraaga, Upanga raaga.
- Explain Thaals Shadanga.
B. The Construction method of the 35 Thaala. Chaapu Thaala, Dheshadi Madhyadhi Thaala.
- Raaga Lakshana: (Along with Sanchara)
Maayamaalavagowla, Kamboji, Mohana, Hindhola, Thodi, Saveri, Simendhramadhyama, Madhyamaavathi, Vachaspathi, Kedharagowla, Bhairavi, Malayamarutha, Chakravaaka, Shankarabharana, Kalyani, Arabhi, Bilahari, Hamsadhwani, Khamach.
- Biography of Sri Vasudhevacharya's and Patnam Subramanya iyer.
- Classification of Musical Instruments.
B. Description of Two stringed Instruments with diagram.
- Description of Musical structures.
Thanavarna, Krithi, Keerthane, Javali, Thillana.
- Sangeetha Lipi:
A. Set one Practiced Madhyamakala krithi to one swara.
Or
B. Biography of Any two of the following personalities.
(Veene Sheshana, Veene Subhanna, Peetilu Chowdayya.)

**AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF SPIRITUAL
SCIENCES TEXAS, USA
MASTER DEGREE IN MUSIC – CARNATIC VOCAL**

Academic Year: 2026-27

M.A. - 1

MA Semester 1 – Practical

- **SwaraJathi Shyamashastri's Rachane** : Raga Bhairavi
 - **Adi Tala Varnams**: 3 Varnams to be performed in 3 speeds (*Kalas*).
 - **Suggested Ragas**: Kamavardhini, Devamanohari, Suruti, Kadana Kutuhala, and Todi.
 - **Ata Tala Varnams**: 3 Varnams to be performed in 2 speeds (*Kalas*).
 - **Suggested Ragas**: Kambhoji, Purvikalyani, Natakuranji, and Todi.
 - **Navavarana Kritis**: 2 compositions.
 - **Navaratna Malika Kritis**: 2 compositions.
 - **Chaturaga Malika**: 1 composition.
 - **Kriti should be taken from these Raagas**: Compositions in Ragas such as Darbar, Sahana, Kedara, Atana, Kedaragaula, Purvikalyani, Charukesi, Varali, Shubhapantuvarali, Reethigaula, Suruti, Saveri, Hindola, Mohana, Shankarabharanam, and Kalyani.
 - **Madhyama Kala Kritis** : 8 compositions, including Alapana, Neraval, and Swaraprastara (Sarkalpane).
 - **Vilamba Kala Kritis** : 6 compositions (Alapana, Neraval, and Swarakalpane only for 2 compositions)
 - **Devarnamas OR Annamacharya Kritis**: 4 compositions.
 - **Arunachala Kavi Compositions OR Ashtapadis**: 2 compositions.
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MA Semester 2 - Theory

- **Concert Traditions:** Detailed explanation of the *Kacheri Sampradaya*.
 - **Pallavi Prabandha:** Explanation of Ragam, Tanam, and Pallavi.
 - Includes details on *Anuloma*, *Viloma*, and *Pratiloma* (techniques for varying speed/structure).
 - **Tala Dasha Prana:** The ten vital elements (Pranas) of musical rhythm/time.
 - **Dasha Vidha Gamaka:** The ten types of musical ornamentations.
 - **Technical Terminology:** Definitions and explanations of:
 - *Graha* (Starting point)
 - *Nada* (Musical sound)
 - *Amsa* (Dominant note)
 - *Nyasa* (Ending/Resting note)
 - **Short Notes:**
 - *Navasandhi Talas*
 - *Bhuta Sankhya* (Numerical notation system)
 - Group compositions (*Samudaya Kritis*)—any two.
 - **Critical Analysis:** Write a review and analysis of any one music concert.
 - **Alternative Topic:** Or, write an essay on technical aspects related to a recording studio.
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**AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF SPIRITUAL
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MASTER DEGREE IN MUSIC – CARNATIC VOCAL
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MA - 2

