

A heartfelt 'Thank You' to the donors who have supported our work for this season and who are continuing to help us keep South Asian arts alive and thriving.

Stay in Touch

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Follow the link on our homepage at www.saa-uk.org to receive our free seasonal brochure and subscribe to our e-newsletter!

For more information visit saa-uk.org

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Music & Dance Academies 2026–2027



Supported using public funding by
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Music & Dance Academies

At SAA-uk, our Music and Dance academies provide an exciting range of opportunities to dive into South Asian performing arts.

At our Music Academy, you can learn **Sitar, Tabla, Santoor, Dilruba, Sarangi** and **Hindustani Vocals** at the Sikh Centre in Chapeltown Leeds.

Dance lovers can explore **Odissi, Kathak, Bharatanatyam** and **Carnatic Vocals** at the Northern School of Contemporary Dance, Chapeltown Leeds.

If you are from Bradford, we offer a convenient pickup and drop off service on Sundays.

Our Online Classes bring expert music and dance instruction to you in the comfort of your home!

Join us to nurture your talent & creativity through our comprehensive offer!



Why Choose SAA-uk?

- Our academies are distinguished by their connection to International musicians and masterclasses with leading artists, offering students an unparalleled learning experience.
- Students of all ages develop their skills, deepen their knowledge and gain inspiration to refine their musicianship and inspire others.
- We provide individual feedback, regular assessments, and opportunities for students to showcase their talents on the main stage, sharing their progress with friends and family at cultural events.
- We offer bursaries (financial support - means tested) and student-centred support to ensure that every learner can thrive in their musical journey. Simply email education@saa-uk.org



South Asian Music Academy (Hindustani)

When

Tuesdays 5–9 pm & Sundays 4–7 pm

Where

The Sikh Centre, Guru Nanak Way, LS7 4HZ

Duration

1 hour or more per week per discipline

SAA-uk's Music Academy is a vibrant community where students grow both musically and personally. Beyond music education, it fosters cultural awareness, belonging, and collaboration.

Students develop performance, public speaking, and teamwork skills while celebrating individual achievements. As Hindustani music is taught as an oral tradition, students sharpen their memory, enhance mathematical understanding and build discipline. The Academy nurtures compassionate and confident individuals alongside accomplished musicians. Students can learn Tabla, Sarangi, Dilruba, Sitar, Santoor, Hindustani & Carnatic Vocals under the guidance of the UK's most renowned & experienced teachers, immersing themselves in the rich tradition of music originating from India, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh.

We recommend learning in a group setting. Tutors give attention to students and make sure they understand their learning journey through written and oral feedback during the year and internal assessments.

Fees*

£120 per term (10 weeks) / £324 annual fee (30 weeks) inclusive of 10% discount*

Special Student rate (Uni/College) £60 per term

There is a 50% discount available for parents learning the same discipline as their child

OUR MUSIC ACADEMY TUTORS



Senior Advisor to Academy
Ustad Dharambir Singh MBE



Sitar Academy Tutor
Luke Reddin-Williams



Dilruba & Esraj Academy Tutor
Harjodh Singh



Vocal Academy & Online Tutor
Poułomi Chakraborty



Sitar Online Tutor
Kirtan Kaur Virdee



Tabla Academy & Online Tutor
Shri John Ball



Taus, Dilruba,
Sarangi Academy Tutor
Simrandeep Kaur



Santoor Academy Tutor
Eeshar Singh



Sarangi Online Tutor
Nabeel Khan



Carnatic Vocal classes
Dhivya Sundararaman

To book classes visit saa-uk.org/education

Santoor Classes

Sundays, 4–7.30pm

Taught by Eeshar Singh, students start by learning how to sit with the instrument, holding the wooden strikers and identifying the strings through the practice of sargams (various note patterns). With time, students are introduced to the intricacies of raags (melodic scales), improvisation within the raag framework and practise their speed which are all different components of their repertoire.



Sitar Classes

Sundays, 4.30–7pm

Tuesdays, 4.30–9pm

Taught by Luke Reddin-Williams, students start learning by holding and plucking the instrument and then begin to familiarise themselves with the different notes and work on them within rhythmic patterns. As the students grow more confident, they learn tunes (gaths) based on various raags (melodic scales) and start developing the art of improvisation.



Tabla Classes

Sundays, 4.30–7pm

Tuesdays, 5–9pm

Taught by Shri John Ball, students start playing the tabla by learning to produce sounds with their fingers. Simultaneously, the students develop their rhythmical sense (taal) and practise different rhythmic patterns.



