



Kalaloka

Institute of Fine Arts

GUIDE BOOK

Kalaloka Institute of Fine Arts

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www.ra-veculturalfoundation.org/kalaloka

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Kalaloka - the world of art, represented by a banyan tree that spreads its roots through its branches. Kalaloka will be our hub for all things Indian dance, music, theatre and all arts-related learning and activities. Be it classes, performances, workshops or just jamming sessions to bring artists together - it is all happening here at Kalaloka. Join us by registering for a class or attending a performance.

Learning is all about exposure and KIFA brings those opportunities to Bentonville to your child through these classes and many workshops. Children learn not only about Indian arts and culture but also about their identity in world arts and culture. The modern generation can explore all this learning with a fresh approach to these traditional art forms. These opportunities build character and enjoyment of one's own culture and those of others', strengthening ties of brotherhood and peace in the community that we live in.

We provide children and adults in the NorthWest Arkansas area an opportunity to learn music, dance, theatre and other fine arts related to Indian culture, in a sustained way with a solid foundation in knowledge and skill. We aim to provide:

- A consistent high quality experience in learning
- Levels that will help students attain progressive degrees of proficiency
- A well rounded education in Indian Fine Arts, both theoretical and practical appropriate to modern times
- Classes that are available for all age groups and skill levels
- Classes that are affordable and accessible to people from all backgrounds
- Classes that are available in-person and/or online with limited class sizes



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KIFA CLASSES (AGES 5 - 12 YEARS)

These classes are meant for younger children to develop a strong foundation in Indian arts - in both theory and practice. We bring a fresh approach to these traditional curricula by choosing the most essential themes and teaching them to children in a modern and engaging way. The curriculum is shaped to allow children the discipline to learn and the opportunity to practice and perform in the community.

The KIFA Calendar starts in August and ends in May with an annual showcase by both teachers and students. There are two sessions - Fall and Spring.

Classes are 30-45 minutes long, once a week with homework provided, appropriate to age and skill level. **Classes are designed for a minimum of 3 -6 students.** A parent conference will be held in the middle of the session and a test on the last class day. Report cards will be sent within a week of the final test with feedback on how to continue learning.

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- **Music - Carnatic Vocal**
Vijayashri Vittal
 - **Music - Hindustani Vocal**
Vijayashri Vittal
 - **Instrumental - Carnatic Violin**
Kartik Balachandran
 - **Instrumental - Tabla**
Shivprasad Kotagal
 - **Dance - Kathak**
Akanksha Srivastava
 - **Theatre - Indian Themes**
Trike Theatre

Classes are built session by session and year on year. The first year students start with 100-level courses, the second continue with 200-level courses and so on.

For a complete list of all classes and schedules, please visit our website:

www.raveculturalfoundation.org/kalaloka

If there is a class you are interested in that is not listed here, email us at info@ra-veculturalfoundation.org and we will add it to the wish list.

KIFA CLASSES (AGES 5 - 12 YEARS) CONTD.

Registration Process and Timetable

Registration will be open through the summer and ends August 7th. Students may register in multiple classes in the same session. A parent handbook and class schedule will be emailed to parents once registration is completed and payment has been received. All classes are in-person or online depending on availability of instructors. Older students may register for these classes but classes are designed for this age group. For older students, you may join these classes or check out our Viriiya program.

Fees:

Registration Fees: Charged annually at the beginning of the year

Individual - \$75

Family - \$125

Class Fees: Charged monthly at the beginning of each session

100-level classes: \$180/session (2 sessions/year)

200-level classes: \$270/session (2 sessions/year)

300-level classes: \$360/session (2 sessions/year)

400-level classes: \$450/session (2 sessions/year)

*All Fees to be paid at the beginning of every session

**All paid fees are non-refundable.

Fall Session:

Mid-August to Mid-December

Spring Session:

January to May

KIFA Classes will be closed for the following annual holidays:

Labor Day

Thanksgiving

Winter Break

New Year's Day

Spring Break (Bentonville School District)

Memorial Day

Independence Day

KIFA CLASSES (AGES 13 YEARS AND ABOVE)

Viriiya Drop-in Classes

Viriiya (meaning: "Energy") Classes are specially designed for teens and adults to start learning Indian dance, music or yoga at any age. It might seem impossible or silly to get involved in something when you are older, but you are never too old to learn! So step out of your comfort zone! Now is an opportunity for you to try out these classes and learn something new or get back to something you already knew. Enjoy these 45-minute drop-in classes that anyone can take in yoga, Indian dance and Indian music. The idea is to get introduced to these classes in small fun baby steps. No prerequisites or continuity required. You can join any or all classes. Classes run in the summer and winter, four months at a time. If you are interested in learning further, try Viriiya Level A.

