

# Indian Raga Certification

## Hindustani Vocals Syllabus

### Level 1

#### Overview:

The aim of this level is for the student to develop a basic sense of Swara (Note) and Taal (Rhythm) so that he/she is able to sing notes accurately and sing with ease in the SwaraSaptak (Octave). The student is introduced to the preliminary concepts of Hindustani classical music such as Raag, Bandish and is able to sing in the basic framework of a Raag.

#### SwarGyan:

Swar Alankars help develop a strong note sense in the student and also helps train the voice for flexibility and range. The student should be able to sing the following Swar Alankars (in Swar and in Aakar) in a medium pace:

- Sa-Re-Ga-Ma-Pa-Dha-Ni-Sa | Sa-Ni-Dha-Pa-Ma-Ga-Re-Sa
- Sa-Re-Ga, Re-Ga-Ma, Ga-Ma-Pa, ... , Dha-Ni-Sa | Sa-Ni-Dha, Ni-Dha-Pa, ..., Ga-Re-Sa
- Sa-Re-Ga-Ma, Re-Ga-Ma-Pa, ..., Pa-Dha-Ni-Sa | Sa-Ni-Dha-Pa, ..., Ma-Ga-Re-Sa
- Sa-Re-Sa-Re-Ga, Re-Ga-Re-Ga-Ma, ...
- Sa-Ga, Re-Ma, Ga-Pa, ..., Pa-Ni, Dha-Sa | Sa-Dha, Ni-Pa, ..., Ma-Re, Ga-Sa
- Sa-Ga-Re-Sa, Re-Ma-Ga-Re, ...

#### RaagGyan:

A Raag is the basis of Indian classical music. A student should understand the concept of Raag at a high level and should be able to explain it in simple words. He/She should be able to sing Aaroh-Avroh and a Drut Bandish/ Chota Khayal (composition) in the following Raags:

Bhoop, Vrindavani Sarang, Kaafi, Yaman

The student should know a LakshanGeet (a composition that describes the Raag) and a Sargam composition (a composition that uses notes as lyrics and not words) in three of the above Raags. The student should be able to sing aforementioned Alankaars in the above Raags.

#### TaalGyan:

The student should be able to explain the Khand (Partitions), Sum, Khaali and recite the following Taals with their Bols:

Teental, Ektaal, Dadra

**Recommended Listening:** Listen to small pieces (Chota Khyal) of various artists in the Raags from the syllabus, also try to listen to some non-classical songs based on these Raags

#### Sample Question Set:

1. Please complete the following Alankar: Sa-Re-Ga-Ma, Re-Ga-Ma-Pa, ... in Swar and Aakar
2. Describe teental and recite it by showing Taali/Khaali using your hands
3. Sing the Aaroh Avroh of Raag Kaafi and Raag Bhoop
4. Please sing a lakshan geet of your choice
5. Please sing the aaroh avroh and a chota khayal (only the composition) in Raag Yaman in teentaal

### **Assessment Criteria:**

The student will be assessed on the accuracy of notes and sense of beat. It is also important that the student knows each Raag correctly and adheres to the rules of the Raag while presenting it.

## **Level 2**

### **Overview:**

Now that the student has a basic sense of notes and rhythm, in this level we will work on strengthening this sense even more. The student will now train to be able to sing more in Aakar which will help him/her internalize any Raag framework without explicitly singing the notes. The student learns more Raags and should be able to improvise a bit in the Raags (some Aalap-Sargam-Taana). The student should also know and be able to identify the predominant instruments associated with the music by their sound.

### **SwarGyan:**

In this level, we will make the Swar Alankars more complex. The student should be able to sing the following Swar Alankars in a medium and fast pace and also be able to predict the next piece of an Alankaar given the initial pattern:

- Sa-Re-Ga-Ma-Pa, Re-Ga-Ma-Pa-Dha, ...
- Sa-Re-Sa-Re-Ga, Re-Ga-Re-Ga-Ma, ...
- Sa-Re-Ga-Re-Ga-Sa-Re, Re-Ga-Ma-Ga-Ma-Re-Ga, ...
- Sa-Re-Ga-Ma-Ma-Ga-Re-Sa, Re-Ga-Ma-Pa-Pa-Ma-Ga-Re, Ga-Ma-Pa, ...
- Sa-Re-Sa-Ma-Ga-Re, Re-Ga-Re-Pa-Ma-Ga, ...

