

**Pandit Ram Sahai Sangit Vidyalaya**

Registered Charity No. 328062

**CARNATIC VOCAL**  
**ENTRY LEVEL**

**Initial Grade**

At the end of this grade, the candidate will be able to:

- 1) Sing one song in any language i.e. Thevaram, Nottuswaram, film song, folk song, wedding song , etc
- 2) Clap a beat to a piece of music played or sung.
- 3) Name the Sapta Swaras (seven Notes) i.e. SA RI GA MA PA  
DA NI

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### **CARNATIC VOCAL**

#### **LEVEL 1**

[GRADE I, GRADE II and GRADE III]

#### **GRADE-I**

At the end of this grade, which includes the Entry Level prescribed syllabus, the candidate will be able to:

#### **Practical**

- 1) Sing Adhara Shadjam, Madhya Sthayi panchamam and Taara Shadjam (S-P-S) in their respective tonal positions.
- 2) Sing twelve Sarali Swaras (swara Varusaigal) in three speeds
- 3) Sing six Janta Swaras (Janta Varusaigal) in three speeds
- 4) Sing three Hechusthayi Swaras (Mel Sthayi Varusaigal/upper Sthayi phrases) in three speeds
- 5) Demonstrate understanding of all the terms in the prescribed syllabuses including Arohana and Avarohana
- 6) Give the full names of the Sapta Swaras (seven Notes) i.e. Shadjam, Rishabam, etc

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### **CARNATIC VOCAL**

#### **LEVEL 1 cont'd**

#### **GRADE-II**

At the end of this grade, which includes the Entry Level and grade I prescribed syllabuses, the candidate will be able to:

#### **Practical**

- 1) Sing two Daatu Swaras (Daatu Varusaigal) in three speeds
- 2) Sing the seven Alankarams (Sapta Tala Alankarams) in three speeds
- 3) Sing a Nottu Swaram or any other simple devotional song
- 4) Sing three Geethams in three speeds.

#### **Viva**

- 1) Describe Prakruthi and Vikruthi Swaras.
- 2) Demonstrate understanding of all the terms in the prescribed syllabuses including Sruthi, Ragam, Laya and Talam, and name the twelve Swarsthanas.
- 3) Name the six Parts of Talam (Talaangas) and explain Laghu, Dhrutham and Anudhrutham with their respective symbols.
- 4) Name the five Jathis (Pancha Jaathis), seven Talas (Sapta Talas) and their respective Talangas (parts of Talam)

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### **CARNATIC VOCAL**

#### **LEVEL 1 cont'd**

#### **GRADE-III**

At the end of this grade, which includes the Entry Level, grade I and II prescribed syllabuses, the candidate will be able to:

#### **Practical**

- 1) Sing six Geethams in three speeds.
- 2) Sing two Jathiswarams.
- 3) Sing one Swarajathi.
- 4) Sing Arohanam and Avarohanam for all Ragams in which you have learnt compositions from the prescribed syllabuses.
- 5) Locate and Sing Shadjam for different Sruthis played on the Tanpura.
- 6) Show and identify seven Talas in different Jathis.

#### **Theory**

A written test e.g. multiple choice, true or false, diagram, notation etc. on all topics covered in the prescribed syllabuses and including the following:

- 1) Describe the structure and characteristics of Geetham and describe its varieties i.e. Sadharana, Sanchari and Lakshana Geethams.
- 2) Describe the thirty-five Tala Scheme.
- 3) Demonstrate understanding of all the terms in the prescribed syllabuses including Swara, Sahitya, Sthayi and the five different Sthayis including their names and notation symbols.
- 4) Define Sthayi and know the five different Sthayis with their names and notation symbols.
- 5) Describe Akshara Kaalam (time duration) with the notation symbols.
- 6) Name three composers who composed Geethams and give the life sketch of Sri Purandaradasar including his contribution to Carnatic music.

