



DEPARTMENT OF PERFORMING ARTS

Progressive Education Society's
MODERN COLLEGE OF ARTS, SCIENCE AND COMMERCE
(AUTONOMOUS), SHIVAJINAGAR, PUNE - 5



in association with

LALIT KALA KENDRA, SAVITRIBAI PHULE PUNE UNIVERSITY

CERTIFICATE COURSE IN MUSIC APPRECIATION (ONLINE)

ABOUT THE COURSE

This course has been designed and certified by Lalit Kala Kendra, Savitribai Phule Pune University and is conducted by the Department of Performing Arts, Progressive Education Society's Modern College of Arts, Science and Commerce (Autonomous), Shivajinagar, Pune - 5. This unique course offers a special opportunity to uninitiated music lovers who have limited exposure to Indian/Western music, to familiarise themselves with the cultural contexts, fundamental concepts, terminologies, aesthetic perspectives as well as forms and ideas of performance. The course combines interactive sessions, demonstrations, guided listening, instruction and engaging course-work thereby leading to a more informed and nuanced understanding and appreciation of music. The course features lectures by practising musicians, musicologists and experts in related fields. It will provide participants with a digital library of Indian music resources, audio-visual resources, research papers, articles and documentaries. By the end of the course, participants will be equipped to appreciate the diversity and depth of Indian music and explore its many facets with confidence and enthusiasm.



SPECIAL FEATURES OF THE COURSE

- Online with access to recorded sessions
- Well-structured syllabus with a sustained and comfortable pace of learning
- Expert faculty consisting of eminent practicing musicians, musicologists, educators and researchers
- Guest lectures on interesting topics
- Exclusive interaction with a stalwart musician in the finale session. Artists who have joined us in the previous batches include **Vidushi Shubha Mudgal, Vidushi Sangeeta Shankar, Vidushi Aarti Ankalikar-Tikekar and Pt. Nayan Ghosh.**



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ELIGIBILITY

- Participants can be from any educational background and professional field
- Open for all above 18 years of age
- 12th pass

LANGUAGE

The sessions will be conducted primarily in English



CERTIFICATION

After successful completion of the course, submitting feedback form and passing of a MCQ/project-based examination, participants will receive joint Certificates from Savitribai Phule Pune University and Department of Performing Arts, Modern College of Arts, Science and Commerce, Shivajinagar, Pune - 5.



EXPERT FACULTY

Dr. Pushkar Lele
Dr. Keshavchaitanya Kunte
Dr. Srijan Deshpande
Kuldeep Barve
Saumitra Kshirsagar
Sushruti Vedavalli
Mohanish Jaju
Tushar Bhatiya

GUEST LECTURES

Ashwin Srinivasan
Dr. Koustav Kanti Ganguli
Samarth Nagarkar
Abhishek Borkar
Rupali Majumdar

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPANTS

- All sessions will be conducted on Zoom Pro. Participants attending through laptop or desktop need not use the Zoom app as they can attend the sessions through the web browser.
- Participants will need to have good quality audio system/ear/headphones/laptop speakers.



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COURSE CONTENTS IN BRIEF

- Nature, definition and scope of music
- World music cultures
- Properties of sound
- Musical material of *swar-laya* and its structural design
- Sextet of music categories in India – Primitive, Folk, Art, Devotional, Popular and Confluence
- Regional music systems in India
- Hindustani and Carnatic music systems
- Concepts of *laya-chhand-tala-theka* and *shabda-kavya-geet-bandish*
- Concepts of *Raag, Taal and Bandish* – nature, importance and types; Concepts of *avartan, mukhada and vistaar*
- Elaborative forms in Hindustani music within the Dhrupad, Khayal, Tappa and Thumri families
- Cultural associations: *raag-ras; raag-samay; raagmala* paintings
- Instruments of India and Indian instrumental music (melodic and rhythmic)
- Western Music - Basics of rhythm, melody and harmony in western music. Introduction and overview of the classical orchestra and musical forms such as Sonata, Concerto, Symphony etc.
- Introduction and overview of popular musical genres such as Jazz, Blues/Rock & Pop
- Popular music in India – *Ghazal, Bhavgeet, Rabindra Sangeet* and Film/Contemporary music
- Overview of important literature and writings on music
- Guest lectures on contemporary topics like Music Production, AI-ML and Music, Research in Music, Voice Science, Indian Music in America etc.

