



GRIFFIN COLLEGE LONDON

Art is hidden wisdom – Wisdom is hidden Art

CLASSICAL INDIAN PERCUSSION INSTRUMENTS GRADE EXAMINATIONS

Syllabus Framework for Practical & Theory

Mirudangam

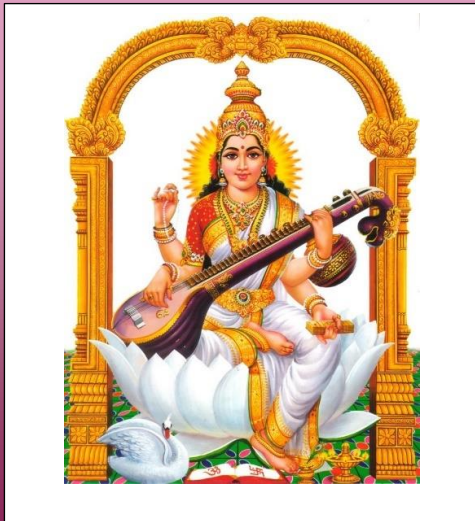
Kanjeera

Ghatam

Tabla

Thavil

Morsing





GRIFFIN COLLEGE LONDON

(International Examination Board)

Art is hidden wisdom – Wisdom is hidden Art

GRADE PROGRAMME IN CLASSICAL INDIAN PERCUSSION INSTRUMENTS

Grade programme in Classical Indian Percussion Instruments

(Syllabus Framework for Practical & Theory)

Number of Pages 19 Pages

Copyright / All rights reserved

Compiler / Written (©) Sri A.N.Somaskanda Sarma / Smt Padma Rahulan

Notice

The copyright of this book as well as matter contained herein including illustrations rests with “Griffin College London Examination Board” United Kingdom. No part of this publication can be reproduced or transmitted or sold in any form or by means and no person shall copy the name of the book, its title, design and matter in any form, and in any language totally or partially or in any distorted form without the prior permission of the publisher. Anybody doing so shall face legal action and will be responsible for damages.

Griffin College London Examination Board



GRIFFIN COLLEGE LONDON

(International Examination Board)

Art is hidden wisdom – Wisdom is hidden Art

Contents

Copy right Declaration	1
Contents	2
Welcome	3 - 4
Foreword	5
Certificate Course and GLH	6 - 8
Level 1 Grade 1 Classical Indian Percussion Instruments.....	9 - 11
Level 1 Grade 2 Classical Indian Percussion Instruments	12
Level 1 - Grade 3 Classical Indian Percussion Instruments	13 - 14
Level 2 Grade4 Classical Indian Percussion Instruments	15
Level 2 Grade 5 Classical Indian Percussion Instruments	16
Level 3 Grade 6 Classical Indian Percussion Instruments	17 - 18
Level 3 Grade 7 Classical Indian Percussion Instruments	19
Level 4 Grade 8 Classical Indian Percussion Instruments	20 - 21



GRIFFIN COLLEGE LONDON

(International Examination Board)

Art is hidden wisdom – Wisdom is hidden Art

Welcome

Griffin College London is a leading Exam board and independent education non-profit organisation has been providing assessments since 2010 with the vision to support Communities and encourage social cohesion in Academic, Language and Performing Arts Sector. Griffin has grown to become one of the leading institutions of its kind; widening participation to include anyone with a desire for education in Academics, Language and Performing Arts. Since becoming established in 2010 our experience, knowledge and skills have enabled us to build a reputation for reliably high standards in Academic Language and Performing Arts Sector.

Griffin College London is also leading UK based Higher Education College and Examination Board, by leading awarding body in UK.

Griffin College London qualifications are specifically designed to help students progress. Examiners are trained and tested every year to ensure they mark exam papers precisely and reliably. Before they mark any 'live' papers, examiners must pass 'standardisation' tests to ensure they can apply the mark scheme precisely, consistently.

Griffin College London offers Performing Arts examinations and qualifications for learners of all ages and abilities. These examinations are offered through the provision of syllabi in multiple genres and are taught by qualified teachers to enter candidates for examination. The syllabi are themselves developed by the Faculty Board Officer through 16 Faculties.

The administration of examination sessions from the point of receiving applications from the teacher / Centres through to booking the examiner, processing timetables, handling the processing of results and dispatching certificates and awards.

The constant monitoring of all examination processes to ensure standards of examinations are consistent. Ensuring all candidates are properly registered, checking and recording all examination results and monitoring all examiners' training and standards to ensure all candidates receive fair and equal assessment and all equal opportunities are met. It is also necessary for the organisation to ensure



GRIFFIN COLLEGE LONDON

(International Examination Board)

Art is hidden wisdom – Wisdom is hidden Art

it meets the standards required by the awarding body authorities to retain the accreditation and recognition of its qualifications.

