



20 Carnatic Songs for Beginner Kids

A Lyrics Companion Booklet

Pallavi, anupallavi and charanam lines, raga, tala and meaning for each song — to sing along with the full guide on the Music Pandit blog.

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A note on these lyrics: Carnatic compositions are traditionally learnt aurally from a teacher, and small wording variations exist across schools (sampradayas). The lines here cover the pallavi, anupallavi and opening charanam — the portion beginners typically learn first — with raga, tala and a short meaning for context. For complete charanams and precise notation, please follow along with your Music Pandit teacher.

1

Lambodara Lakumikara

Easy

Geetham · Sanskrit · Raga: Malahari · Tala: Rupakam · Purandara Dasa

SAHITYAM

Lambodara Lakumikara Alakapura Vihara

Bimbaphaladhara Bhavuka Nutakara

Amba Sutha Paradaivata Mahita

Naba Vidhrutakara Nagaja Kumara

MEANING

An opening prayer to Lord Ganesha — “O large-bellied one, giver of prosperity, dweller of Alakapuri, radiant and praised, beloved son of Amba” — traditionally the very first composition taught to Carnatic beginners.

2

Vatapi Ganapatim

Medium

Kriti · Sanskrit · Raga: Hamsadhwani · Tala: Adi · Muthuswami Dikshitar

PALLAVI

Vatapi Ganapatim Bhajeham

Vaaranaasyam Varapradam Shreem

ANUPALLAVI

Bhutaadi Samsevitā Charanam

Bhuta Bhautika Prapancha Bharanam

CHARANAM

Purakumbha Sambhava Munivara Prapoojitam

Bhaala Chandra Khandam

Bhaktapriya Hemapingalam

...Hamsadhwani Bhooshita Herambam

MEANING

“I worship Ganapati of Vatapi, the elephant-faced one who grants boons” — one of the most celebrated Ganesha kritis in the Carnatic repertoire, composed by Muthuswami Dikshitar.

3

Gajavadana Beduve

Easy

Devaranama · Kannada · Raga: Hamsadhwani · Tala: Adi · Purandara Dasa

PALLAVI

Gajavadana Beduve

Gauri Tanaya Nee

ANUPALLAVI

Trijagavandita Charana

Ganeshane Vighna Vinashaka He

MEANING

“O elephant-faced son of Gauri, I pray to you — worshipped across the three worlds, remover of obstacles” — a simple, rhythmic invocation to Ganesha, ideal for building tala awareness.

4

Guru Brahma

Easy

Shloka (complete) · Sanskrit · Raga: Revathi · Tala: — · Traditional Shloka

SHLOKA

Guru Brahma Gurur Vishnu

Gurur Devo Maheshwaraha

Guru Sakshat Parabrahma

Tasmai Shri Gurave Namaha

MEANING

“The Guru is Brahma, Vishnu and Maheshwara; the Guru is the Supreme Being itself — salutations to that Guru.” A verse of gratitude to one’s teacher, sung before lessons begin.

5

Rara Venu Gopabala

Medium

Swarajathi · Telugu · Raga: Bilahari · Tala: Adi · Traditional

PALLAVI

Rara Venu Gopabala

Rara Radhika Lola

ANUPALLAVI

Chirunavvula Jaanakidi

Sarasudavai Vachi

MEANING

A lively call inviting the young flute-playing Krishna (Venu Gopala) to come and play — sung to build speed control and voice flexibility.

6

Kannan Varugindra Neram

Easy

Kriti · Tamil · Raga: Nattakurinji · Tala: Chaturasra Eka · Oothukadu Venkata Kavi

PALLAVI

Kannan Varugindra Neram

Karaiyoram Kaatru Adangividum

ANUPALLAVI

Anna Vayal Ellam Thalai Vanangum

Annangal Paravai Ellam Vazhi Paarkum

MEANING

“As Krishna arrives by the riverbank, the breeze grows still, the paddy fields bow their heads, the birds watch the way” — nature itself responds to his presence, in one of Oothukadu Venkata Kavi's most tender Krishna compositions.