EVALUATION

There would be an open-book MCQ exam at the end of the course. Additionally writing a short dissertation on a chosen/assigned subject too might be an optional exercise. Participants who attempt the exam and submit the feedback form are eligible for receiving the Certificates.



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Duration: **3.5 months (July – Oct 2026)**

Sessions: **45 +**

Days: **Mon-Wed-Fri**

Timings: **7.30 to 9.30 PM IST**

Each session is recorded. Recordings will be available for **10 days** from the date of a session on Zoom and till the end of the course as a private YouTube video (on request).

Batch begins from: **15th July 2026**

Fees: 15, 000 INR (non-refundable)

Fees can be paid online by bank transfer/Gpay



ENQUIRY AND REGISTRATION

Dr. Pushkar Lele – Co-ordinator and Lead Faculty

M: +91-9881237591

Email: hodperformingarts@moderncollegepune.edu.in



dpamodern

Website: <https://moderncollegepune.edu.in>

Scan Code for Enrollment Form



Enrolment form

link: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfQtfdBRNoN1tnuyOfIs-7k4Wyx7GNmSagPqaFxExhLGyO52g/viewform?usp=header>





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FAQs

Q: I have been listening to classical music for years. Why do I need this course?

A: Knowing the basic principles and grammar of classical music gives you an insight into what to listen for in the music and what the musician is trying to do. It takes you closer to the music and the musician enhancing your appreciation manifold.

Q: What are the course materials provided?

A: Live sessions, limited time access to session recordings, PDFs, links and recommended reading are provided. A WhatsApp group is created (which remains active even after the completion of the course) with regular updates and resource material.



DISCLAIMER

Please note that this course is designed to enable understanding and appreciation of Indian music. This is not an actual music teaching course. It will not teach you how to sing or play any instruments. While we will cover various aspects of Indian music, including its cultural contexts, genres and aesthetic viewpoints, we will not provide practical training in music performance or composition. If you are interested in learning to sing or play an instrument, we recommend supplementing this course with practical music lessons, during or after the completion of the course.

Q: Are there any job prospects after gaining this Certificate in Music Appreciation?

A: This is an enrichment course and empowers participants with the basic tools needed to comprehend, understand and appreciate Indian music. It may not lead to any immediate job prospects.



Q: Is the course open to all?

A: Yes. This course is completely online, so anyone can join from anywhere around the world!





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TESTIMONIALS BY PAST PARTICIPANTS

This course gave me a good perspective on how music genre that one likes, could go hand-in-hand with one's personality. With this thought, now as a "music seeker" I can dive deeper into some genres (like dhrupad) that fit my personality, while still keeping an open "ear" to other genres.

The way Pushkar conducted majority of the sessions in this course, with very structured approach, clarity of thoughts and calmness, was really something that I can inculcate too. At times, when we students digressed, the politeness with which he used to bring us back to the topic at hand, was really commendable.

-Ameya Gokhale

I loved that there was very good balance of theory, listening and explanation. The selected audio pieces were well curated thus helping us get exposure to diversity of musical forms. The time allotment was good giving us immersive musical experience. Many teachers demonstrated the music through singing and playing which heightened our learning experience. The teachers were kind and patient in answering our doubts. The fellow students were very knowledgeable and sincere, leading to good intersections even if the course was in online mode.

I was initially apprehensive about whether I do have decent ear to be able to consume music in nuanced manner. But, the thorough exposure helped me begin my informed musical journey on that path and the course will serve as guide even after the duration of the course.

