



# Kalkeri Sangeet Vidyalaya

*A school with a difference*





# INTRODUCTION

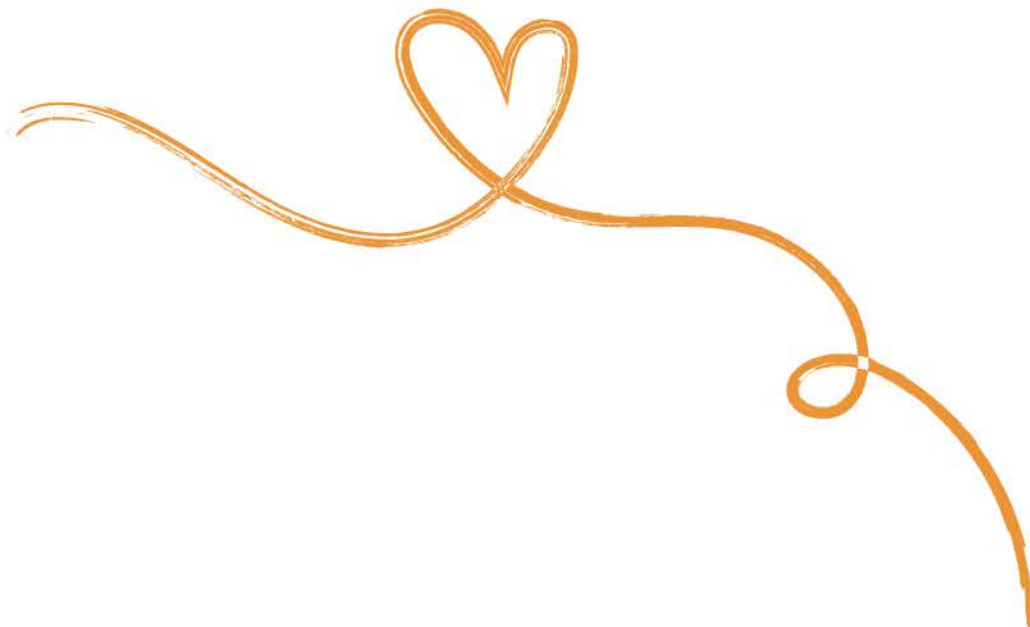
Kalkeri Sangeet Vidyalaya (KSV) provides free education in academics and performing arts to socioeconomically disadvantaged children.

In addition to schooling, KSV also provides food, accommodation and healthcare. More than just a school, KSV is a living embodiment of the ideal where students can thrive and aspire.

KSV takes a balanced approach - traditional and modern. The Indian classical arts instil tradition, while the modern academic program is student-centred, allowing each child to learn at their own pace.

Founded in November 2002, KSV is located in a peaceful valley near Dharwad. Established on three acres near Kalkeri Village, the school consists of permanent and temporary eco-friendly buildings with an emphasis on sustainability. In this serene setting, children can focus on their studies, music and cultural activities undisturbed.

KSV provides the tranquillity required for academic excellence, artistic practice and all-round development.



# VISION

It is the fundamental right of all children to have access to education, adequate food, healthcare services and to participate in their community's cultural life.

Empowering disadvantaged children gives them the opportunity to obtain academic qualifications as well as develop their musical talents.

Through their achievements at Kalkeri Sangeet Vidyalaya (Kalkeri Music School) KSV, the students will be in a position to attain more meaningful livelihoods, this breaking the cycle of persistent poverty and creating a better future for themselves, their families, and their communities.

Through their music, the students proudly contribute towards the conservation and diffusion of India's vast musical heritage.



# MISSION

KSV empowers, supports, and encourages children from socially marginalized and economically disadvantaged backgrounds to realize their full potential and attain a better life.

This is done through an intensive and comprehensive educational program and through the performing arts which are undertaken in a peaceful rural residential setting.