The Organisation seeks to maintain and develop standards of teaching through provision of appropriate courses and training opportunities. Furthermore, the Organisation provides a range of events and activities to ensure that the learners, teachers and examiners are kept up-to-date with developments in Performing Arts Qualification

At Griffin we pride ourselves on offering a quality learning background. We aim to design assessments that have a positive impact on student learning, engagement and achievement. We encourage candidates to bring their own choices and interests into our exams – this motivates students and makes the assessment more relevant and enjoyable. Our flexible exams give candidates the opportunity to perform to their strengths and interest. Our qualifications are accessible to candidates of all ages and from all cultures. Our highly qualified and friendly examiners are trained to put candidates at their ease and provide maximum encouragement.



GRIFFIN COLLEGE LONDON

(International Examination Board)

Art is hidden wisdom – Wisdom is hidden Art

Foreword : Mrs Padma Rahulan MA (Hons)

Founder / Chair – Griffin College London

Griffin College London's vision is to provide entrée to all students intellectually demanding gratifying qualifications, which they can use to forward their academic studies and provide benchmarks to demonstrate their level of proficiency.

We recognise that students have different reasons for learning Fine Arts. We provide different pathways for Graded and Vocational training desire through:

Grade 1 to Master's Degree in the following Fine Arts Subjects

- Classical Indian Dance Bharatanatyam • Classical Indian Dance Kathak • Carnatic Vocal
- Carnatic Veena • Carnatic Violin • Carnatic Keyboard • Carnatic Guitar
- Carnatic Morsing, • Carnatic Flute • Carnatic Tabla • Carnatic Miruthangam
- Carnatic Kanjeera, • Carnatic Nadaswaram, • Carnatic Jalatharangam.
- Carnatic Thavil

Our team is a blend of exceptional talent and diverse cultures who take a creative and enthusiastic approach to the work that we do and we like seeing the same passion in all of our staff.

Griffin College London Fine Arts Qualification certificates for candidates provide the benchmark across the world.

We hope you enjoy using our material and taking our qualifications.



GRIFFIN COLLEGE LONDON

(International Examination Board)

Art is hidden wisdom – Wisdom is hidden Art

CERTIFICATE COURSE LEVELS AND GUIDED LEARNING HOURS

Griffin Foundation Graded Examination in Carnatic Percussion Instruments

Beginner Level

GRADE 1, 2, 3

Maximum Guided Learning hrs. 60

- Theory Exam
- Practical Demonstration
- Exercise

Griffin Foundation Graded Examination in Carnatic Percussion Instruments

Preliminary Level

GRADE 4 & 5

Maximum Guided Learning hrs. 75

- Theory Exam
- Practical Demonstration
- Exercise



GRIFFIN COLLEGE LONDON

(International Examination Board)

Art is hidden wisdom – Wisdom is hidden Art

Griffin Certificate in Graded Examination in Carnatic Percussion Instruments

Grade 6 Intermediate

Maximum Guided Learning hrs. 90

- Theory Exam
- Practical Demonstration
- Exercise

Griffin Certificate in Graded Examination in Carnatic Percussion Instruments

Grade 7 Intermediate

Maximum Guided Learning hrs. 90

- Theory Exam
- Practical Demonstration
- Presentation of File (containing record of musical notations, Candidates should research and to collect a selection of subsidiary material).



GRIFFIN COLLEGE LONDON

(International Examination Board)

Art is hidden wisdom – Wisdom is hidden Art

Griffin Certificate in Graded Examination in Carnatic Percussion Instruments

Grade 8

Advanced

Higher Level Guided Learning hrs. 120

- Theory Exam
- Practical Demonstration
- Presentation of File (containing record of musical notations, Candidates should research and to collect a selection of subsidiary material).



GRIFFIN COLLEGE LONDON

(International Examination Board)

Art is hidden wisdom – Wisdom is hidden Art

GRADE CERTIFICATE PROGRAMME IN

CARNATIC CLASSICAL INDIAN PERCUSSION INSTRUMENTS

(Syllabus Framework for Practical & Theory)

Carnatic Mirudangam Percussion, Carnatic Tabla Percussion, Carnatic Thavil Percussion, Carnatic Morsing, Carnatic Ghatam Percussion, Carnatic Kanjeera Percussion

GRADE I Level 1 – Beginner

- Candidates will be examined both in practical and theory orally
- All lessons to be played and orally demonstrated with thalam in 3 speeds.