The Tabla is typically an accompanying instrument but has a majestic presence and can be presented as a solo instrument too.



Sarangi, Dilruba, Esraj & Taus Classes

Dilruba: Sundays, 4.30–7.30pm
Tuesdays, 5–8pm

Sarangi (Online): Tuesdays, 6.30–7.30 pm

Students learning bowed instruments start by developing the technique of playing note patterns, understanding the placement of the notes on the fingerboard and are then introduced to raag-based music.

As the students' confidence grows, they begin to learn the art of *sangat* (playing together) as bowed instruments are prominent accompaniment as well as solo instruments.



Hindustani Vocal Classes

Tuesdays, 6.15–7pm
Online: Thursdays, 5.30–8pm

Taught by Pouloomi Chakraborty, students start by understanding their voice as an instrument and using the correct breathing technique. Students then move towards learning raag-based songs (*bandish*) in different *raags* and the moods they are trying to convey through improvisation.

Please get in touch to find out more
Dhivya Sundarararaman, education coordinator:
+44(0) 7570393470

South Asian Dance Academy

SAA-uk's dance classes are held in a high-quality, safe and professional studio designed to enhance your learning experience. The studio is fully equipped with a mirrored wall, sprung flooring to minimise injury, heating, ample ventilation and a high-quality sound system. Additional features include first aid provisions, HD screens, webcams, microphones, a café, free Wi-Fi, water refill station, changing rooms, restrooms and free on-site parking.

We aim to provide a safe and inclusive environment that supports mental health and well-being through dance. Our approach is tailored to individual needs, empowering students to become confident and well-rounded individuals.

We offer boot camps, workshops, learning support, performance opportunities, live musicians, an enrichment program, and a dance buddy scheme.

Where

Northern School of Contemporary Dance
98 Chapeltown Rd, Leeds LS7 4BH

Fees*

£120 per term (10 weeks) or £324 annual fee (30 weeks) with a 10% discount.

*Special student rate (uni/college) is £60 per term.

Resources

Students receive class materials via our dedicated WhatsApp group and Google Classroom, ensuring easy access to learning support.

Performance Opportunities

Students showcase their talent at cultural events such as Diwali, Holi, and Navratri, as well as at our annual family celebrations.

OUR DANCE ACADEMY TUTORS



Kathak Lead Tutor
Jyoti Manral



Bharatanatyam Lead Tutor
Roopa Ponnarassery
Rakesh



Bharatanatyam
Lead Tutor (online)
Santosh Menon



Odissi Lead Tutor
Sayani Roy



Kathak Dance Classes

Where rhythm meets the soul

Age: 4 years and above

Day: Every Thursday

Dates: **18th Sep – 2nd July** (term time)

Beginners: 5.30–6.30pm

Intermediate: 6.30–7.30pm

Advanced: 7.30–8.30pm

Discover the elegance and depth of Kathak, a classical dance form from Northern India, renowned for its expressive storytelling, intricate footwork, and rhythmic mastery. Our classes are led by Jyoti Manral, a passionate teacher, performer, and choreographer dedicated to preserving the authentic traditional style of Kathak while embracing contemporary interpretation. Classes focus on mastering both the technical and storytelling aspects of Kathak dance, adopting a more holistic approach by incorporating live musicians into the class. This holistic approach enriches the connection between taal, laya, and emotions, serving as nourishment for the soul.

Fees: £120 per term (10 weeks) / £324 annual fee (30 weeks) inclusive of 10% discount.

Sibling Discount – 10% off the total fee for both siblings when they join together. Special Student rate (Uni/College) £60 per term. A 50% discount is available for parents learning the same discipline as their child.



Bharatanatyam Dance Classes

*Rooted in tradition,
refined through discipline.*

Age: 4 years and above

Day: Every Friday

Dates: **19th Sep – 3rd July** (term time)

Batch 1: 5:15pm - 6:05pm

Batch 2: 6:05pm - 7:15pm

50 mins Dance class / 20 mins Vocal class

Bharatanatyam, one of India's oldest and most revered classical dance forms, empowers students with a profound blend of physical technique, expressive storytelling, and spiritual discipline. Our classes are led by Roopa Ponnarassery Rakesh, a highly accomplished dancer and teacher with over 20 years of expertise in Bharatanatyam, Kuchipudi, Mohiniyattam, and Ottamthullal. Our classes bring a wealth of knowledge and passion to every session, guiding students through the precision, stamina, and expressive depth that define Bharatanatyam. The lessons also include vocal training, essential for mastering Bharatanatyam, and follow the ISTD syllabus.