In such an atmosphere, the children learn many social skills and receive a nutritious diet and adequate healthcare services. Care, love, and compassion are fundamental elements of the whole process.

In this peaceful setting, the children enjoy the tranquillity necessary for their academic studies, music practice, and many other cultural activities.





# OUR VALUES



## INTEGRITY

Integrity is the foundation upon which we build all of our relationships, and refers to our commitment to honesty and ethical behaviour in all our actions.



## ACHIEVEMENT

Achievement means setting ambitious goals, working diligently to attain them, learning from both successes and failures and persistently trying to become our best selves.



## COMPASSION

Compassion inspires empathy, mutual care, and understanding of others' perspectives, driving us to look beyond ourselves and support of one another's wellbeing.



## EQUITY

Equity ensures that everyone is treated fairly and with respect, regardless of their background or circumstances, and speaks to our belief in fairness and justice for all.



## COOPERATION

Cooperation allows us to combine our talents and efforts, overcoming challenges and accomplishing more together than any one of us could alone.

# HISTORY

Kalkeri Sangeet Vidyalaya's humble beginnings trace back to October 2001, when a group of passionate individuals embarked on a mission to harness the transformative power of Hindustani Classical music and the performing arts for positive social change.

This group, comprising Mathieu Fortier, a Canadian citizen immersed in the study of Hindustani classical music, his wife Agathe Fortier, a graduate in Fine Arts, Ustad Hameed Khan, a virtuoso sitarist and then the principal of the Music Department at the Karnataka College in Dharwad, and Mathieu's brother, Blaise Fortier, laid the foundation of the institution. Initially conceived as an informal music school, KSV set out to provide musical education to forty children hailing from underprivileged backgrounds. The school's vision resonated deeply with the community, and its remarkable success soon paved the way for its transformation into a residential institution.

This expansion granted students the invaluable opportunity to immerse themselves fully in their academic and musical pursuits, fostering an environment that nurtured their growth and development.

As the years rolled by, KSV expanded its offerings beyond the realm of music, embracing dance and drama to provide its students with a





broader platform for self-expression and exploration of their talents. Today, KSV stands as a beacon of hope, supporting a thriving community of 220 students comprising children, teenagers and young adults. This flourishing institution is now entrusted to the care of a dedicated team of over 70 staff members, including teachers, administrators, hostel wardens, cooks, and maintenance workers.

Together, they form a vibrant ecosystem that fosters holistic growth and empowers students to shape their own destinies. The impact of KSV extends far beyond the confines of its campus. Many of its alumni have achieved remarkable success, not only in the realm of music but also in diverse fields.

The education and opportunities provided by the institution have opened doors to meaningful employment and enriched lives, embodying the school's fundamental vision of breaking barriers and providing underprivileged students with avenues for personal and professional growth.

KSV's transformative power, fuelled by the harmonious marriage of music and the performing arts, continues to inspire hope and drive positive change in the lives of its students and the wider community it serves.





# THE STUDENTS

Kalkeri Sangeet Vidyalaya provides education to students from underprivileged communities in North Karnataka. Admissions to the school are restricted to children from families facing socio-economic challenges, who are often marginalized and face limited access to educational opportunities.

The KSV students come from a diverse range of backgrounds, with 30% belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, communities that have been recognized by the government as historically, socially, and economically disadvantaged.

70% come from Other-Backward-Castes families that have been classified as below the poverty line. Additionally, 25% of the students come from single-parent families, and 5% are orphans.

The families of these students have also faced their own set of challenges. 15% of the parents are illiterate and did not attend school, while 40% of the parents did not complete primary school. 70% of the students are first-generation learners, highlighting the need for educational interventions for these families. Unfortunately, none of the parents have attended university, which is a reflection of the widespread educational disadvantages in these communities.

KSV is committed to providing quality education and improving the future prospects of its students, who come from some of the most marginalized and disadvantaged communities in North Karnataka. The school is dedicated to breaking the cycle of poverty through education and empowering its students to reach their full potential.