Paper 1 - Technical Skills and Performance

- | | |
|----|--|
| 1. | Tha,; Thi,; Thom.; Nam,; lessons (8 Types) |
| 2. | Tha kida or Tha Thari lessons (3Types) |
| 3. | Tha kida thaka or tha thari kida lessons (3 types) |
| 4. | Thaka thari kida thaka or Thiku thaka thari kida |
| 5. | 8,12,16,24 akshara Farans (8 Types) |

Theory: Oral

- | | |
|----|--|
| 1. | Pancha (5) Jathi and their counts |
| 2. | Saptha (7) Thala, their names and counts |



GRIFFIN COLLEGE LONDON

(International Examination Board)

Art is hidden wisdom – Wisdom is hidden Art

GRADE CERTIFICATE PROGRAMME IN CARNATIC CLASSICAL INDIAN PERCUSSION INSTRUMENTS

(Syllabus Framework for Practical & Theory)

Carnatic Mirudangam Percussion, Carnatic Tabla Percussion, Carnatic Thavil Percussion, Carnatic Morsing, Carnatic Ghatam Percussion, Carnatic Kanjeera Percussion

GRADE 2 Level 1 – Beginner

- Candidates will be examined both in practical and theory orally
- Candidates should be learnt in Three Speeds with Thalam

Paper 1 - Technical Skills and Performance

1. 2,4 Avarthana Thalaangu, Thagajenu lesson (3 speeds)
2. 32, 72 Akshara Farans - 8 types (3 speeds)
3. Thani Aavarthanam(Solo play), in Aathi Thalam with long Mora for 5 minutes.

Paper 2 – Oral

1. Demonstrate Pancha Jathi Eka Thaala Alankara Jathis in 1st speed with Thalam.
2. Demonstrate the Saptha Thala with the Angams.
3. Demonstrate the “Thri angams” (Lagu drutam, Anudrutam)



GRIFFIN COLLEGE LONDON

(International Examination Board)

Art is hidden wisdom – Wisdom is hidden Art

GRADE CERTIFICATE PROGRAMME IN CARNATIC CLASSICAL INDIAN PERCUSSION INSTRUMENTS

(Syllabus Framework for Practical & Theory)

Carnatic Mirudangam Percussion, Carnatic Tabla Percussion, Carnatic Thavil Percussion, Carnatic Morsing, Carnatic Ghatam Percussion, Carnatic Kanjeera Percussion

GRADE 3 Level 1 – Beginner

- Candidates will be examined both in practical and theory orally
- Candidates should be learnt in Three Speeds with Thalam

Paper 1 - Technical Skills and Performance

- | | |
|----|--|
| 1. | 10, 20, 14, 28 Akshara Farans of 8 types in thrikala and very fast speeds. # |
| 2. | To play and demonstrate with Thalam, Thani Aavarthanam with long mora 'Thathinkinathom' in Roopaka Thalam. |

Paper 2 – Oral

- | |
|---|
| 1. Saptha Thala (7) table with Anka Aksharas. |
| 2. The formation of 35 Thalas and the chart with angas. |
| 3. Origin of Thalam (history) |
| 4. Brief knowledge of the following words. |
| Sangeetham(Music). Natham, Sruthi, Layam, Swaram, Swarasthaanam, Purattal (Farans), Aavarthanam |



GRIFFIN COLLEGE LONDON

(International Examination Board)

Art is hidden wisdom – Wisdom is hidden Art

GRADE CERTIFICATE PROGRAMME IN

CARNATIC CLASSICAL INDIAN PERCUSSION INSTRUMENTS

(Syllabus Framework for Practical & Theory)

Carnatic Mirudangam Percussion, Carnatic Tabla Percussion, Carnatic Thavil Percussion, Carnatic Morsing, Carnatic Ghatam Percussion, Carnatic Kanjeera Percussion

GRADE 4 Level 2 – Preliminary

Candidates will be examined both in practical and theory orally

In addition to Grade 1 -3 syllabus the following.