Yoga Classes: Every class will start with Surya Namaskar and end with Pranayama in addition to learning a pose or two with all its modifications to suit one's ability.

Instructor - Nandhini Varadaraj

Dance Classes: A fun time for everyone to get together and learn Indian dance! You will learn basic warm up, Indian dance movements, and basic cool down.

Instructor - Megha P. Rao

Music Classes: Join others to learn the basics of Indian music in a simple and engaging way. Students will also understand other aspects of learning a song based on notes and rhythm.

Instructor - Vijayashri Vittal

***For class days and times visit our website
www.ra-veculturalfoundation.org/kalaloka***

Summer Session :

May 1st to August 31st

Winter Session:

November 1st to February 28th

Class time: 45 minutes per session weekly

Fees: \$10 per class

Book your spot and prepay for classes on our website.

***Days and times may change every session.**

Please check the website for the most up to date information.

****All Fees to be paid at the beginning of every session**

*****All paid fees are non-refundable.**

KIFA Classes will be closed for the following annual holidays:

Labor Day
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These classes were designed in 2021 thanks to a special grant received from CACHE (Creative Arkansas Community Hub and Exchange).

KIFA CLASSES (AGES 13 YEARS AND ABOVE) CONTD.

Viriiya Classes Level A

Classes in yoga, Bharatanatyam and Indian Vocal Music are conducted year-round along with the same calendar routine of KIFA classes for teens and adults. These classes are meant for new beginners or students who need to start from basics even if they may have learned in the past. **Commitment required.**

Try the Viriiya Drop-in Classes if you have never learned any kind of dance, music or yoga before. No other formal training required. Students will need to practice at least 1-2 hours per week other than class time. Home practice instructions will be provided.

Class Time:

Bharatanatyam - 45 minutes per session weekly

Instructor - Megha P. Rao

Indian Vocal Music - 45 minutes per session weekly

Instructor - Vijayashri Vittal

Yoga classes - two (2) 45 minute sessions weekly

Instructor - Nandhini Varadaraj

*For class days and times visit our website

www.ra-veculturalfoundation.org*

Fall Session -

Mid-August to Mid-December

Spring Session -

January to May

Registration Fee: \$75/student or \$125/family due annually

Fees: \$100/month to be paid at the beginning of each month

***Days and times may change every session.**

Please check the website for the most up to date information.

****All Fees to be paid at the beginning of every session**

*****All paid fees are non-refundable.**

KIFA Classes will be closed for the following annual holidays:

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RENT KIFA STUDIOS

This space is provided for use primarily for the arts. If you would like to use it for any other purpose, please mention it in the Interest Form online and we will be in touch. If you are flexible with dates and times, please let us know. Please note that if you are using only one studio then there may be some sound interference from the other studio.

The entire space has a total occupancy limit of 84 people. Please plan accordingly.

All prices are per hour and non-negotiable.

- Check the website for current prices
- Contracts favor arts related rentals
- The studios are not completely sound-proof. Please plan accordingly
- Studios are available for rent from 6am to 10pm unless you need it for 24 hours
- Contract is for a minimum of 3 months up to a year renewable thereafter
- Daytime hours for contract pricing is from 6am to 2pm and Evening hours from 2pm to 10pm and weekend hours
- Fill out the form online if you would like to book this space

Daytime (Contract) - \$16/HR

Evening and Weekends (Contract) - \$20/HR

Non-Contract - \$50/HR

Studio 1&2 are to the Left of building

Studio 3&4 are to the Right of building

The whole space* (very limited availability):

\$75 for 1 hour

5% discount for 6 hours

10% discount for 12 hours

FIRST YEAR SAMPLE SYLLABUS

(AGES 5 - 12)

