

SRISHTI 2026

Carnatic Vocal Music Competition — Guidelines

Srishti 2026 is delighted to host a Carnatic Vocal Music Competition, giving young vocalists a wonderful opportunity to showcase their talent, celebrate their journey in Carnatic music, and be recognized in front of the community. We warmly invite students of all levels to take part and share their music with us.

Registration & Fees

Srishti 2026 features competitions across Carnatic Music, Dance, Instrumental, Painting, Writing, the NSF Bee, and more — a great chance for your child to explore multiple talents.

- **First competition:** \$50 for the first child, \$30 for each additional sibling's first competition.
- **Every additional competition:** just \$10 per child, for any additional competitions they'd like to enter.

Each first-competition registration includes:

- Competition entry
- 2 tickets covering both festival days — including the Grand LIVE Symphony Concert "Krishna: The Joy of Living" with The Heartland Symphony Orchestra, plus Ganapathyam, our Bharatanatyam production
- A complimentary gift

Example: 2 siblings, 1 competition each = \$50 + \$30 = \$80 total, including 3 festival tickets and both kids competing.

Step 1 — Register: fill out the registration form.

- Registration form: <https://forms.gle/gUYCVqX5GXaVLMGG6>

Step 2 — Payment: complete your payment.

- Payment link: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/pjdanceacademy/2331076>

Please complete both steps to secure your spot — registration is only confirmed once payment is received.

Eligibility Categories

- **Elementary** — Grades 1–5 / ages 6–10
- **Middle School** — Grades 6–8 / ages 11–13
- **High School** — Grades 9–12 / ages 14–18

Category is based on the participant's current grade/age as of the competition date.

Repertoire Requirements

- Each participant must prepare **one Carnatic keerthana** and submit a recorded video as their entry.
- Compositions may be in any language, any ragam, and any thalam — there is no fixed theme. The only requirement is that the piece be a traditional Carnatic composition (kriti/keerthana).
- Time limit: 7 minutes.
- No accompanists are permitted. Participants may use their own shruti box or a tanpura app; **shruti must be clearly audible in the background throughout the recording.**

Recording Rules

- The recording must be a **single, continuous video** — no cuts, edits, splicing, or overdubbing of the audio or video.
- Shruti must be clearly audible in the background throughout the recording, from a shruti box or a tanpura app.
- The participant must be clearly visible on camera for the full duration of the recording, filmed in adequate lighting with the face visible throughout.

- Each participant must perform independently, with no prompting or assistance from parents, teachers, or others during the recording.
- Background noise and interruptions should be minimized; the participant's voice should be the clearly dominant sound in the recording.
- Name the video file clearly with the participant's full name (e.g., FirstnameLastname.mp4).

Judging Criteria

Criteria	What Judges Will Look For
Shruti Suddham	Accuracy and steadiness of pitch throughout the performance.
Talam (Rhythm)	Ability to keep correct rhythm/tala and maintain a steady tempo throughout the recording.
Raga Suddham	How faithfully the performance stays true to the raga's correct swaras and character.
Complexity of Composition	Difficulty level of the keerthana selected, relative to the participant's category.
Bhava & Manodharma	Emotional expression and feel brought to the piece, including any sangatis or manodharma (improvisation).
Overall Presentation	Voice culture, clarity/diction of lyrics, and stage presence and confidence.

Prizes & Recognition

- The **top 3 performers in each category** will be awarded prizes at the Srishti event on Saturday, August 29, 2026.
- Prizes will be presented by **Dr. Kanniks Kannikeshwaran** — a wonderful opportunity for participants to be recognized on stage in front of the community.

Submission Instructions

- Email your video recording to **srishti.peoria@gmail.com** by **Thursday, August 21, 2026, 11:59 PM**.
- Name the video file clearly with the participant's full name.
- In the body of the email, include the participant's **full name**, the **name of the song** performed, their **category** (Elementary / Middle School / High School), and **how many years they have been learning Carnatic music**.
- If the video file is too large to email directly, share it via a cloud storage link (e.g., Google Drive) with access enabled, sent to the same email address.
- **Entries not received by the submission deadline will not be considered.**

Questions & Contacts

Music competition questions / rules

Aishwarya — 309-512-1313

Varsha — 309-361-9103

Festival registration questions

Prasanna Jeer

309-550-4832