Paper 1 - Technical Skills and Performance

- | | |
|----|---|
| 1. | Thani avarthanam (solo) playing with long moras in Misra Chaapu and Kanda Chaapu Thala. |
| 2. | Able to play Pancha Jathi Thathinkinathom lines in Aathi, Roopaka, Misra Chaapu, Kanda Chaapu Thala (Sama Eduppu) |
| 3. | Demonstrate orally the lessons learnt in Aathi and Roopakam Thalam. |
| 4. | Demonstrate the 5 types of Chaapu Thalam. |

Paper 2 – Theory

- | | |
|----|-----------------------------------|
| 1. | Brief knowledge of the following: |
|----|-----------------------------------|

Jathi, Jathi, Gathi, Sarvalagu, Kalam, Margam, Kiriya, Nadai, Graham (Eduppu), 5 types of Chaapu Thalam.
--

- | | |
|----|-------------------------------------|
| 2. | Formation and details of 175 Thala. |
|----|-------------------------------------|

- | | |
|----|--|
| 3. | The Miruthangam (with diagrams) - its structure, parts and art of playing. |
|----|--|

- | | |
|----|--|
| 4. | Life history and contribution to art of Miruthanga artist Paalakaadu Mani Iyer |
|----|--|



GRIFFIN COLLEGE LONDON

(International Examination Board)

Art is hidden wisdom – Wisdom is hidden Art

GRADE CERTIFICATE PROGRAMME IN

CARNATIC CLASSICAL INDIAN PERCUSSION INSTRUMENTS

(Syllabus Framework for Practical & Theory)

Carnatic Mirudangam Percussion, Carnatic Tabla Percussion,
Carnatic Thavil Percussion, Carnatic Morsing, Carnatic Ghatam
Percussion, Carnatic Kanjeera Percussion

GRADE 5 Level 2 – Preliminary

- Candidates will be examined both in practical and theory orally
- In addition to Grade 1 -4 syllabus the following.

Paper 1 - Technical Skills and Performance

- | | |
|-----|---|
| 1. | Thani Aavarthanam and Panja (5) Jathi “Tha Thin Ki Num Thom” lines for the following Thalams. |
| a) | Aathi Thalam off ½ beat Eduppu. |
| b) | Aathi Thalam off 1 ½ beat Eduppu. |
| c). | Aathi Thalam, little finger, Sama Eduppu. |
| d) | Rupaka Thalam Athitha (before beat) Eduppu. |
| e) | Misra Chaapu Thalam off 4 counts (1 beat). |
| f) | Kanda Chaapu Thalam off 2 counts (½ beat) Eduppu |

Paper 2 – Theory

- | | |
|----|---|
| 1. | Knowledge of musical notation with examples (, ; / _ // etc.) |
| 2. | Knowledge of Graham (Eduppu) with examples. |
| 3. | Ability to write a Korvai with music notations for Thani Aavarthanams in Aathi or Chathusra Jathi Roopaka Thalam. |
| 4. | Brief knowledge of the six Angams (Shadangam) and their symbols. |
| 5. | Life history and contributions to art, of Thavil Maestro Alavetti Thadshanamoorthy |



GRIFFIN COLLEGE LONDON

(International Examination Board)

Art is hidden wisdom – Wisdom is hidden Art

GRADE CERTIFICATE PROGRAMME IN

CARNATIC CLASSICAL INDIAN PERCUSSION INSTRUMENTS

(Syllabus Framework for Practical & Theory)

Carnatic Mirudangam Percussion, Carnatic Tabla Percussion,
Carnatic Thavil Percussion, Carnatic Morsing, Carnatic Ghatam
Percussion, Carnatic Kanjeera Percussion

GRADE 6 Level 3 – Intermediate

- Candidates will be examined both in practical and theory orally
- Candidates should be learnt in Three Speeds with Thalam

Paper 1 - Technical Skills and Performance

1. Thani Aavarthanam and panja(5) Jathi “Tha Thin Ki Num Thom” lines with long mora for the following Thala.

i) Thisra Jathi Thirupuda Thalam

ii) Kanda Jathi Thirupuda Thalam

iii) Misra Jathi Thirupuda Thalam

OR

Sankeerna Jathi Thirupuda Thalam

iv) Adi Thalam (Chathusra Jathi Thirupuda Thalam) double beat $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{3}{4}$ places.

Paper 2 – Theory

1. To be able to write Thani Aavarthanam with notation for Aathi Roopaka, Misra Chaapu, Kanda Chaapu Thalams (Sama Eduppu).

2. Detailed knowledge of the divisions of Musical Instruments with diagrams (e.g. string, wind, percussion instruments etc.)

