

Approaching Carnatic Music

Carnatic music is one of the most colourful, complete and evolved melodic systems of the world. With over 7.2 million melodic scales (ragas) and hundreds of rhythmic cycles (talas) to choose from, there is very little that a good Carnatic musician and composer cannot do, especially from a melodic perspective.

The roots of Carnatic music can be traced to Vedic times. Carnatic music has also drawn significantly from Tamil music, the latter, at least as ancient as its Aryan counterpart. Thus, today's Carnatic music symbolizes the essence of the two major cultures, viz., Vedic and Tamil, thereby encompassing the best of Indian culture as a whole.

Basic characteristics

- Carnatic music gives equal importance to melody, rhythm and lyrics.
- It places equal emphasis on composition and improvisation.
- It is a fine blend of science and art and can be appreciated at an intellectual and emotional level.