- Saili Palande Datar

For a novice to Hindusthani music like me, I found all aspects of it extremely valuable. This has totally changed the way I hear music now.

-Nisha Keeran



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TESTIMONIALS BY PAST PARTICIPANTS

Where to begin? The ENTIRE course was most useful and valuable. If I was unable to attend any class, I would really miss it!

-Rajesh Bhat

In the course, we had the freedom to fearlessly ask questions. Getting live answers to our questions and information from all the inspirational, knowledgeable teachers was one of the best things about this course.

-Ruchi Mathur

Structured, very well curated course at a good pace, regularly held and on schedule. Talented, knowledgeable experts patiently teaching the various aspects of music. Amazing fellow participants who enriched this course even more. It has opened up a whole new world of music for me.

-Dr. Anita Shah

The course was rich, diverse and aesthetically pleasing. The exposure to different kinds of music was particularly praiseworthy. Also, the bringing together of academicians, vocal and instrumental musicians made attending the course a privilege for the student.

-Sushmita Sridhar

The course touched on most of the facets of music, which helped broaden our overall understanding. By exploring different genres, historical contexts, instruments, and musical elements, the course provided a well-rounded perspective that deepened our appreciation and knowledge of music.

-Mahesh Paithankar



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The course definitely gave me more than what I had imagined and expected for. I really enjoyed this beginning of my journey towards becoming a better seeker!

-Dr. Sadhana Natu

I am so grateful to Pushkar sir and all the faculty for such an amazing course. The experience of what we have learnt is not something to be expressed but felt I honestly feel that the course has added a lot of depth and a new perspective for me to look at music. These three and a half months we all had something to look forward to! I eagerly used to come home from wherever I am before 7.30, finish dinner and settle for our wonderful session! I hope we all stay connected and share our melodious journeys.

-Janhavi Bhadke

A good teacher instructs, a great one inspires! And I feel truly inspired! Thanks @Pushkar Lele for guiding us down this path of discovery of 'music'! Your patience and thoughtful organization made these 3 1/2 months truly special. You helped us enjoy being a student again!!

-Ashwin Chikerur

Thank you for a deeply enriching music appreciation course. Your knowledge, passion, and the way you guided us through listening, understanding, and experiencing music made the journey truly memorable. The course has opened new ways of hearing and appreciating music, and I am grateful for the insights that you and the other instructors shared so generously. Thank you for a wonderful learning experience.

-Nupur Saxena



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TESTIMONIALS BY PAST PARTICIPANTS

The entire program was so well curated covering the length breadth and depth of almost every genre. Each session was so delightful, engaging, eye opening, educative and intense. Thank you so much. My heart is feeling full with gratitude and heavy with the feeling that these sessions are over @Pushkar Lele Truly indebted!

-Geeta Prakash

It has been a tremendous journey thanks to @Pushkar Lele's brilliant curation and execution of this lovely concept. The breadth and depth of knowledge, the variety of topics, the choice of the faculty, everything just top notch. Feeling sorry that it is over.

-Prasad Koparkar

This course introduced me not only to different facets of Indian art (classical) music but also to many other musical traditions and perspectives. What made it especially engaging was that Dr. Lele invited experts from various fields, each a master in their own domain, to share their knowledge and passion. The course was extensive, well curated and thoroughly enjoyable throughout. One of the most inspiring aspects was the diversity of the participant from all over the world, ranging in age from 25 to 95, which reminded me that there is truly no age limit to learning and appreciating music more deeply.

Believe me, once the course begins, you will be hooked. I found myself eagerly waiting for every session, learning something new each time, and constantly wanting to explore topics further on my own. So, whatever your reason for hesitating may be, set it aside and just enroll. You will love every bit of it!