# THE STAFF

The team of dedicated individuals at KSV exemplifies the true essence of educational excellence and unwavering commitment. Their collective passion for nurturing young minds goes beyond the traditional role of educators, as they wholeheartedly embrace their roles as mentors and guides. These enthusiastic professionals understand that a positive and motivating learning environment is essential for the holistic development of their students.

Comprising experts from various departments, including Academics, Performing Arts, Student Welfare, Administration, Kitchen, and Maintenance, the KSV staff forms a dynamic and cohesive unit. Each member plays a vital role in ensuring the smooth and efficient operation of the institution, contributing their unique skills and expertise to create a well-rounded educational experience.

With an unwavering commitment to excellence and a deep passion for education, the KSV staff continually strives to provide the best possible experience for their students.

They understand that education is a lifelong journey and are dedicated to the growth and success of every individual under their care. Through their collective efforts, they have established KSV as a renowned institution, known for its commitment to quality education and holistic development.

Constantly evolving and adapting to meet the changing needs of their students, the staff at KSV is at the forefront of educational innovation, preparing students to thrive in a dynamic and ever-changing world.

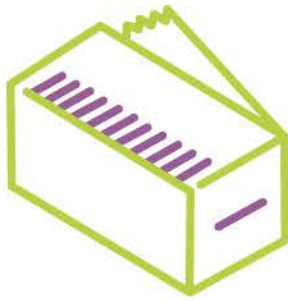


# SERVICES OFFERED

Kalkeri Sangeet Vidyalaya (KSV) teaches children from 1st to 10th standard and then continues to support students in their higher education both financially and through mentorship. It is a residential school, so the students are on campus seven days a week for ten months of the year.

The school offers a dual curriculum of academic studies alongside the performing arts. This includes Hindustani classical music, Kathak dance and drama classes, and academic studies following the Karnataka State syllabus.

The medium of instruction is Kannada, Karnataka's official language, but the team makes sure that all students develop practical English communication skills. There are also several extracurricular activities available including yoga, meditation, computer studies, and art.





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- 2) ಸ್ವಾಭಾವಿಕವಾಗಿ ಬಂದಿರಬೇಕು.
- 3) ವಿವಿಧ ವಿಧಗಳಲ್ಲಿ



# ACADEMIC STUDIES

The Academic Department at KSV plays a critical role in shaping the future of its students. Through a focus on student-centred learning and a commitment to using the latest technologies, the department creates an environment where students are able to explore their interests, learn at their own pace, and develop the skills necessary for success in the future.

At KSV, the faculty is made up of qualified educators who are passionate about their subject matter and dedicated to providing students with a dynamic and engaging learning experience.

The department places a strong emphasis on continuous professional development, with teachers undergoing regular training to improve their teaching skills and expand their knowledge of alternative approaches in education.

The curriculum at KSV is designed to provide students with a comprehensive education that covers a wide range of subjects and encourages creative thinking. In the lower primary grades, students are introduced to fundamental subjects such as Kannada, English, mathematics, and environmental sciences. The curriculum also includes arts and storytelling, which provide students with opportunities to develop their creative abilities and engage with the world in new and meaningful ways.

In the upper primary and secondary grades, the curriculum expands to include a wider range of subjects, including Hindi, science, social science, computer science, arts, and sports. This more comprehensive education provides students with a strong foundation in a variety of subjects and helps to prepare them for further education or other professional pursuits.

Once students complete secondary school, KSV strongly encourages them to pursue higher education. Whether students choose to stay at the school or attend college or university elsewhere, the school remains committed to supporting their academic and personal development through financial and moral support. With a proven track record of success, KSV is committed to helping its students achieve their full potential and reach their academic and professional goals.



# PERFORMING ARTS

The Kalkerri Sangeet Vidyalaya is a unique institution that places a strong emphasis on the performing arts.