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### **CARNATIC VOCAL**

#### **LEVEL 2**

[GRADE IV and GRADE V]

#### **GRADE-IV**

At the end of this grade, which includes the Entry Level and Level 1 prescribed syllabuses, the candidate will be able to:

#### **Practical**

- 1) Sing two Tana Varnams in Adi talam in two speeds with each Varnam in a different Ragam
- 2) Sing two Krithis in Adi Talam and two Krithis in Rupaka Talam
- 3) Sing one Tirupugazh.
- 4) Sing one Divyanama Keerthanam or one Utsava Sampradaya Keerthanam.
- 5) Sing Arohanam and Avarohanam for all the Ragams in which you have learnt compositions from the prescribed syllabuses.
- 6) Recite the Sollus (Chollus) for five Nadas (Nadais) i.e. TAKITA, KITATAKA, TAKATAKITA etc.

#### **Theory**

A written test e.g. multiple choice, true or false, diagram, notation etc., on all topics covered in the prescribed syllabuses and including the following:

- 1) Notate a Geetham in Rupakatalam and Triputa Talam
- 2) Describe the seventy-two Melakarta scheme and name the twelve chakras
- 3) Demonstrate understanding of all the terms in the prescribed syllabuses and explain the sixteen Swarasthanas.
- 4) Give introductions to the Janaka and Janya Ragas along with explanations and an example for each of the following Janya Ragas:- Upanga, Bhashanga, Vakra, Varja, Daivatantya, Nishatantya, Panchamtya.
- 5) Give the life sketches of the composers who are known as the Carnatic music Trinity and provide the Mudra (signature) of each composer.

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**CARNATIC VOCAL**

**LEVEL 2 cont'd**

**GRADE-V**

At the end of this grade, which includes Entry Level, Level 1 and grade IV prescribed syllabuses, the candidate will be able to:

**Practical**

- 1) Sing three Tana Varnams in two speeds and to the tempo set by the examiner.
- 2) Sing one Navaragamalika Varnam in two speeds
- 3) Sing one Madhyama Kala Krithi in a Pratimadhyama Raga and five Madhyama Kala Krithis in Ragas of your choice.
- 4) Sing Arohanam and Avarohanam for all the Ragams in which you have learnt compositions from the prescribed syllabuses.
- 5) Identify the Nada (Nadai) when a Talam or Soll is shown or recited by the examiner.

**Theory**

A written test e.g. multiple choice, true or false, diagram, notation, definitions, comparison etc. on all topics covered in the prescribed syllabuses and including the following:

- 1) Describe the structure of Varnam and its varieties with examples.
- 2) Describe Tala Eduppu(Graham) and provide an example for each of its three kinds.
- 3) Demonstrate understanding of all the terms in the prescribed syllabuses and compare Jathiswaram and Swarajathi
- 4) Describe the shape, parts and playing systems of the following musical instruments (a) Mridangam (b) Violin (c) Tambura
- 5) Give the life sketches of Saint Thyagaraja and Muthuswami Deekshitar
- 6) Give introductions to the two main classical music traditions of the Indian sub-continent i.e. Carnatic music (South Indian) and Hindusthani music (North Indian).

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### **CARNATIC VOCAL**

#### **LEVEL 3**

[GRADE VI, GRADE VII and GRADE VIII]

#### **GRADE-VI**

At the end of this grade, which includes the Entry Level, Level 1 and Level 2 prescribed syllabuses, the candidate will be able to:

#### **Practical**

- 1) Sing four Tana Varnams and one Ata Tala Varnam in two speeds
- 2) Sing eight Krithis in a minimum of three different languages and two different Talas
- 3) Sing Kalpana Swaram for one Krithi in Adi or Rupaka Talas.
- 4) Sight sing the following ragas in Adi and Rupaka Talas:  
(a) Mohanam (b) Hamsadhwani (c) Shankarabharanam (d) Mayamalava Gowla
- 5) Sing Arohanam and Avarohanam for all the Ragams in which you have learnt compositions from the prescribed syllabuses.
- 6) Identify a Raga from the prescribed syllabuses when played or sung by the examiner.
- 7) Sing the notes specified by the examiner from the 12 Swarasthanas

#### **Theory**

A written test e.g. definitions, comparisons, biographies, notations, identification etc. on all topics covered in the prescribed syllabuses and including the following:

- 1) Notate one Adi Tala Varnam from your repertoire
- 2) Describe Ragalakshana for the following Ragas:  
(a) Shankarabharanam (b) Kalyani (c) Hamsadhwani (d) Mohana (e) Bilahari
- 3) Demonstrate understanding of all the terms in the prescribed syllabuses including Neraval and Kalpana Swaram, name the 72 Melakarta Ragas and compare and contrast Krithi and Keerthanam.
- 4) Describe the shape, parts and playing system of the following musical instruments: (a) Veena (b) Flute
- 5) Give the life sketches of Shyama Sastry and Papanasam Sivan.

## SANGIT EXAMINATIONS SYLLABUSES

### **Pandit Ram Sahai Sangit Vidyalaya**

Registered Charity No. 328062

#### **CARNATIC VOCAL**

#### **LEVEL 3 cont'd**

#### **GRADE-VII**

At the end of this grade, which includes the Entry Level, Level 1, Level 2 and grade VI prescribed syllabuses, the candidate will be able to:

#### **Practical**

- 1) Sing two Ata Tala Varnams and a Jhampa Tala Varnam in two speeds
- 2) Sing a Krithi in Misra Chapu or Khanda Chapu talam
- 3) Sing ten Madhyama Kala Krithis in a minimum of two Talas and by at least three composers.
- 4) Sing a Chouka Kala Krithi
- 5) Sing a Tillana
- 6) Sing Raga Alapana in one Raga, and, Swarakalpana for two Krithis in different Ragas and different Talas and in 2 speeds.
- 7) Sing Arohanam and Avarohanam for all the Ragams in which you have learnt compositions from the prescribed syllabuses.
- 8) Identify the notes of phrases played or sung by the examiner.

#### **Theory**

A written test e.g. definitions, comparisons, biographies, notations, identification, and completion of notated pieces etc. on all topics covered in the prescribed syllabuses and including the following:

- 1) Describe the Ragalakshana for the following:  
(a) Hindolam (b) Sriranjani (c) Panthuvrali (d) Nattai
- 2) Demonstrate understanding of all the terms in the prescribed syllabuses including Raga Alapana and Swarakalpana.
- 3) Mudras (signatures) of the following Composers:  
(a) Thyagaraja (f) Swati tirunal  
(b) Muthuswamy Deekshitar (g) Mysore Vasudevachar  
(c) Shyama Sastry (h) Annamacharya  
(d) Purandara Dasar (i) Papanasam Sivan  
(e) Muthaih Bhagavatar (j) Koteswara Iyer
- 4) Write the life sketches of Swati Tirunal and Mysore Vasudevachar.
- 5) Describe the format of a Carnatic music concert

## SANGIT EXAMINATIONS SYLLABUSES

### **Pandit Ram Sahai Sangit Vidyalaya**

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#### **CARNATIC VOCAL**

#### **LEVEL 3 cont'd**

#### **GRADE-VIII**

At the end of this grade, which includes the Entry Level, Level 1, Level 2 and grades VI and VII prescribed syllabuses, the candidate will be able to:

#### **Practical**

- 1) Sing a Pancha Ratna Krithi of Thyagaraja
- 2) Sing two Chowka Kala (Vilamba Kala) Krithis.
- 3) Sing two Tillanas
- 4) Sing a Keerthanam composed by one of the following composers – Annamacharya, Purandaradasar, Ramadas, Subrahmanya Bharathi, Ootukkudu Venkata Subbaiah.
- 5) Sing twelve Madhyamakala Krithis of which two must be in Mishra Chapu and/or Khanda Chapu Talam
- 6) Sing Nereval for a Krithi.
- 7) Sing Raga Alpana in two Ragas
- 8) Sing Arohanam and Avarohanam for all the Ragams in which you have learnt compositions from the prescribed syllabuses.
- 9) Identify the Ragams from the prescribed syllabuses when sung/played by the examiner.

