

Chhandayan Certificate Course

Offered by

Chhandayan Center for Indian Music

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Chhandayan Certificate Course, offered by Chhandayan Center for Indian Music, is a unique program of Indian music and dance in North America. There is no other program outside India, which offers such a structured program of Indian music and dance, equivalent to the University and Conservatory standards.

Indian music and dance have been presented in the west for over half a century by some of the most extraordinary musicians and dancers, touring and resident. As a result the understanding and appreciation of this music and dance and the consequent interest in their serious pursuit have been growing exponentially. Observing such growth in interest and seriousness, and the increasing demand for a structured learning process, Chhandayan realized that it was time to respond by introducing a program that would properly satisfy the needs. Resources were ready, with competent faculty and an impeccable facility in the heart of New York City. And, Chhandayan store has been maintaining a steady supply of books, recorded music and instruments of very high quality for the past 28 years. So, we launched the program in the Fall of 2014, with increasing success.

The offered courses are methodically structured to cover all essential aspects of the subjects within a specific period of time. Every member of Chhandayan's faculty is highly qualified and competent to teach their respective courses. They have the knowledge and experience from several years of study, research and teaching in the area.

The program perfectly combines the ancient Indian system of learning under a Guru and its modern evolutionary approach. As much as it emphasizes on the direct interaction between the teacher and the student, it also incorporates the benefits of modern technology, which has so efficiently connected people from different parts of the world and expanded the scopes and possibilities in the pursuits.

In content and pedagogy the courses are equivalent to degree courses, built up in eight years. The three years in Level One cover pre-degree requirements, while the three years of Level Two are equivalent to Undergraduate level and the two years of Level Three are equivalent to the Graduate level.

In the choice of materials and teaching methodology openness and appreciativeness to all Gharans (schools/styles) is maintained. These comprehensive courses are designed to cover most of the essential areas in the study, to take a student from the beginner level up to the preliminary level of performance, as a soloist and accompanist. While covering the topics of history, theory and application, three parallel approaches are taken considering the maturity of the students in terms of age and progress.

The progress at each level, however, will depend on several common factors, such as aptitude, receptivity, retaining capacity, regularity, diligence and dedication. Physical and neurological structures also play a significant role. In musical excellence, talent is always the most essential element, a gift that cannot be acquired.

The classes and lessons are conducted in-person as well as through skype/google hang-out of similar online options. This extends the opportunity to benefit a larger number and wider range of students from different parts of the world.

Over three decades Chhandayan Center for Indian Music has been known for purity and authenticity. These courses epitomize that reputation. Since the Fall of 2014 the program has been gaining popularity amongst the enthusiasts, increasing the number of enrollment.