

Musical instruments in ASSEFA Schools - april 2008

We are planning to introduce these musical classes in seven schools in the beginning. The children from 8 years will be benefiting. Based on the experiences it will be extended to other schools. Vocal (Karnatic) music classes will also be conducted.

1.	Harmonium – 7 Schools @ Rs.4,000/-	-	28,000.00
2.	Key board with adopter – 7 Schools @ Rs.4,200/-	-	29,400.00
3.	Veena - 7 schools @ Rs.3000/-	-	21,000.00
4.	Mathalam – 7 schools @ Rs.1500/-	-	10,500.00
5.	Dabla -7 schools @ Rs.3,500/-	-	24,500.00
6.	Jalox – 7 schools @ Rs.250/-	-	1,750.00
7.	Kitar – 7 schools @ 4000/-	-	28,000.00
8.	Kanjara 7 schools @ Rs.250/-	-	1,750.00
9.	7 set of Books	-	7,000.00

	TOTAL	-	1,51,900.00

1. Sarva Seva Primary School, Iyanarpuram
2. Sarva Seva Higher Secondary School, Iyanarpuram
3. Sarva Seva High School, Andipuram
4. Sarva Seva High School, K.Pudur
5. Sarva Seva Middle School, Mettupatti
6. Sarva Seva Middle School, Ettayampatti
7. Sarva Seva Primary School, Poosaripatti

Since it is a new venture we have selected 7 schools in Natham area. Based on the experiences we get here, we can expand to other schools in Natham area and also in other areas. Our senior teachers of these schools will take care of this new activity. The children will be chosen according to their interest. I hope this new activity will add more value to the ASSEFA Education Programme. We are looking for the concerned teachers also.

The Maddalam

A wonderful Keralan drum, its full name is Shuddha maddalam: always used for accompanying Kathakali dance, but also one of the Panchavadyam instruments (a percussion group consisting of 5 instruments). I bought one home from Kerala last year. It is *very* heavy. I don't know how these guys manage to take the weight on their back as they do, let alone play at the same time! Right-hand side is similar to left hand side of mridangam, but the outer rings are very heavy and thick and the inner skin is very tight like tavil. Left-hand side is akin to mridangam right-hand side, but the black circle covers almost all the face like khol but, again, construction is very heavy-weight with outer rings being made from buffalo skin much thicker than mridangam. Right-hand is played very like thavil, with rice-clay finger rings, left hand gives ringing sound with about four different strokes, including a continuous note produced by rubbing the finger tip on the face All the leather work is very thick and heavyweight, and the tension is very high.

The Harmonium is one of India's most popular instruments. Its origins are associated with the Western influx into India probably back in the 15th century (if my dates are correct). It entered India via the Christian missionaries. They frequently would carry a pedal organ to do their religious singing accompaniments. Indian musicians were quick to latch on to this instruments ruggedness, the fact that it came pre tuned, and the ease of note production by pressing keys. They also must have found themselves uneasy sitting on chairs to play it. So the Indian instrument makers adapted it to the floor model by removing the pedals, creating a rear air pumping unit making the size and number of keys smaller and that was the birth of the Indian version of the Harmonium. Unlike its Western predecessor, which is played with both hands, the Indian Harmonium is played only with one hand. The other one is kept busy pumping the air.