#### **Theory**

A written test e.g. definitions, comparisons, biographies, notations, identification, completion of notated pieces etc. on all topics covered in the prescribed syllabuses and including the following:

- 1) Notate an Adi Tala Krithi.
- 2) Describe the Ragalakshanam for the following Ragas:-  
(a) Purvi kalyani (b) Kaanada (c) Kharaharapriya (d) Kambhoji
- 3) Demonstrate understanding of all the terms in the prescribed syllabuses including Thanam
- 4) Describe Gamaka and explain the concept of Dasha Vidha Gamakas (10 kinds of Gamakas)
- 5) Write the life sketch of Subrahmanya Bharathi

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### **CARNATIC VOCAL**

#### **LEVEL 4**

#### **CERTIFICATE**

At the end of this grade, which includes the Entry Level, Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 prescribed syllabuses, the candidate will be able to:

#### **Practical**

- 1) Sing a Pada Varnam or Daru Varnam in two speeds
- 2) Sing a Ragamalika Krithi or Keerthanam.
- 3) Sing two Pancharatna Krithis of Thyagaraja.
- 4) Sing fourteen Madhyamakala Krithis
- 5) Sing Raga Alapana in three different Ragas
- 6) Sing Nereval and Kalpana Swaram for a Krithi in Misra Chapu or Khandachapu
- 7) Sing Arohanam and Avarohanam for all the Ragams in which you have learnt compositions from the prescribed syllabuses.
- 8) Sing a song in different Sruthis specified by the examiner.

#### **Theory:**

A written test e.g. definitions, comparisons, biographies, notations, identification, completion of notated pieces etc. on all topics covered in the prescribed syllabuses and including the following:

- 1) Notate a Krithi in Adi & Rupaka Talam
- 2) Notate an Ata Tala Varnam
- 3) Describe the Ragalakshanas for the following Ragas:  
(a) Bhairavi (b) Thodi (c) Ananda Bhairavi (d) Saveri (e) Madhyamavathi
- 4) Demonstrate understanding of all the terms in the prescribed syllabuses.
- 5) Explain the range of musical compositions of Saint Thyagaraja and Muthuswamy Deekshitar with examples.
- 6) Give the life sketches of Mysore Vasudevachar and Muttaih Bhagavatar

## SANGIT EXAMINATIONS SYLLABUSES

### **Pandit Ram Sahai Sangit Vidyalaya**

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### **CARNATIC VOCAL** **LEVEL 5**

#### **DIPLOMA**

At the end of this grade, which includes the Entry Level, Level 1, Level 2, Level 3 and Level 4 prescribed syllabuses, the candidate will be able to:

#### **Practical**

- 1) Sing a Shyama Sastry's Swarajathi in one of the following Ragams:-  
Thodi, Yadukula Kambhoji or Bhairavi
- 2) Sing a Padam/Javali
- 3) Sing an Ashtapadi
- 4) Sing a Ragam-Tanam-Pallavi.
- 5) Sing three Pancharatna Krithis
- 6) Sing Raga Alpana in three different Ragas of which one must be a Pratimadhyama Raga.
- 7) Sing an Adi Tala Varnam shifting the Nada (Nadai) to Tisram.
- 8) Sing Arohanam and Avarohanam for all the Ragams in which you have learnt compositions from the prescribed syllabuses.
- 9) Tune a manual Tanpura to a given Sruthi.

#### **Theory:**

Two papers covering all definable terms and topics e.g. biographies, notations, identification etc. covered in the prescribed syllabuses and including the following:

- 1) Notate a Krithi in Misra Chapu or Khanda Chapu Talam
- 2) Demonstrate understanding of all the terms in the prescribed syllabuses and explain Ragam-Tanam-Pallavi
- 3) Explain the concept of Grahamedham (Sruthi Bedham) with examples.
- 4) Explain the concept of Manodharma Sangeetham (improvised music) and its importance in Carnatic Music.
- 5) Give the life sketches of the following artists including their contributions to the Carnatic music tradition.  
(a) G.N.Balasubrahmanyam (b) Lalgudi.G.Jayaraman (c) Dr.M.Balamuralikrishna
- 6) Compare the Carnatic and Hindustani music traditions.