All of its students are considered young artists, each with their own unique talents and abilities.

The school offers a comprehensive program in the performing arts, with classes running from 8.30 am to 11.30 am five days a week. Students are divided into two groups: elementary classes for students in the 1st to 4th Standards, and regular classes for students in the 5th to 10th Standards.

Elementary classes play a crucial role in providing students with a comprehensive education in the arts. These classes aim to introduce students to a wide range of activities and experiences, in order to cultivate their creativity, imagination and expression. The focus is on developing a well-rounded foundation in the arts, and to achieve this goal, students are exposed to a diverse set of disciplines.

One such discipline is Hindustani classical music (vocal). The classes aim to provide students with a fundamental understanding of this genre of music. Students learn the fundamentals of music, including





melody and rhythm, and have the opportunity to practice vocal techniques and develop their musical skills. In addition to music, elementary classes also include dance which is an excellent medium for self-expression and helps students develop coordination, balance, and rhythm.

Education through games, arts and crafts, and sports are also an important part of the curriculum. These activities help students develop a range of skills such as problem-solving, critical thinking, and teamwork, while also fostering their creativity and imagination. Arts and crafts provide students with an outlet for self-expression and allow them to experiment with different materials and techniques.

Regular class students are allotted a dedicated three hours of instruction each day for performing arts classes. This is a significant investment of time and resources that provides students with ample opportunities to delve into the arts and develop their talents. The curriculum of the performing arts classes is designed to allow students to explore a wide range of disciplines, including vocal music, tabla, sitar, violin, dance and drama.

The hands-on approach to learning is a key feature of the performing arts program. It is the intention of the school to provide students with practical experience and exposure to various aspects of their chosen discipline. This approach to education allows students to gain confidence and develop a deeper understanding of their chosen art form. Through this practical experience, students are able to explore their interests and refine their skills.



# STUDENTS WELFARE

KSV is a residential school with eight hostels - four for girls and four for boys - each housing around 25 students. Two hostel wardens per hostel care for the student's well-being.

Nutritious meals are a key part of KSV's student welfare program. A dedicated kitchen staff prepares three home-cooked vegetarian South Indian meals daily to provide a balanced diet meeting students' nutritional needs.

The kitchen provides over 200 meals per sitting, reflecting the school's large scale and commitment to student health.

An on-site infirmary run by healthcare professionals handles basic medical needs and provides prompt care. For more complex issues, KSV has partnerships with local hospitals to provide free or discounted treatment and medications for students.

Together, KSV's facilities and services ensure students, staff, and volunteers receive timely medical attention to maintain their health and well-being.



# VOLUNTEERS

KSV recruits approximately 30 volunteers annually from India and abroad. Volunteers make a year-long commitment to stay. Their presence contributes substantially to student development and school operations.

Volunteers are carefully selected for specific roles - english teachers, art teachers, children's caregivers, healthcare providers, communications coordinators, fundraisers, and a volunteer coordinator - based on qualifications, experience, abilities and interests. Additionally, they help broaden students' cultural awareness and global perspective through interactions. Since its inception, the volunteer program has hosted over 350 participants.

The school values the knowledge, skills and dedication volunteers bring which enriches the students educational experience.



# STUDENT STORIES

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## ANJALI MARIHAL

22 YEARS OLD

B.COM DEGREE

Anjali hails from Belgaum District, the neighbouring district to Dharwad in Karnataka. She is one of four sisters raised solely by their hard-working mother after the untimely passing of their father. Her sister, Akshata, also attended KSV.



Anjali arrived at KSV as a bright-eyed eight-year-old. She quickly proved herself to be a talented and dedicated student, excelling in her academic studies as well as in performing arts as a sitarist. After successfully passing her 10th standard exams and pre-university commerce studies, Anjali went on to pursue a B.Com degree at a local college.

