



India Performing Arts Society of Central Ohio

1. Vision Statement

To be a best-in-class institution fostering an appreciation of music and allied art forms while facilitating the development of musical sensibilities to groom a generation of musicians and music-lovers. To that end, we will continuously strive to ensure that the educational experience for students as well as parents is exceptional. We aim to foster a love of music among all whom we encounter.

We welcome all families without exclusion and commit ourselves to respect each and everyone regardless of their age, gender, race, caste, economic status, marital status, faith, or their national origin.

We further commit ourselves to use planet resources wisely and respectfully, avoid waste and to actively take steps to reduce the harms we do to other life and to minimize the footprint we leave behind us. This environment is the only one we have. Let's do our best to keep it well and pass it along to those who come after us.

2. Curriculum

The curriculum will be designed as a student's educational journey of music, over six years:

- Years 1 & 2: Primary
- Years 3 & 4: Core
- Years 5 & 6: Advanced

The curriculum will be based on a traditional repertoire and musical styles with an emphasis on strong fundamentals coupled with application of those fundamentals to musical presentation in an aesthetic and creative manner.

Students will be encouraged to seek a deeper understanding of the "why" behind traditional practices of the art form. Theoretical aspects and technical nuances will be presented in an accessible and lucid manner with pertinent illustrations, anecdotes and insights.

Practical training will be provided through a blended learning model, which includes offline (pre-recorded), online (over the internet) and in-person (classroom) sessions. Assignments, evaluation and feedback, will be an integral part of encouraging original thinking and fostering creativity.

Both group classes and individual classes have benefits of their own, and will be planned as per the requirement of the students.

There will be a lot of emphasis on guided listening and development of listening with discernment. Students will be expected to listen to suggested content, and to attend concerts as per the listening guidance.

Developing keen listening skills is an important part of any musical journey. Students and parents are encouraged to attend all programs conducted by Dhvani, with a minimum attendance of six performances each season. Students and their families need to become Patrons or Benefactors of Dhvani.



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Participation in musical events and community initiatives planned around musical themes, will also be encouraged to foster music as a point of social connect and development.

Students will be encouraged to develop multi-lingual capabilities.

3. Group and individual classes and rates

The primary course module (Years 1 and 2) will mainly be taught through group sessions. The core course module (Years 3 and 4) will be taught in a group. The teacher at her discretion may add a few individual sessions based on the requirement. Advanced course modules will mainly be taught through individual lessons.

Learning in a group gives students a sense of inclusiveness and company. It helps them see music as an activity that like-minded and similar aged children enjoy doing. A good peer group creates an excellent ambience for children to learn and to enjoy the process. It incentivizes them to work on their music with a healthy group dynamic and better sense of accomplishment. On the technical front, learning in a group has several advantages. It helps students get out of self-consciousness as they see other children work their way through the same lessons. In addition, students watch others sing and develop the art of self-correction by learning from others' mistakes.

The course will be delivered through a judicious and carefully curated mix of:

- Lessons with Faculty
- Lessons with Adjunct Faculty/ Visiting Artistes (might also include cross-instrument lessons such as percussion lessons for vocal students.)
- Lessons with Teaching Assistants (typically senior disciples of the faculty)

Fee Structure:

Lessons with faculty, adjunct faculty and visiting artistes will be charged at:

- Group Sessions: \$25 per hour
- Individual Sessions: \$60 per hour

Lessons with teaching assistants:

- Group Sessions: \$15 per hour
- Individual Sessions: \$25 per hour

Please note that the first month's fees and annual Dhvani membership are to be paid prior to commencing with the first class. Subsequently, lesson fees will be due once a month by the first of the month and no later than the 7th.

Note:

- The lesson fees do not include the annual subscription for Dhvani events. Students and parents are strongly encouraged to attend all programs at Dhvani
- If any other artists (whose charges may differ from the above) are engaged for special training, prior information will be given to parents
- The fees might be revised from time to time
- There may be occasional additional expenses for such things as workshops or other learning opportunities that may arise or be organized for the benefit of the students.

