

Carnatic Music 101: Fundamentals of Carnatic Music – Raga and Tala system

Vidwan HK Venkataram will cover a range of fascinating topics to introduce Carnatic music to novices. The presentation format is designed to help attendees understand the framework of Carnatic music and develop a basic appreciation for it. For attendees who are not yet familiar with the framework of Carnatic music, this session will enable them to begin identifying the key aspects of this beautiful Indian art form.

The host of topics listed below will be presented in two interactive sessions (March 24th and 25th) with appropriate examples to help the attendees understand and appreciate Carnatic Music. The sessions will be followed by a concert on March 26th.

- **Raga, Tala and Bhava:** The Pillars of Carnatic Music
- **Scales and Ragas**
 - Structures and Definitions: A Perspective
 - Role of Gamakas (Slides)
- **Carnatic and Hindustani Music Systems:** Understanding the similarities and differences at a basic level
- **Compositions:**
 - The Mainstay of Carnatic Music and the Pivotal Role Played by the Trinity and Various Composers.
 - Types of Compositions in Carnatic Music
- **Carnatic Music and Innovation:**
 - The Unlimited Space for Creative Expression
 - Mathematics & Aesthetics in Carnatic Music
- **Depiction of Emotions in Carnatic Music**
 - **Nava Rasas:** Definition and Using Ragas to Effectively Depict Various Emotions
- **The Influence of Western Music on Carnatic Music**
 - Introduction of the Violin: A Western Music Instrument in Carnatic Music
 - Influence of western music on some Carnatic Compositions
- **Carnatic Music Concert:** Basic Understanding of the Concert Structure and Appreciation

HK Venkataram - Carnatic Violin

www.HKVenkatram.com Email: HKVenkatram@gmail.com



HK Venkataram (HKV) was born into a musical family and received his training from his illustrious father and guru, **Sangita Kalaratna Professor H.V. Krishnamurthy**. Venkataram began learning the violin at the age of 8 and gave his first public performance in Bangalore at the age of 11.

HKV is one of the most accomplished and sought-after violinists in the field of Carnatic music. He is the recipient of the prestigious **Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for 2023** from the Ministry of Culture, Government of India.

HKV is a **Top Grade** artist with All India Radio and has traveled extensively, giving solo and accompaniment performances at prestigious sabhas both in India and abroad for nearly four and a half decades. He has also performed in the USA, Canada, Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, Australia, and the United Kingdom.

HKV is renowned for his deep understanding of the nuances of Carnatic music and his adherence to its classical traditions. His playing is characterized by depth, knowledge, sincerity, and maturity.

Over the years, **HKV** has accompanied many top-ranking musicians in Carnatic music, including **Sri Semmangudi Srinivasa Iyer, Dr. M. Balamuralikrishna, Dr. RK Srikanthan, Smt. DK Pattammal, Dr. M.L. Vasanthakumari, Sri KV Narayanaswamy, Dr. RK Srikanthan, Sri Nedanuri Krishnamurthy, Dr. N. Ramani, Sri TN Seshagopalan, Sri TV Sankaranarayanan, Mandolin U. Shreenivas, TM Krishna, Dr. Nagamani Srinath, Shri S. Shankar,** and others.

HKV has also given several **Carnatic-Hindustani Jugalbandi** performances with stalwarts, including **Pt. Vishwamohan Bhatt, Pt. Ronu Mazumdar, Ustad Shahid Parvez, Smt. Nagamani Srinath, Smt. Shyamala Bhave, Sri S. Shankar,** and **Pt. Vinayak Torvi.**

HKV is the **Principal of Vijaya College of Music**, a premier institute established in 1953 in Bangalore, where he imparts music education to hundreds of students.

A multifaceted personality, **HKV** combines the roles of a performer, teacher, music conductor, organizer, administrator, computer engineer, and philanthropist.

HKV has been recognized by various organizations for his outstanding contributions to Carnatic music. In addition to the **Sangeet Natak Akademi Award**, **HKV** has received several other prestigious titles and awards, including "**Sri Rama Karunya**," "**Parimala Prashathi**," "**Ganakalashree**," "**Gaanavaradhi**," "**Satyashree**," "**Kannada Tilaka**," and the title of "**Asthana Vidwan**" from Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam, Kanchipuram.

HKV is one of the rare individuals who successfully pursues two careers (Music and Engineering) in parallel, striving for excellence in both fields. He has become a role model for the younger generation. He has been invited by various corporate companies and educational institutions to share his journey of successfully managing both a music career and a corporate career, inspiring professionals and students to pursue dual interests with passion.

HKV worked as a **Senior Director at Intel Corporation** in the **Research & Development Group**. With over 37 years of experience in the semiconductor and IT industries, he worked at Intel since 1995. His expertise lies in **System & Architecture Engineering**, and he is credited with building a world-class System Engineering Research and Development team in India.

Beyond his accomplishments as an outstanding violinist, **HKV** has also leveraged his technology skills to propagate Carnatic music to the masses.

In September 2024, **HKV** took voluntary retirement from Intel and now dedicates most of his time to music. He remains connected to the field of technology by serving as a consultant to an IT startup and as an advisor to several engineering universities. Additionally, he serves as a **Cultural Ambassador** at **Sri Vani Kala Kendra, Bangalore.**