Alongside her bachelor's degree, she successfully completed a specialized one-year diploma course in Hospitality and Aviation. Eager to put her skills into practice, Anjali also gained valuable professional experience working at a 5-star hotel as a Guest Relations Executive before even completing her degree.

Since graduating with her B.Com, Anjali has been working in the role of Customer Relations Executive for Etihad Airways at the bustling Kempegowda International Airport in Bangalore.

Looking ahead to the future, Anjali shows a strong desire to continue advancing her education and business acumen by enrolling in an MBA post-graduate degree program soon.

Anjali graciously acknowledges the immense role KSV played in helping shape the poised young woman she is today: *"As well as providing me with a high-quality education, KSV also helped build my confidence and open my eyes to the world beyond my small town. KSV supported me financially at every step to achieve my goals, the KSV family has always been there to guide me for which I am extremely grateful."*



## **AVINASH LAMANI**

*27 YEARS OLD*

*BACHELOR'S OF ENGINEERING*

Avinash works as a Quality Check Engineer at ACC Ltd. Currently living in Goa, he is proud to be the first engineer from KSV. In fact, he and his sister were the first children in many generations of their family who got the chance to do a Bachelor's degree.



Before being at KSV, Avinash used to live in a neighbourhood near Hubli. His parents worked as construction labourers and travelled around Bangalore, Goa and other places in search of some work to make ends meet. Avinash and his sister, Kavita, were both unable to get a proper chance to learn because of all the shifting around in their erratic lives. At KSV, they could get access to free and stable education.

In his seven years of schooling at KSV, he initially learned the Harmonium and singing, then switched to the flute, and finally excelled at learning the Tabla for five years.

After finishing his 10th grade with distinction, with the financial support of KSV, Avinash studied Science during his Pre University Course (PUC) at the Karnataka Science College in Dharwad. After completing his PUC, he did his Bachelor's of Engineering (Civil Engineering) in Hubli at the KLE Institute of Technology for four years.

He mentions that his relationship with foreign volunteers and his correspondence with his German Sponsor Barbara really helped him with his English level, a skill that made him stand out from his peers.

At the end of his 4th year, Avinash was recruited by ACC Ltd. India's largest producers of cement via the college placements process. He first started to work in Bhopal MP for 9 months, then he got transferred to Goa where he is working since 2 years. Now he have a total 3 years of experience and he is Quality Incharge of ACC RMC Plant. His goal is to become a CEO/MD of big construction company.

## SUKANYA BADIGER

30 YEARS OLD

MASTER'S DEGREE IN MUSIC

Sukanya has been a vocal teacher at the Kalkeri Sangeet Vidyalaya (KSV) for five years now.

Before starting her journey at KSV, Sukanya lived in the district of Belgaum, Karnataka, with her parents and brothers.



After hearing about her cousin's admission to KSV, Sukanya insisted on getting the same opportunity. She was eager to join a school that taught academics and music in their approach to education.

At the age of 10, Sukanya was admitted to KSV where she spent six years excelling at her academics as well as singing. After completing her 10th standard, Sukanya studied commerce in PUC, but her heart lay in learning music. She continued practicing her vocals for hours every day and participated in many singing competitions. After her 2nd year of PUC, she received a proposal to start working as a music teacher in a school, she took the job. A few months later, Sukanya met with her Guruji and she realized that she really wanted to become an accomplished musician.

Sukanya was very motivated and worked tremendously hard to complete her higher education: *"I finished my bachelor's degree with a two-month-old baby. I was doing 2 hours of bus rides every day to go to university. I was giving music lessons after my classes, taking care of the house and my baby girl, and spending every weekend with my Guruji to practice my music."*

After completing her master's, Sukanya applied at the music department of KSV and got hired as a music teacher: *"I discovered my talent and what I was good at in life at KSV - Now I want to give back to the new generation of students what I've received"*.



## PRAKASH CHAVAN

28 YEARS OLD

MBA IN FINANCE & MARKETING

Prakash works as a Bank Manager at RBL Bank in Bangalore.