Carnatic Vocal

VOC 101: Understanding the concept of Shruthi with examples and stories, Exercises in raga Shankarabharanam to understand swaras with the help of Piano, Singing long notes, Sarali varisai (1-4), Janta varisai (1,2), Theory -The father of CM, Numbers of CM, Songs - Come oh Bulky Stomach Ganapathi, Jagadhodharini

VOC 102: How to put talam - Adi, Rupaka, Kanda Chapu, Misra Chapu, Sankeerna Chapu, Sarali varisai (5-8), Janta varisai (5), Introduction to upper octave, Singing sarali varisai with Adi talam Theory - The Trinity of CM, Defining Melakarta ragas andjanya ragas, Songs - Varashiva balam, Santhatham pahimam

VOC 103: Singing Sarali varisai and janta varisai (until taught) with talam, Introduction to speeds, Understanding the 12 swarasthanams, Upper stayi (1-3), Dhatu varisai (1), Theory - some basic instruments of CM, Songs - Shakthi Sahitha, Shyamale Meenakshi, Preparing for student showcase.

Hindustani Vocal

VOH 101: Understanding the concept of Shruthi with Tanpura, Warmup exercises, Achal Swara, Shudh Swaras, Introducing Rag Yaman, Introduction to Saptak (Octaves) - Mandra Saptak, Madhya Saptak, Taar Saptak, Aroh and Avaroh of a rag, Pakad of yaman (signature phrases), , Singing long notes, Basic Taan patterns Bhajan: Govinda Madhava

VOH 102: Paltas - Set 1, 2 in different speeds, Chalan of Yaman (Complete picture of rag structure - rules and grammar of the rag), Combination of taan to form patterns, Identifying and creating taan in yaman rag, Singing taans around a particular note.

VOH 103: Complex swara patterns in yaman, exercises to develop voice range in Mandra, Madhya and Taar Saptak, Singing improvised chalan of Rag yaman Bhajan: Jaya Gange, Preparing for student showcase.

FIRST YEAR SAMPLE SYLLABUS CONTD.

(AGES 5 - 12)

Kathak

DAK 101: Introduction to Classical Kathak (Section I): Brief history and origin of Kathak; cultural importance of traditional costume and ghungaroo; introduction to Teen Taal theka in vilambit speed and basic theory of writing bols; footwork corresponding to Teen Taal theka; introduction to eight-step and five-step chakaars and four basic movements of Kathak.

DAK 102: Further instruction on laya and taal; further instruction on history of Kathak and history of movement; introduction to Teen taal footwork at vilambit and duggun speeds; distinction between nritta and nritya as well as the Navarasas; review of eight and five-step chakaars as well as introduction to three-step chakaars; instruction of basic tukras.

DAK 103: Introduction to verbal speaking of bols and counting using the tali; theoretical instruction of the various parts of the foot and their use in producing various footworks; instruction of Teen taal footwork at vilambit, duggun, and chogun speeds; deeper instruction on theory behind writing bols; instruction of more complex basic tukras.

Theatre

TTR 101: Students will use core theatrical principles such as play and world building to explore the beginnings of theatrical performance. We will explore using body, voice and imagination to create characters, as well as starting to understand analysis of story structure.

TTR 102: Students will build on the skills learned in 101 and continue to refine those skills. In addition, students will begin to look at dramatic analysis, and higher level character building exercises.

TTR 103* (1 hour classes): Students will use the skills learned in 101 and 102 to create a performance piece based on the stories from the earlier classes. Students will also be introduced to design concepts and prop and costume construction.

FIRST YEAR SAMPLE SYLLABUS CONTD.

(AGES 5 - 12)

Carnatic Violin

INV 101: Understanding the concept of Shruthi, Introduction to violin, tuning, bowing, sarali varisai (1-14) in Raga Mayamalavagowla, Geetham - Shree Gananatha.

INV 102: Jantai varisai (1-9), Geetham - Kunthagowra. Basic Introduction to theory of Carnatic Music - Tala system, How to put the basic talams - Adi, Rupaka, Kanda Chapu, Misra Chapu, Sankeerna Chapu, Introduction to upper octave, Theory - The Trinity of CM

INV 103: Introduction to speeds, Upper stayi (1-5), Dhatu varisai (1), Alankarams (3, 5,7), Geethams - Kereya Neeranu, Padhumanabha, Preparing for student showcase.