Fees: £150 per term (10 weeks)/ £405 annual fee (30 weeks) inclusive of 10% discount.

Sibling Discount: 10% off the total fee for both siblings when they join together. Special Student rate (Uni/College) £75 per term. A 50% discount is available for parents learning the same discipline as their child.

*ISTD exams are optional and require an additional fee beyond the standard fee.



Odissi Dance Classes

Where tradition flows with elegance

Age: 4 years and above

Day: Every Friday, 6.30–7.30pm

Dates: **19th Sep – 3rd July** (term time)

Join our talented tutor, Sayani Ghosh, an experienced Odissi dancer, teacher, and choreographer with over 20 years of teaching experience. Odissi is a graceful dance form originated from Odisha that narrates stories from sacred Hindu texts through precise movements and melodious music. It is renowned for its fluid movements, sculptural poses, and expressive storytelling. A perfect starting point for students of all ages and backgrounds—connecting mind and body through movement, discipline, and expression.

Fees: £120 per term (10 weeks) / £324 annual fee (30 weeks) inclusive of 10% discount.

Sibling Discount – 10% off the total fee for both siblings when they join together, Special Student rate (Uni/College) £60 per term, A 50% discount is available for parents learning the same discipline as their child.





Sanskaar SAA-uk: Music Summer School

Register Your Interest For Summer School 2026

Age: 6 and above

When: Dates TBC

Where: Leeds, West Yorkshire, UK

Timings: 9am–5pm

Join us for a 7-day immersive music and creativity experience! Explore raags (melodies) and taals (rhythms) while having fun with activities like dancing, singing, clapping, and playing with expert musicians who make learning exciting and engaging.

Students can try out Indian instruments like the sitar, tabla, and santoor, join in dance and games, and enjoy daily vegetarian meals. Whether you're a beginner or looking to grow your skills, this week is perfect for all levels. It's a chance to spark creativity, improve focus, and make new friends in a fun, nurturing environment!



For more info on our classes, visit www.saa-uk.org, email education@saa-uk.org, or contact Dhivya (Education & Learning) 07570393470.

*Means-tested bursaries are available for those facing financial hardship. Request an application via the email above.

How to Get to Our Classes

The Sikh Centre

192 Chapeltown Rd, Leeds LS7 4HZ

The Sikh Centre is a key community hub in Chapeltown, Leeds. To reach it, take bus 36 from Leeds Bus Station towards Harrogate and Starbeck. Get off at stop 8, 'Sikh Temple,' and the centre is just a 1-minute walk next to the Sikh Temple.

NSCD (Northern School of Contemporary Dance)

98 Chapeltown Rd, Leeds LS7 4BH

Also in Chapeltown, Leeds, NSCD is a leading UK centre for contemporary dance. To get there, take bus 2, 3, 3a, or 48 from Leeds City Centre. The bus ride takes around 10 minutes, and the stop is on Chapeltown Road, opposite NSCD near Norma Hutchinson Park.

Unlock the World of South Asian Arts – Online!

Embark on your South Asian Arts journey from the comfort of your home!

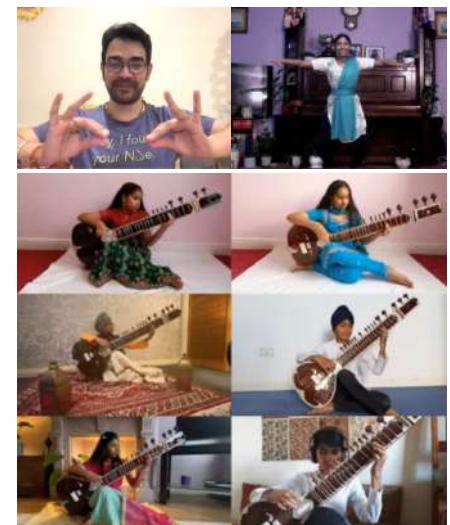
Personalised 1-to-1 online classes via Zoom

Age: 8 and above

Dates: September – July (term time)

Duration: 45 minutes per lesson

Fees: £200 per term (10 weeks) / £540 annual (30 weeks, includes 10% discount)



Are you or your child passionate about South Asian music or dance, but can't find the right classes, instruments or high-quality teachers in your area/country? We've got you covered!

With our online program, you can learn **Sitar, Vocals, Tabla, Bharatanatyam, Kathak**, and **Odissi** dance right from the comfort of your home. Our online classes offer a welcoming space to reconnect with yourself and explore the richness of Indian classical music and dance. Whether you're rediscovering your roots or starting fresh, each session helps build a meaningful connection to a timeless art form—right from the comfort of your home.