M.A. Semester 3 – Practical

- **SwaraJathi Shyamashastry's Rachane** : name of the Raga : Yadukula
Kambhoji / Raaga Thodi

Varnams

- **Tana Varnams** 4 in different Talas, to be performed in two speeds (*Kalas*).
- **Ata Tala Varnams**: 2 compositions (selected from Ragas Kambhoji, Shankarabharanam, or Kalyani) to be performed in three speeds (*Kalas*).
- **Pada Varnam**: 1 composition to be performed in two speeds (*Kalas*).

Kritis (Compositions)

- **Madhyama Kala Kritis** : 10 compositions, including *Alapana*, *Neraval*, and *Swaraprastara* (*Swarakalpane*).
- **Vilamba Kala Kritis** : 8 compositions, including *Alapana*, *Neraval*, and *Swaraprastara*.
- **Raga Selection Criteria**: The compositions must cover a diverse range of Raga types, including:
 - *Janaka Ragas* (Parent scales) and *Upanga Janya Ragas* (Derived scales).
 - *Prati Madhyama* (using \$M_2\$) and *Shuddha Madhyama* (using \$M_1\$) Ragas.
 - *Bhashanga Ragas* (scales using foreign notes) and *Vakra Ragas* (zigzag scales).
 - *Panchama Varjya Ragas* (scales omitting the fifth note).

Pallavi Presentation

- **Chauka Kale Pallavi**: 2 compositions.
 - Performance includes *Raga*, *Tana*, and the presentation of the *Pallavi* in three speeds.
- **Dwi Kale Pallavi**: 2 compositions.
 - Performance includes *Raga*, *Tana*, and presentation in three speeds as

well as
Tishra (triple) gait.

- **Creative Requirements:** For one *Chauka Kale* and one *Dwi Kale Pallavi*, the student must perform *Neraval* and *Swarakalpane* ending with a formal *Muktaya* (conclusion).

Percussion and Performance

- **Rhythmic Foundations:** Knowledge of introductory lessons in percussion (*Talavadya*), including details on *Mohara*, *Mukuta*, and *Muktaya*.
- **Advanced Concert Management:** Conducting a professional-level concert with accompanying instruments (*Pakka Vadya*).
- **Specific Performance Repertoire:**
 - 2 Medium tempo (*Madhyama Kala*) Kritis with *Alapana*, *Neraval*, and *Swarakalpane*.
 - 1 composition in a *Prati Madhyama* Raga.
 - 1 Slow tempo (*Vilamba Kala*) Kritis with advanced *Alapana*, *Neraval*, *Swarakalpane*, and a *Tani Avartanam* (percussion solo).
 - 1 *Tillana*.

MA Semester 4 - Theory

Core Topics

- **Graha Swara Bheda:** The differences/variations of the starting note.
- **Details of Murchanas:** Explanation of the scales derived by shifting the tonic note.
- (*Kacheri Sampradaya*)(**Concert Tradition**) The etiquette and standard structure of a music concert.
- **Scope of Accompaniment:** The limitations and boundaries of accompanying instruments (*Pakka Vadya*).
- (*Panchadasha Vidha Gamaka*) The fifteen specific musical ornamentations.
- **Chandassu and Alankara:** The study of meter (*Chandassu*) and rhetoric/figures of speech (*Alankara*) in musical compositions.
- **Dhatu and Matu:** Explanation of the musical setting/tune (*Dhatu*) and the lyrical content (*Matu*).
- (*Raga Trayodasha Lakshanas*) The thirteen defining features of a Raga.
- (*Gayakana Guna Dosha*) The qualities a singer should possess and the flaws they should avoid.

Optional Section

- **OR**
 - **Complete Introduction to an Instrument:** A comprehensive overview of any one instrument, covering the playing technique (*Vadana Krama*) and the method of tuning (*Shruti maduva vidhana*).
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