Tabla

INT 101: Introduction to Tabla, understanding the application, understanding the components of music - rhythm and melody. Introduction to terms - Sangeet, Naad, Taal, Swar, Matra, Bol. Playing Basic syllables on Tabla - Ta, Ge, Na, Tin, Tu, Tete, Ke, Dha, Dhin. Introduction to and reciting Teental, Dadra and Keherwa Taals. Introduction to Lehra, Reciting and Playing Taals along with Lehra.

INT 102 - Beginners Level 2

Introduction to syllables - Din, Katha. Introduction to the concept of Laya and the three basic Layas. Understanding concepts of Taali, Khali, Vibhag and Khand in notation. Introduction to Hand notation and how to recite Taals using hand notation. Introduction to Taal Rupak and Jhaptal, playing with Lehra. Introduction to the concept of Single/Double tempo. (and more).

INT 103 - Beginners Level 3

Introduction to the concept of Mohra, Mukhda, Kissm and Tukda. Playing Kissms in the five Taals - Teental, Dadra, Keherwa, Rupak and Jhaptal. Basic Mohras and using them in Taals. Introduction to phrase Tirakita and practice bols to master Tirakita. Introduction to Delhi Kaida in Teental using the phrase Tirakita along with Variations and Tihai.

FACULTY AT KIFA



Srividya Venkatasubramanya
Program & Curriculum Director

Srividya is a founding member and the President of Ra-Ve Cultural Foundation. Her exposure to Indian music and dance in her formative years helped shape a lifelong love and appreciation for the performing arts. She also brings a background in Curriculum and Instruction to her role at KIFA.



Vijayashri Vittal
*Carnatic & Hindustani Music
Instructor & Program Coordinator*

Born and raised in a family of musicians, Vijayashri Vittal started her musical training from her grandmother and her father. She has a strong foundation in both music and dance. We are excited to have her on board to coordinate all the classes and syllabi for KIFA.



Kartik Balachandran
*Carnatic Violin
Instructor & Program Coordinator*

Kartik has a diploma in Carnatic music from the Singapore Indian Fine Arts Society, and was awarded the title of Vadya Visharad in 1999. He has been teaching students across states and here in NWA. Kartik is currently an Assistant Professor at the University of Arkansas.

FACULTY AT KIFA CONTD.



Shivprasad Kotagal
Tabla Instructor

Shivprasad has been learning the tabla since his high-school years and then from Shri Madhukar Gurav, a renowned exponent of the Ajrada Gharana and the-then head of the Department of Instruments at the Baroda Music College. In 2000, he moved to the U.S. but continued pursuing his passion for the tabla by training under Pandit K. Prashant and his celebrated virtuoso father, Pandit K. Paramjyoti, disciple of Ustad Amir Hussain Khan of the Farukhabad Gharana.



Akanksha Shrivastava
Kathak Instructor

Akanksha loves Indian culture, she has Phd in Kathak and Masters in Indian Vocals. She is a Computer Science Engineer with Masters in Human Computer Interaction who works as Product Manager for Walmart. Her interest is in building bridge between people, technology and art. She is looking forward to giving back to the community by tutoring kathak for this session.



Kassie Misiewicz
Theatre Instructor

Kassie Misiewicz (Artistic Director & Founder of Trike Theatre) is a professional theatre for youth director and educator. Kassie earned her MFA in Theatre for Youth from Arizona State University and a BA in Theatre from University of Notre Dame.

SUPPORT THE MISSION AT RA-VE CULTURAL FOUNDATION

A non-profit organization is only as good as its supporters! Your sustaining support helps keep KIFA and other such programs in our community. Be it the Community Showcases that help students and adults get back on the stage or Master Concerts that bring a dollop of inspiration and mind-blowing entertainment to our corner of the world - it is all brought to you by Ra-Ve Cultural Foundation, to your community without the ticket to India! And don't forget the variety of classes and workshops for anyone and everyone to learn Indian Arts right here at Kalaloka Institute of Fine Arts.

Your membership shows your pride in support of Indian Arts in NWA and supports all our programming. It also gives you discounts on tickets and merch. It is a small way for us to show our gratitude to your large-hearted giving!

See you soon at our next event!