3. Life history and contribution to art, of the following Artistes.

i) Palani Subramaniampillai

ii) Inuvil K. Sangarasivam



GRIFFIN COLLEGE LONDON

(International Examination Board)

Art is hidden wisdom – Wisdom is hidden Art

GRADE CERTIFICATE PROGRAMME IN

CARNATIC CLASSICAL INDIAN PERCUSSION INSTRUMENTS

(Syllabus Framework for Practical & Theory)

Carnatic Mirudangam Percussion, Carnatic Tabla Percussion, Carnatic Thavil Percussion, Carnatic Morsing, Carnatic Ghatam Percussion, Carnatic Kanjeera Percussion

GRADE 7 Level 3 – Intermediate

- Candidates will be examined both in practical and theory orally
- In addition to Grades 1 – 6 syllabus, the following

Paper 1 - Technical Skills and Performance

1.	To be able to play for songs sung in Aathi, Rupakam, Kanda Chaapu, Mistra
	Chaapu Thala in different Eduppus. Also be able to play Thani
	Aavarthanam, Pancha Jathi Thathikinathom for those places. (Eduppu)
2.	To play and say orally for any Pallavi, thiri kalam in Athi Thaala or Kanda Jathi Thirupuda Thalam double beat.
3.	To play and say orally, Saptha Thaala Alankaara Jathi with thiri kalam and Thishram to a given Thalam.

Paper 2 – Theory

1.	To be able to write with notation the Saptha Thaala Alankaara Jathis in 3 speeds.
2.	Analyse the similarities and differences between instruments such as Miruthangam, Thavil, Tabla, Dolak etc. in detail.
3.	Knowledge of the sub percussion instruments that are used in Carnatic concerts – eg. Ganjira, Gadam, Dolak, Morsing etc.
	Brief knowledge of Pallavi (tradition, format, and different types)
4.	Life history and contribution to art of:
	i)Tanjore Narayanasamyappa ii)Puthukottai Thatchanamoorthypillai



GRIFFIN COLLEGE LONDON

(International Examination Board)

Art is hidden wisdom – Wisdom is hidden Art

GRADE CERTIFICATE PROGRAMME IN CARNATIC CLASSICAL INDIAN PERCUSSION INSTRUMENTS

(Syllabus Framework for Practical & Theory)

Carnatic Mirudangam Percussion, Carnatic Tabla Percussion, Carnatic Thavil Percussion, Carnatic Morsing, Carnatic Ghatam Percussion, Carnatic Kanjeera Percussion

GRADE 8 Advanced

- Candidates will be examined both in practical and theory orally
- Candidates should be learnt in Three Speeds with Thalam

Paper 1 - Technical Skills and Performance

1. Ability to play accompaniment, Theermaanam, Pancha Jathi Thathinkinathom Thani aavarthanam etc. for given places in song, by examiner. Also be able to demonstrate orally the above with Thalam.
2. To be able to play in Aathi Thalam (Chathusra Jathi Thiripuda Thalam), Pancha Gathi Thani Aavarthanam farans, long mora and finishing Thathinkinathom (15minutes).
3. To be able to play and demonstrate with thalam; Pallavi in Thrikaalam, Thisram etc. Also be able to play a Pallavi in three speeds given by Examiner.
4. Ability to accompany Varnam, Keerthanam, Niraval, Swaram, Thirupugal and folk songs.

Paper 2 – Theory

1. Detail knowledge of the 10 Thaala Dasa Praanam
2. Knowledge of percussion instruments that are used for Dance music, Vocal music, Instrumental music etc. and their uses.
3. Knowledge of the acoustics of Music, Halls, Sound, Light, Stage etc.
4. Modern inventions that help in music teaching. Audio tape, video, CD player, DVD, VCR etc.
5. Methods of preparing group programmes, Orchestra, Percussion orchestra etc.



GRIFFIN COLLEGE LONDON

(International Examination Board)

Art is hidden wisdom – Wisdom is hidden Art

6. Brief knowledge of 108 Thaala, 52 rare Thalams, Navasanthi thala, Pancha Thaala etc.

7. Knowledge of instruments used in temples (Mangala vaadyam)

8. Life history and contribution to art, of the following Artistes:

i) A Miruthanga artist who is famous in India today.

ii) Thavil vithuvan Innuvil N.R. Sinnarajah

iii) Miruthanga vidvan K.Kanapathiapillai (SriLanka)



GRIFFIN COLLEGE LONDON

(International Examination Board)

Art is hidden wisdom – Wisdom is hidden Art

Book References

1. Mirudanga Lessons - Mai Laddoosamy Iyer – Annamalai University
2. Aids to the Teaching of Music – Professor Sambamoorthy
3. Mirudanga Sanjeevi – M.N.Selladurai
4. Mirudanga Sangeetha Sastram – A.N.Somaskandasarma (Tamil)
5. Mirudangam (The Divine Instrument) – A.N.Somaskandasarma (English)
6. Layavadyas – Professor Sambamoorthy (English)