The student should also be able to sing these and previous Alankaars in Aakar and also in the Raags covered so far.

### **RaagGyan:**

The student should now train to present a Raag in greater detail. He/She should be able to sing Aaroh-Avroh, a brief Vistaar and a Drut Bandish/ Chota Khayal (composition) with a few Aalap-Sargam-Taana in the following Raags:

**Bhairav, Bhimpalasi, Khamaj, Bihag**

The student should know a LakshanGeet (a composition that describes the Raag) and a Sargam composition (a composition that uses notes as lyrics and not words) in the above Raags.

### **TaalGyan:**

The student should be able to explain the Khand (Partitions), Sum, Khaali and recite the following Taals with their Bols in a medium and fast pace:

Jhaptal, Rupak, Chautaal, Dhamaar

### **Miscellaneous:**

- Student should be able to identify the following instruments by their sound: Tanpura, Tabla and Dagma, Harmonium, Sarangi, Flute, Sitar
- Student should be able to identify the Raag in the syllabus by listening to a brief Vistaar in it
- Student should be able to directly sing any note in the octave.

**Recommended Listening:** Listen to small pieces (Chota Khyal) of various artists in the syllabus Raags, try to listen to instrumental pieces in the Raags too.

### **Sample Question Set:**

1. Please complete the following Alankar: Sa-Re-Ga-Ma-Ga-Re-Sa, Re-Ga-Ma-Pa-Ma-Ga-Re,..
2. Describe the Taal- Rupak and recite it by showing Taali/Khaali using your hands
3. Sing a brief Vistaar in Raag Bihag
4. Please sing a Sargam geet of your choice
5. Please sing chota khayal with some Aalap-Taana in Raag Bhimpalasi

### **Assessment Criteria:**

The student will be assessed on the accuracy of notes and sense of beat (A stronger sense than the previous level is expected here). It is also important that the student knows each Raag correctly and adheres to the rules of the Raag while presenting it. While singing Aalap-Taana in the Bandish, the student should be able to return to the Bandish on the correct beat.

## **Level 3**

**Knowledge of concepts from Levels 1 and 2 along with the following:**

### **RaagGyan:**

The student should be able to sing Aaroh-Avroh, a brief Vistaar and a Drut Bandish/Chota Khayal (composition) with a few Aalap-Sargam-Taana in the following Raags (at least 4 out of these 6):

Kedar, Durga, Baageshri, Asavari, Des, Jaunpuri

### **TaalGyan:**

The student should be able to explain the Khand (Partitions), Sum, Khaali and recite the following Taals with their Bols:

Matta, Tilwada, Ada choutaal

### **Sample Question Set:**

1. Sing the Aaroh-Avaroh of raag Baageshri or raag Des.
2. Describe the Taal Matta or Tilwada and recite it by showing Taali/Khaali using your hands.
3. Sing a brief Vistaar in Raag Kedar or Raag Bhairav.
4. Please sing a Sargam geet in a Raag of your choice.
5. Please sing chota khayal with some Aalap-Sargam-Taana in Raag Asavari or Raag Des.

## **Level 4**

### **Knowledge of concepts from Levels 1, 2 and 3 along with the following:**

#### **RaagGyan:**

The student should be able to sing a Vilambit khyal and Drut Bandish in the following Ragas for around 15 min. He/She should be able to improvise (sing Alaap-Taana-Sargam) in these Ragas:

Yaman, Bhoop, Bhimpalasi, Bihag

The student should also be able to sing Chota Khyal with improvisation in the following Ragas as well as all the Ragas of the previous levels:

#### **TaalGyan:**

The student should be able to explain the Khand (Partitions), Sum, Khaali and recite the Taals in all the previous levels and also be able to recite the Taals in double or triple speed of keeping beat.

### **Sample Question Set:**

1. Sing the vilambit khyal bandish of Raga Yaman or Raga Bihag (Specify the Taal of the bandish and sing the bandish directly without any vistaar)
2. Sing Vistaar of Raga Bhairav or Raga Kaafi.
3. Sing Drut Bandish in Raga Durga or Raga Asavari with a few Aalap-Sargam in Sthayi and Antara.
4. Sing Drut Bandish in Raga Bhimpalasi or Raga Baageshri and sing a few Taana in the Bandish
5. Sing a Tarana in a Raga of your choice and sing a few Taana in the tarana.
6. Recite Jhaptaal and Taal Tilwada in normal speed first and then in twice the speed.