

Kanda Chapu - 5 Beat Cycle

Kanda Chapu is the 5 beat cycle in Carnatic music. The thalum or beat cycle is shown by a series of claps and waves: wave on beat one; clap on beat three; clap on beat four. Clapping on beat one is also common. The syllables used to recite the beat cycle are Ta Ka Ta Ki Ta, a 2 + 3 grouping. Below is an exercise designed to improve one's grasp of the Kanda Chapu thalum and the phrase Ta Ka Ta Ki Ta.

The exercise is presented in five staves of musical notation, each with a treble clef and a 5/4 time signature. The notes are represented by diamond-shaped stems on a five-line staff. The syllables 'Ta', 'Ka', 'Ta', 'Ki', and 'Ta' are written above the notes. Below the notes, the corresponding rhythmic actions are indicated: 'Wave' for the first note, 'Clap' for the second, 'Clap' for the third, 'Wave' for the fourth, and 'Clap' for the fifth. A slur is placed over the third and fourth notes in the first two staves. The first staff is numbered '1' at the beginning. The second staff is numbered '3' at the beginning. The third staff is numbered '5' at the beginning. The fourth staff is numbered '7' at the beginning. The fifth staff is numbered '8' at the beginning and contains the syllable 'Tham' above a single note.