Before joining KSV, Prakash used to live in Hubli with his parents, brother and two sisters. His father being paralyzed so Prakash's mother was the only member of the family earning money by doing housekeeping work. In 2005, she heard about KSV and decided to send Prakash and his younger brother to the school in hopes of building a better life for them.

Prakash joined KSV at an early stage of the school when there were very few students, but he slowly settled in with a lot of love and care from all the staff members. As he grew older, he saw the school grow with him: *"I enjoyed seeing changes like better access to drinking water, televisions in the hostels, and his friends getting degrees and jobs"*.

After completing his 10th grade, Prakash continued living at the KSV campus and did his Pre University Course (PUC) in Commerce at the Basel Mission college. He then went on to do a Bachelor's degree in Commerce at Dharwad University and shifted to a hostel with the financial support of KSV. Nonetheless, he had continued studying music for ten years, and he had to make a big decision after completing his bachelor's. He wondered if he should do an MBA or pursue music. He decided to do an MBA and said, *"music is still with me, and it will always be in my heart."*

Doing an MBA in Finance and Marketing was a difficult and expensive choice, but Prakash was determined to make it happen with the support of KSV. Through hard work and determination, Prakash became the first KSV student to hold an MBA degree.

Towards the end of his studies, he got a job at the Indusind Bank of India via college placements. His parents are extremely happy that he works in a bank and supports them after all their hardships and challenges.





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# CHILD SPONSORSHIP

KSV operates a Child Sponsorship Program that provides significant funding to support student's education and welfare. Through the program, individuals or groups can sponsor a child for 1,800 INR (~ 20 USD, 20 EUR, or 30 CAD) per month. These regular monthly contributions help cover the costs of a sponsored child's academics, health care, nutrition, and other needs.

Sponsors have the opportunity to exchange letters and communicate with their sponsored student, allowing them to develop a personal connection and follow the child's progress over time.

Since its inception, KSV's Child Sponsorship Program has enabled hundreds of children to receive a quality education who otherwise may not have had the opportunity.

The program provides a rewarding way for donors to make a meaningful, sustainable impact in a student's life and community. Their reliable monthly support allows KSV to continually serve and expand its reach to students most in need.





# ANNADAAN

KSV also operates an Annadaan program to provide free meals for students in need.

In Indian tradition and philosophy, the act of offering knowledge to the less fortunate or providing food to those in need is considered deeply virtuous and noble. It is believed to be the responsibility of every capable individual to actively engage in such acts to uplift the underprivileged.

Through this program, donors can contribute 4,000 INR (~ 50 USD, 45 EURO, 65 CAD) to sponsor a single meal for all students, or 11,000 INR (~ 130 USD, 120 EURO, 175 CAD) to sponsor all three meals in a day. These Annadaan donations help KSV supply free nutritious meals to students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Donors often choose to make their contribution on personally meaningful days, like birthdays or anniversaries, linking their generous act to an occasion of significance in their lives.

By regularly funding the Annadaan meals program, donors uphold an important Indian custom of caring for others and enable KSV to continually nourish and support their students. Their reliable contributions are a sustainable source of funding that allows KSV to feed all of their resident students across the year.



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Kalkeri Sangeet Vidyalaya is recognized by the Karnataka State Board of Education as “Kalkeri Sangeet Vidyalaya Primary, Higher Secondary School, Kalkeri”.  
Registration No: G2/PREG/2009-10/-2012/13- 2015/16

As per the RTE Act, KSV has all the basic infrastructures required and all teachers hold professional teaching qualifications. The school provides a 25% reservation for disadvantaged students such as schedule caste, schedule tribe and other backward castes.

KSV is recognised under sections 80G and 12A.  
FCRA N°: 094520060

**Credits**

Content: Adam Woodward  
Photographs: Panja Prod and The KSV Team & Volunteers





Kalkeri  
Sangeet  
Vidyalaya