7

Bho Shambho

Easy

Kriti · Sanskrit · Raga: Revathi · Tala: Adi · Sadashiva Brahmendra

PALLAVI

Bho Shambho Shiva Shambho

Swayambho

Gangadhara Shankara

Karunakara Shambho

CHARANAM

Aadi Anaadi

Bhaktavatsala Shambho

Aanandaamrita

Varshana Shambho

MEANING

A meditative call to Lord Shiva — “O Shambho, self-born one, bearer of the Ganga, compassionate Shankara, one who showers the nectar of bliss” — prized for its calm, steady melody.

8

Nagumomu

Medium

Kriti · Telugu · Raga: Abheri · Tala: Adi · Tyagaraja

PALLAVI

Nagumomu Ganaleni Naa Jaali Telisi

Nanu Brovara Ra Raghuvara Nee

ANUPALLAVI

Nagaraja Dhara Needu Parivaarulella

Naa Madi Delisi Naanu Brochutaku Egaresi Matladaru Ganaka

MEANING

“Without seeing your smiling face, and knowing my sorrow, come and protect me, O Raghuvara” — Tyagaraja’s deeply emotional appeal to Lord Rama, wondering why even Rama’s own attendants have not spoken up for him.

9

Krishna Nee Begane Baaro

Medium

Devaranama · Kannada · Raga: Yamunakalyani · Tala: Misra Chapu · Vyasatirtha

PALLAVI

Krishna Nee Begane Baaro

Begane Baaro Mukhavanne Toro

Krishna Nee Begane Baaro

ANUPALLAVI

Kalalandige Gejje Neelada Bavuli

Neelavarnane Natyavanaaduta Baaro

CHARANAM

Udiyalli Udigejje Beralalli Ungura

Koralalli Haakida Vijayantiya Maale

MEANING

"Krishna, come quickly — come, let me see your face" — a joyful call to the child Krishna, describing his anklets, flute and the Vijayanti garland around his neck.



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10

Jo Achyutananda

Easy

Lullaby (Jola Pata) · Telugu · Raga: Kapi · Tala: — · Annamacharya

PALLAVI

Jo Achyutananda

Jo Jo Mukunda

Laali Govinda

Jo Jo Ananda

CHARANAM

Kanti Needra Choodagane

Kanakambujaakshude

Manniki Melu Kalige

Mari Jo Jo Ananda

MEANING

A gentle cradle-song (lullaby) for the infant Krishna, composed by the saint-poet Annamacharya — soft, slow, and easy on young voices.

11

Alaipayuthey Kanna

Medium

Kriti · Tamil · Raga: Kanada · Tala: Adi · Oothukadu Venkata Kavi

PALLAVI

Alaipayuthey Kanna

En Manam Alaipayuthey

Un Aananda Mohana Venu Gaanamadhil

ANUPALLAVI

Nilaipeyaraadhu Silaipolavae Nindru

Neramaavadhu Ariyaamale

MEANING

"My heart is restless (tossing like a wave), O Krishna, at the enchanting sound of your flute — I stand still like a statue, losing all track of time" — a lyrical outpouring of longing, popular for its flowing melody.

12

He Jagajanani

Medium

Kriti · Sanskrit · Raga: Ratipatipriya · Tala: Adi · Traditional

PALLAVI

He Jagajanani Pahi Maam

Bhavaani Dayaani...

MEANING

"O Mother of the universe, protect me, O compassionate Bhavani" — an invocation to the Divine Mother. Lyric wording for the charanams varies by teacher lineage — please confirm the full text with your Music Pandit instructor.

13

Sharanu Siddhi Vinayaka

Easy

Devaranama · Kannada · Raga: Nattai · Tala: Triputa · Purandara Dasa

PALLAVI

Sharanu Siddhi Vinayaka

Sharanu Siddhi Vinayaka

ANUPALLAVI

Karuna Sagara Ninna

Charana Kamalava Nambide

MEANING

"I take refuge in you, Siddhi Vinayaka — ocean of compassion, I hold on to your lotus feet" — an energetic Ganesha song that's excellent for practising tala and diction together. Note: some notations list the raga as Sowrashtram rather than Nattai — worth a quick check with your teacher.

