

Online boon for Carnatic music students - SYEDA FARIDA



The Home Page of the website GuruSwara.

Distance can no longer be an excuse for Carnatic music students searching for a guru to guide them in their progress. Giving a boost to music learning in the cyber age is the website GuruSwara - a first of its kind online Carnatic music solution for vocal excellence.

A joint initiative of Muzigle and Tanla Solutions, the website has already received rave reviews from students pursuing basic and advanced levels in Carnatic vocal music alike. Three months after its beta launch by Padma Vibhushan Dr. Mangalampalli Balamurali Krishna in September, the URL is now officially accessible to music students across the world.

Revision opportunity

G.V.N. Gautam, a Carnatic music student in Krishnanagar, is using the online music tutorial since a month. "Everyone wants to learn classical music but few are able to go to a guru. You have ample revision opportunity and you can choose from over 500 kritis," he says.

Apart from the exhaustive collection of 'kritis', the online tutorial also boasts of a galaxy of noted gurus on board. More than 35 gurus have sung for GuruSwara,

including Padmabhushan Nookala Chinna Satyanarayana, Padmabhushan Tiruchur Ramachandran, Charumathi Ramachandran, Hyderabad Brothers, Sri Malladi Suribabu, Dr. Pantula Rama, Dr.Saraswathi Vidyardhi, Nityasri Mahadevan, Sri Krishna Kumar, Sri Neyveli Santanagopalan, Dr.Vyzarsu Balasubrahmanyam and others. Students can send their assignments to the gurus who in turn will assess their progress based on various music parameters, a copy of which is also emailed to the parents.

Noted musicologist and composer Dr.Vyzarsu Balasubrahmanyam says “Students can go wrong while practising at home in the absence of a guru. Here, students are corrected and given proper guidance. Also, buying a metronome and tambura can be an expensive proposition. Instead, students can download the music software from this website.”

The target users are the Carnatic music learners and practitioners, says Anand Kuchibhotla, co-founder of GuruSwara.

Increasing demand

“The primary obstacle for music students is practice. There is also an increasing demand for music gurus to document individual student achievement. Having seen the limitations in learning Carnatic music, we wanted to make music learning made easy using latest technology. Hundreds of hours were spent by gurus, students and software engineers to create GuruSwara that stands to stringent standards of Carnatic music,” he says.

In the near future online facility to practice Hindustani, Western Classical and other genres of vocal music will also be introduced, says Mr. Kuchibhotla.

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<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-andhrapradesh/article2679853.ece>