



SOUL STRINGS SCIENCE



ABOUT THE COURSE

Violin Technique with Karthick Iyer (VTWKI) is a scientific & systematic learning method developed by Karthick Iyer. It brings together the fundamental Carnatic curriculum and the best of Western Violin Techniques to enable a holistic learning experience. By interweaving the best of Western violin techniques with the regular Carnatic syllabus, the course aims to bring about a big change in the way the violin is taught through the Carnatic music system. The course retains an interactive song-led approach throughout all levels of learning from Aarambha to Vidhwath.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Teaching of regular Carnatic syllabus from Varisais to Krithis.
- Enable all-round development of students through addition of appropriate western techniques that complement the Carnatic syllabus.
- Empower students to become confident violin players by giving special emphasis to bowing techniques, intonation and left hand finger strengthening right from the Aarambha stages.
- Encourage creativity and Raga improvisation in the higher levels as a means for unique expression as violinists.
- Increasing exposure to unconventional topics such as fusion/film playing, home studio recording, electric violin processing, etc.
- Goal based learning with tangible milestones at each level.
- Groundbreaking discussions/workshops through periodic masterclasses with leading musicians on a variety of topics for higher levels.
- Making the most out of every online session through extensive & innovative course materials.
- Reinvent home practice sessions with guided practice material.
- Enable targeted learning through evaluation of monthly video submissions by students.

INSTRUCTIONAL MEDIUM

We will be using the ZOOM app for the classes. This is an app that can be installed either on your phone, tablet or on your laptop. Given below are the download links for this app. Please ensure you have this app downloaded before your first class.

(MAC - <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/id546505307>)

Android - <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=us.zoom.videomeetings>)

PREREQUISITES

- The online course applies to Absolute beginner, intermediate and senior level violinists from Carnatic, Hindustani or Western classical music backgrounds.
- The student needs to have a violin, bow, rosin and a spare set of strings with him/her during class. If it's an electric violin it needs to have sufficient amplification so that it's heard through the video call.
- All violins should be tuned to G (5 sruthi) for all classes.
- Absolute beginners can procure a basic acoustic violin along with bow and strings that support G sruthi. The strings need to be installed to the G (5 sruthi) prior to the first session. They will be taught how to tune during the sessions.
- Along with the form you are required to upload and send a 1-2 min audio recording of you playing anything on the violin. A basic phone recording works.

NEW VIOLIN PURCHASE FOR ABSOLUTE BEGINNERS

Whichever part of the world you live in, it's best to go to a nearby music store to buy a violin in preference to buying it online on Amazon. This is because it's important to get the setup of the violin checked (tuning pegs, string adjusters, nut and bridge height) before you purchase and take the seller's suggestion on the best entry level model.

MODELS:

If you are over 11 years of age you can get a full size 4/4 violin. (Details on violin sizes for younger students here - <http://www.fiddleheads.ca/shop/violin-sizes-violin-and-violin-size-chart.htm>). The entry level models (preferably Chinese or Korean made violins) in India cost around Rs 6000/7000. You can buy these to begin with. In the US, 200USD will get you a decent beginner violin. Anything below this might not be of good quality and we will not recommend this.

QUESTIONS TO ASK THE SHOPKEEPER WHILE BUYING.

- Are all the string heights according to norms.
 - Are all the strings spaced uniformly on bridge and nut.
 - Are the tuning pegs and string adjusters smooth enough to use?
 - Does a bow rosin come along with the violin?(If not buy a separate one)
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- Always keep an extra set of beginner strings with you in case strings snap during playing.

PRELIMINARY SYLLABUS:

Note:

- All classes will be conducted at a standard sruthi of G (5 sruthi).
- Students entering laterally at levels other than Aarambha, will have a refresher course of both western and carnatic class before starting the syllabus below. These classes will help recap the syllabus from the previous levels that the student might not have been exposed to yet.
- While we will aim to group the students in the best way possible according to their current learning level, there might be an initial overlap of syllabus until normalization happens.
- Karthick Iyer will meet all the students for regular feedback and Q & A sessions.

LEVEL AARAMBHA

Description: Varisais (Sarali Varisai – Alankaram)

Class duration: 60 min

Class frequency: Four classes per month (3 carnatic & 1 western)

Group PAX: Upto 6 students per group

Period of study: 9-12 months

((Concepts, Songs, Exercises can be represented columns of a table for each level))

Concepts: Tuning, Violin posture(Western and Carnatic), Bow hold, Left hand hold, Metronome playing, Basic bow strokes, Basic string crossing, 3rd position playing, Tala and Raga Theory, Carnatic and Western notation, Janta gamaka.

Songs: Twinkle Twinkle little star, Rama Janardhana, Allegretto, Santhatam Pahimam, Etude, Sakti Sahita Ganapatim, The Happy Farmer, Shyamale Meenakshi, Go Tell Aunt Rhody, Long Long Ago, Varashiva balam, etc

Exercises: Sarali Varisai, Janta Varisai, Thattuvarisa, Mel Stayi Varisai, Alankaram(All varisais in 4 ragas and 2 octaves), Left hand strengthening exercises

LEVEL MADHYAMA

Description: Geethams, Bhajans

Class duration: 60 min

Class frequency: Four classes per month (3 carnatic & 1 western)

Group PAX: Upto 6 students per group

Period of study: 12-15 months

Concepts: Basic Gamakas, Raga theory, 2nd position playing, Important bow strokes, String crossing dexterity, Basic vibrato, String changing and bridge setting workshop, Western scales

Songs: Geethams, Swarajathis, Simple film songs, Bach Minuet 3, Waltz, Chorus from Judas, Long Long ago.

Exercises: 2nd position playing, Important bow strokes, String crossing, vibrato.

LEVEL UTTHAMA

Description: Varnams, Krithis

Class duration: 60 min

Class frequency: Four classes per month (3 carnatic & 1 western)

Group PAX: Upto 4 students per group

Period of study: 2.5-3 years

Concepts: Adv Gamakas, Raga delineation, Alapana, Kalpana Swaram, Improvisation, Advanced Tala methods, 4th, 5th position playing, Advanced bow strokes, Advanced String crossing, Advanced vibrato, Western scales, Ear training, Home recording and electric violin processing workshop, Film song playing, Fusion style

Songs: Varnams, Ata Thala Varnams, Krithis(Bantu Reethi, Raghuvamsa Sudha, etc), Film songs.

Exercises: 3rd and 4th position playing, Adv bow strokes, Adv String crossing, Adv Vibrato exercises, Speed training, Ear training

Note: Students entering laterally into Level Utthama will be covering the western syllabus from the previous levels first.

LEVEL VIDHWATH

Description: Krithis, Kalpana Swaram, Alapana, Performance(Carnatic/Fusion/Film)

Class duration: 60 min

Class frequency: Four classes per month (3 carnatic plus 1 western)

Group PAX: 2-3 students per group.

Solo classes as an add-on based on request and availability.

Concepts: Alapana, Kalpana Swaras, Improvisation, Fusion/Film music playing, Guidance on performance and expression

Songs: Krithis, Thillanas, Pancharatna Krithis

Exercises: Alapana playalongs and prompts in various ragas, Kalpana Swara patterns for various raga - tala combinations, Toolkits for improvisation