-Sureeti Handa



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AN ARTICLE BY DR. PUSHKAR LELE ON MUSIC APPRECIATION
(TIMES OF INDIA, PUNE EDITION, 21ST JUNE 2026, WORLD MUSIC DAY)

Appreciation Connects One With A Profound Artistic Tradition

‘Curious about music? Listen intently till patterns emerge’

Pushkar Lele

Be it film songs, devotional, folk traditions, pop, jazz or classical, almost everyone enjoys music. Yet, as a Hindustani vocalist, I often hear people say, “I love classical music, but I don’t really understand it. I’m just a Kansen.”

The words are telling. While most people use the term casually, a few reflect upon its meaning. If Tansen symbolises the accomplished performer, Kansen represents the discerning listener. Becoming a Kansen is not a lesser achievement, it is a rewarding journey of musical discovery.



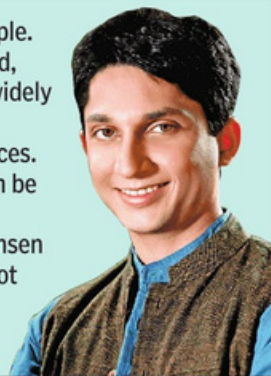
**WORLD
MUSIC DAY**

Classical music is among the most sophisticated and codified art forms. It has its own grammar, vocabulary and aesthetics. One must gradually learn its codes and conventions to fully appreciate it. The more one understands its nuances, the richer the listening experience.

At a film appreciation course, I realised that despite years of watching cinema, I had missed much—visual composition, editing, symbolism and the idea and the concept of mise-en-scène, where every element within a frame serves a purpose.

The course opened an en-

“The journey is simple. Ask questions, read, attend workshops, listen widely and, whenever possible, experience live performances. Learning music oneself can be equally transformative. Ultimately, becoming a Kansen means embracing music not to consume, but to experience



tirely new dimension of understanding. Music works in much the same way. New worlds reveal themselves when we recognise that there is always more to learn.

For most listeners, music begins as an emotional experience. Over time, curiosity often leads to deeper engagement.

Appreciation then becomes an active process of discovery. At the same time, responses to music remain deeply personal. A composition that profoundly moves one listener may leave another untouched. Emotional and even spiritual connections are as important as intellectual understanding.

Every meaningful engagement with music begins with awareness — becoming conscious of sounds, rhythms, instruments and the diversity of musical traditions around us. Exposure to different genres broadens our understanding of music as a cultural and artistic

phenomenon.

From awareness comes acquaintance. This requires attentive and open-minded listening. Classical music, in particular, asks listeners to suspend assumptions and spend time with an unfamiliar soundscape. Whether through concerts, festivals, baithaks or digital platforms, the key is to listen with intent rather than treat music as background sound. Gradually, patterns emerge, structures become recognisable, recurring ideas get noticed and curiosity deepens.

This thirst for knowledge often leads to exploring the grammar and philosophy of the tradition — ragas, talas, improvisation and aesthetic principles. Classical music then transforms from a mysterious experience into a meaningful conversation.

Yet the goal is not merely technical knowledge. True appreciation emerges when understanding becomes instinctive. Know-

ing the structure of a raga is valuable; experiencing its emotional resonance is something altogether different. At that stage, listeners develop independent and informed responses, no longer relying on others to tell them what to admire.

Music appreciation matters because the quality of music is closely linked to the quality of its listeners. While much effort goes into increasing audience numbers, far less attention is given to cultivating informed listeners. If artists do not actively demystify classical music, future listeners may lose sensitivity to its subtleties, and nuance may give way to spectacle.

Music appreciation is not about simplifying classical music. It is about building bridges that allow more people to engage meaningfully with a profound artistic tradition.

From hearing to listening, from listening to understanding, and from understanding to appreciation enrich not only our relationship with music but also our capacity for curiosity, reflection and wonder. In an age of instant consumption, becoming a Kansen may be one of the most meaningful ways to rediscover the art of listening.

(The writer is a Hindustani classical vocalist, scholar and researcher. He is the HoD of performing arts at Modern College of Arts, Science and Commerce, Pune)