14

Bhagyada Lakshmi Baramma

Easy

Devaranama · Kannada · Raga: Madhyamavati · Tala: Adi · Purandara Dasa

PALLAVI

Bhagyada Lakshmi Baramma

Nammamma Nee Sowbhagyada

Lakshmi Baramma

ANUPALLAVI

Hejjeya Mele Hejjeyanikkuta

Gejje Kaalgala Dhvaniya Maaduta

Sajjana Sadhu Pujeya Velege

Majjigeyolagina Bennee Yante

CHARANAM

Kanaka Vrushtiya Kareyuta Bare

Mana Kamanaya Siddhiya Thore

Dinakara Koti Tejadi Holeva

Janakarayana Kumari Bega

MEANING

“Come, Goddess Lakshmi of fortune, come to our home, walking step by step with your anklets ringing”
— one of Purandara Dasa’s most widely sung compositions, gentle and melodious.

15

Pibare Rama Rasam

Medium

Kriti · Sanskrit · Raga: Ahir Bhairav · Tala: Adi · Sadashiva Brahendra

PALLAVI

Pibare Rama Rasam

Rasane Pibare Rama Rasam

CHARANAM

Rasanaa Sadaa Sukhadam

Bhava Roga Vinaashanam

MEANING

“Drink, O tongue, the ever-blissful nectar that is the name of Rama, destroyer of the ailments of worldly life” — a serene composition ideal for practising breath control.

16

Maithreem Bhajata

Medium

Composition · Sanskrit · Raga: Yamunakalyani → Kapi (Ragamalika) · Tala: Adi · Lyrics: Kalki Krishnamurthy

VERSE 1 — YAMUNAKALYANI

Maithreem Bhajata Akhila Hrit Jetreem

Aatmavat Eva Paraan Api Pashyata

Yuddham Tyajata Spardhaam Tyajata

Tyajata Pareshu Akramam Aakramanam

VERSE 2 — KAPI

Jananee Prithivee Kaamadughaastey

Janako Devah Sakala Dayaalu

Daamyata Datta Dayadhvam Janataaha

Sreyo Bhooyaat Sakala Jananaam

MEANING

“Cultivate friendship — the conqueror of all hearts — and see others as you see yourself; give up conflict and rivalry” — a message of peace, famously performed by M.S. Subbulakshmi at the United Nations in 1966.

17

Ksheerabdi Kannike

Difficult

Lullaby (Devaranama) · Kannada · Raga: Ragamalika · Tala: Adi · Vyasatirtha

PALLAVI

Ksheerabdi Kannikege

Sringaravaa Maadiro...

MEANING

A lullaby for Goddess Lakshmi, "daughter of the milky ocean" — sung across several ragas, which makes it a rewarding challenge for growing singers. Ask your teacher for the full ragamalika sequence and charanams.

18

Kurai Ondrum Illai

Difficult

Composition · Tamil · Raga: Ragamalika · Tala: Adi · Lyrics: C. Rajagopalachari (Rajaji)

PALLAVI

Kurai Onrum Illai Marai Moorthy Kanna

Unnai Naan Adaindha Pin Kurai Onrum Illai

CHARANAM

Kanna Vaa Ennumbodhu Kanavilum Varuvaai

Kangal Moodinaalum Kaanbadhu Nee Allavo

MEANING

"I have no complaints, O Krishna, since I surrendered to you — you come even in my dreams when I call, and it is you I see even with my eyes closed" — a heartfelt surrender written by statesman C. Rajagopalachari, sung across multiple ragas.

19

Muddugare Yashoda

Medium

Kriti · Telugu · Raga: Kuriñji · Tala: Adi · Annamacharya

PALLAVI

Muddugare Yashoda

Muvvagopaludu...

MEANING

"The endearing child of Yashoda, Krishna of the tinkling anklets..." — a charming portrait of baby Krishna at play. Ask your teacher for the full charanam text used in your lineage.

20

Venkatachala Nilayam

Easy to Medium

Devaranama · Sanskrit · Raga: Sindhubhairavi · Tala: Adi · Purandara Dasa

PALLAVI

Venkatachala Nilayam

Vaikunthapura Vaasam

Venkataramana Govinda

CHARANAM

Shankha Chakra Gadaa Paani

Shashaanka Vadanam Shreesham

MEANING

"The one who resides on the Venkatachala hill, dweller of Vaikuntha, bearer of the conch and discus" — a devotional salutation to Lord Venkateswara, calm and melodic.

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