ஜெய ஜெய சங்கர ஹர ஹர சங்கரா

Book 1

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SANGEETHAM
BY SRIMATHI LAXMI

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SRUTI SMRTI PURAANANAM
AALAYAM KARUNAALAYAM
NAMAMI BAGAVATPADAM
SANKARAM LOKA SANKARAM

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Sarali Varisai

Sarali Varisais are the most fundamental exercises practiced in Carnatic music.

The first set of exercises in Sangeetham is called Sarali Varisai, set in Mayamalavagowla (15th Melakartha Raagam). It is the most fundamental exercise practiced in Carnatic music.

Students will learn to sing all Sarali Varisais at different speeds in this progression.

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Sarali 1

s r g m | p d | n Ṡ ||

Ṡ n d p | m g | r s ||

Sarali 2

s r s r | s r | g m ||

s r g m | p d | n Ṡ ||

Ṡ n Ṡ n | Ṡ n | d p ||

Ṡ n d p | m g | r s ||

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Sarali 3

s r g s | r g | s r ||

s r g m | p d | n Ṡ ||

Ṡ n d Ṡ | n d | Ṡ n ||

Ṡ n d p | m g | r s ||

Sarali 4

s r g m | s r | g m ||

s r g m | p d | n Ṡ ||

Ṡ n d p | Ṡ n | d p ||

Ṡ n d p | m g | r s ||

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Sarali 5

s r g m | p . | s r ||

s r g m | p d | n Ṡ ||

Ṡ n d p | m . | Ṡ n ||

Ṡ n d p | m g | r s ||

Sarali 6

s r g m | p d | s r ||

s r g m | p d | n Ṡ ||

Ṡ n d p | m g | Ṡ n ||

Ṡ n d p | m g | r s ||

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Sarali 7

s r g m | p d | n . ||

s r g m | p d | n Ṡ ||

Ṡ n d p | m g | r . ||

Ṡ n d p | m g | r s ||

Sarali 8

s r g m | p m | g r ||

s r g m | p d | n Ṡ ||

Ṡ n d p | m p | d n ||

Ṡ n d p | m g | r s ||

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Sarali 9

s r g m | p m | d p ||

s r g m | p d | n Ṡ ||

Ṡ n d p | m p | g m ||

Ṡ n d p | m g | r s ||

Sarali 10

s r g m | p . | g m ||

p . . . | p . | . . ||

g m p d | n d | p m ||

g m p g | m g | r s ||

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Sarali 11

Ṡ . n d | n . | d p ||

d . p m | p . | p . ||

g m p d | n d | p m ||

g m p g | m g | r s ||

Sarali 12

Ṡ Ṡ n d | n n | d p ||

d d p m | p . | p . ||

g m p d | n d | p m ||

g m p g | m g | r s ||

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Sarali 13

s r g r | g . | g m ||
p m p . | d p | d . ||
m p d p | d n | d p ||
m p d p | m g | r s ||

Sarali 14

s r g m | p . | p . ||
d d p . | m m | p . ||
d n Ṡ . | Ṡ n | d p ||
Ṡ n d p | m g | r s ||

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Sarali Varisai in four speeds:

First speed - one note per unit

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
s	r	g	m	p	d	n	Ṡ

Second speed - two notes per unit

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
sr	gm	pd	nṠ	Ṡn	dp	mg	rs

Third speed - four notes per unit

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
srgm	pdnṠ	Ṡndp	mgrs	srgm	pdnṠ	Ṡndp	mgrs

Fourth speed - eight notes per unit

1	2	3	4
srgmpdnṠ	Ṡndpmgrs	srgmpdnṠ	Ṡndpmgrs

5	6	7	8
srgmpdnṠ	Ṡndpmgrs	srgmpdnṠ	Ṡndpmgrs

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Purandaradasa
Sangita Pitamaha

Purandaradasa (1484-1564) was born as Srinivasa Nayakain Purandaragherda (Maharashtra) to a wealthy merchant Varadappa.

He was well educated, skilled in Kannada, Sanskrit, and sacred music. His wife Saraswati bai was very religious.

He became a pawnbroker and was known as “navakoti narayana”. A very miserly man, he was uplifted when a Brahmin brought him Saraswati bai’s nose ring received by him in charity, but found to be still in her own possession.

Giving up his wealth and greed, he became a wandering minstrel singing and preaching religion and charity.

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Exploring widely across the Vijayanagara empire, praising God, teaching virtue and good conduct, he died in Hampi at the age of 80.

When he was 40, Vyasatirtha initiated him, naming him Purandaradasa.

He is known as Sangita Pitamaha - grandfather of music- and systemized music teaching in Mayamalavagoula raga, which we follow now.

He composed sarali, jantai varisai, alankara, geetas, ugabhogha, sooladi and keertanas.

Often using colloquial language, comments on daily life and familiar folktunes, he sang to the beat of a clapper and string drone, orally transmitting his songs which are known as “devarnamas”.

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Set to easy tunes and tempo, they preach devotion, morality, ethics, compassion etc.

There are many references to religious texts and stories of Gajendra Moksha, Prahlada etc. all in simple tunes with multiple charanams.

From his songs, we can see him as a normal human enjoying sight, sounds, foods, and experiences around him. For example, he has mentioned words like Payaram, Seed, Plant, Flower, Fruit, etc.

He is said to have composed 4,75,000 songs of which 1000 are available. The language is Kannada, while his signature (mudra) is Purandara Vitala.

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notes