4. Rules and Expectations:



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1. Students will have to adhere to the curriculum and content recommended by the faculty. They must not seek lessons outside of the school unless permitted by the faculty.
2. If the training of the student in any other genre of music is seen to be interfering with his lessons in the school (for instance, training in western music, which is predominantly based on steady notes, interfering with the ability to sing gamaka-s), then the student and parents will be made aware of the same, and would need to address the issue. If the issue is not handled, the faculty might recommend termination of lessons in the school, and recommend that the student focus on the other genre completely
3. The blended learning model will include a judicious mix of offline (pre-recorded), online (over the internet) and in-person (classroom) sessions. Students and parents cannot insist on any particular model of instruction, and it will be at the discretion of the faculty to judiciously mix all of them and deliver the best blended learning.
4. Classes may include segments such as - learning about instruments, theory, listening sessions, short student presentations etc. This will be in addition to the regular lessons
5. Performing artistes will be favored as faculty for the Dhvani school, in order to give students training in performance, concert planning, navigating the field of music etc. In keeping with this, parents must appreciate that the faculty might need to re-adjust their classes sometimes, to accommodate their concert schedules. Parents and students should try to be flexible with this, and appreciate that such accommodation is needed to ensure that their children learn from actively performing artistes.
6. Students must attend all Dhvani programs and a minimum of six programs is required. As developing a trained ear for music is a vital aspect to developing musical acumen, Dhvani classes will also include concert de-briefing sessions where students will learn to deconstruct and critically evaluate what was heard/witnessed in the previous concert.
7. The faculty of the school will assess and advise in a reasonable way, what's a good time for a student to perform, as well as what's the right platform for such a performance – based on the student's musical abilities and development. Students and their parents must not try to impose any specific performance time frames.
8. It is at the discretion of the faculty, whether or not to encourage specific requests to prepare the student for musical performances/ competitions. Extra coaching for such events will be charged extra.

A Special Note for Parents

- Parents need to ensure that their child maintains the prescribed practice schedule. A practice log is to be maintained on Google sheets and daily entries made in the same.
- Parents are urged not to correct students during practice sessions. If there are any concerns, they can be directly discussed with the teacher.
- Bring your children to classes and pick them up punctually. Parents are not allowed to sit in on classes.
- The fees for the month should be remitted by the 1st and no later than the 7th of every month
- Parents are encouraged to attend the music appreciation program conducted by Dhvani along with their children. A greater engagement with the art from the family ensures better involvement of children.
- Ensure that students follow what is expected of them in the rules given below
- Please speak with your children in an Indian language as much as possible and encourage them to speak back with you in your mother tongue.
- Make sure the children are enjoying music.

The following will be expected of the student:

- Be punctual and regular in attending classes and completing assignments
- Arrive to class 10-15 minutes in advance to warm up



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- Practice according to your assigned practice schedule and maintain a practice log
- Participate in guided listening and social/community musical events
- Bring all your music class related items such as recording equipment, music note book or binders, pencils, stainless steel water bottle
- Adhere to the dress code and come in Indian attire to classes
- Maintain a log book of music and dance programs you attend
- Speak for an hour every day in your family's language and work on your pronunciation
- The most important rule is to enjoy listening to music

Rescheduling classes

Dhvani recognizes that there may be occasions when a student is unable to make it to a class. Following are the rules for class rescheduling.

1. Except in emergencies, students must inform Dhvani about missing a class 24 hours in advance.
2. Dhvani would like to extend to its students, the opportunity to make-up for missed classes and cope with the lessons.
3. Students who miss a class can reserve a make-up session with the teacher. For this, Dhvani will earmark one regular time slot every week.
 - a. If students miss a class, they may reserve a spot on the make-up session schedule.
 - b. Make up sessions should be reserved 24 hours in advance.
 - c. Walk-in students will be accepted, but individual attention will not be guaranteed. Students with a reservation will be given preference.
 - d. All students reserving a slot for a particular make up session will be taught together.
 - e. If there are multiple students in a make-up session, the time of the make-up class will be divided amongst all the students.
 - f. When there are multiple students, each will be taught the newest lesson missed. Other students can listen.
 - g. There will be no additional fee for make-up sessions.
 - h. It is recommended that the students take the make-up sessions in the same week that they have missed a class, so that they will be on even footing with the rest of the class right from their next session
 - i. Missing multiple classes does not guarantee multiple make-up sessions. For example, if three consecutive classes are missed, the lessons will be made up in one make-up class
 - j. The teacher reserves the right to call the student for more than one make-up class if she feels that will be necessary/helpful for the student.

These rules are designed to ensure that all of us have an exceptional experience and to maximize the learning for every student. Your cooperation and observance of these will not only help us further that goal, it will also enable us all to put forth our best as much as we expect that of the students. Dhvani reserves the right to change, update, modify and improve these rules and other documents as necessary.