



NAATYA RAAGA CONTESTS 2026

-Bay Area-

Contest Date: April 25th

Registration Deadline: April 17th

Carnatic Classical Categories (Vocal & Instrumental)

Category 1: Geetham / Nottuswaram

Maximum time limit: 4-5 minutes

Only one composition required for this category.

Category 2: Swarajathi / Jathiswaram

Maximum time limit: 5-8 minutes

Only one composition required for this category.

Category 3: Varnam / Pada Varnam

Maximum time limit: 6-10 minutes

Only one composition required for this category.

Category 4: Krithi (Without Manodharmam)

Composers: Thyagaraja, Muthuswami Dikshitar, Shyama Shastri, Swathi Tirunal, Oothukadu Venkata Kavi, Mysore Vasudevachar, Patnam Subramanya Iyer, Harikesanallur Muthiah Bhagavatar, Contemporary composers

Maximum time limit: 5-10 minutes

Only one composition required for this category.

Category 5: Dasa Sahitya Krithis

Composers: Annamacharya, Purandaradasa, Bhadrachala Ramadasa, and other Dasas

Only one composition required for this category.

Category 6: Tamil Composer Krithis

Composers: Arunachala Kavi, Marimutha Pillai, Muthuthandavar, Neelakanta Sivan, Papanasam Sivan, Ramaswamy Sivan, Koteeswara Iyer, Dandapani Desikar, and others
(Composer name must be mentioned)

Only one composition required for this category.

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Category 8: Thillana

Maximum time limit: 6-8 minutes

Only one composition required for this category.

Category 9: Group Krithis

Pancharatnam, Navavarnam (Oothukadu or Dikshitar), Navagraham, Panchalingam, Dikshitar Vibhakti Krithis, Swathi Tirunal Navarathri, Saptaratna

Prepare ONLY ONE song from the chosen group

Maximum time limit: 10-12 minutes

No Manodharmam

Only one composition required for this category.

Category 10: Devotional/Thukkada

Includes Ashtapadi, Abhang, Bhajan, Tiruppugazh, Devaram, Divya Prabandham, Patriotic songs

Maximum time limit: 5 minutes

Only one composition required for this category.

Category 11: Harikatha/Namasankeerthanam

Harikatha in any language. Topic of your choice.

Namasankeerthanam to adhere sampradaya bhajanai paddathi

Maximum time limit: 10-15 minutes

Carnatic Premier League (CPL) Title

Participants performing in the above FOUR (4) or more Carnatic Classical categories

(category 1 – category 11) will be eligible for the Carnatic Premier League Star (CPL) Title.

The CPL winner will be selected based on overall excellence across multiple categories

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Category 12: Concert Contest

Plan a 30 minutes concert with Krithi and Manodharmam (Advanced Level)

Includes Ragam, Niraval, and Swaram

Maximum time limit: 30 minutes

Accompaniments not mandatory

Winner will be provided with a concert opportunity in the USA or India. Conditions apply.

Category 13: Ragam Tanam Pallavi (RTP)

Maximum time limit: 30 minutes (all aspects included)

Winner will be provided with a concert opportunity in the USA or India.

Conditions apply.

Category 14: Be a Vaggyekara or a Tunesmith

Vaggyekara - Compose a varnam, krithi, thillana or any other musical form of your choice in a language chosen by you.

Tunesmith - Tune a composition of a well-known composer not limited to Purandaradasa, Jayadeva's Ashtapathi, Annamayya, Bharathiyar of your choice.

Adhere to the grammar and structure of the chosen musical form

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Percussion Categories

Category 14: Basic Rhythmic Exercises

Maximum time limit: 5 minutes

Only for sub junior, junior and sub senior age groups

Category 15: Thani Avarthanam in any of the talams: Adi, rupakam, misra chapu.

Khanda chapu, khanda jathi tripura talam

Maximum time limit: 8 -10 minutes

For all age groups

Category 16: Konakkol

Maximum time limit: 5 - 8 minutes

For all age groups

Percussion instruments: Mridangam, Khanjira, ghatam, morsing and thavil

Category 17: Art of accompanying – Concert level

Maximum time limit: 20 minutes

Participant accompanies a vocalist/instrumentalist for a varnam, krithi with niraval, swaram and a short thillana. No alapana. Bring your singer.

Carnatic Premier Percussion Star Title

Participants performing in all the 3 categories- thani avarthanam, konakkol and art of accompanying will be eligible for the Carnatic Premier Percussion Star Title. The winner will be selected based on overall excellence across multiple categories.

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Age Groups

- Sub Junior: 5–9 years
- Junior: 10 -12 years
- Sub Senior: 13–15years
- Senior: 16–20 years
- Super Senior: 21 years and above

Registration Process:

- This is an in person contest.
- Registration must be completed through the QR code before **April 17, 2026**:
- There is no limit to the number of categories a participant may register for or contest in
- A separate registration form must be submitted for EACH category
- Registration is confirmed only after completing the form and full payment
- All categories may be contested either as a SOLO, DUET or as a GROUP performance, as applicable.

Registration Fees:

- **Solo:** USD \$30 for the first category and USD \$25 for each additional category
- **Duet:** USD \$50 for the first category and USD \$40 for each additional category
- **Group:** USD \$25 per participant per category (minimum 3, maximum 10 participants per group). USD \$20 for each additional category per participant
- **Concert Contest, RTP, Art of Accompanying:** USD \$100 per category. If participating in two, USD \$150 in total
- **Category 14:** Be a Vaggyekara or a Tunesmith: USD \$50

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Payment Rules:

- Payment must be made via Zelle or PayPal to globalartstempleusa@gmail.com
- Fees once paid will NOT be refunded under any circumstances

Judging & Certification:

- All categories will be judged by renowned musicians and artists
- Vocal and instrumental categories will be judged separately
- The decision of the judges is FINAL and binding
- ALL participants will receive a participation certificate

Shaping Rural Futures Through Music
In support of OSAAT - One School At A Time
Providing Physical & Digital Infrastructure for rural schools across India

Event organized by Global Arts Temple USA

Event Conceptualized by K. N. Shashikiran

For music competition enquiries: 423-534-9724

For registration enquiries : globalartstempleusa@gmail.com

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