

Guidelines for Devotional singing for centers

Bhajans is the process of singing that originates in the heart, not from the lips or the tongue. It is the expression of the joyous thrill that wells up from the heart when the Glory of God is remembered. It is the spontaneous manifestation of inner ecstasy. No attention is paid to the blame or praise that others may give. It does not seek the admiration or the appreciation of the listeners.

- Baba, Sri Sathya Sai Speaks 1984

Devotional singing is an earnest offering to our beloved Swami. Let us all come together and offer our very best in a united fashion and please our Swami who is present in all. All devotees are strongly encouraged to bear the following points in mind before choosing bhajans for Opening and Closing Prayers, center slots and SSE.

- Please be present in the bhajan hall at least one hour ahead of your center slot and one hour after the center slot.
- Practice is mandatory for Opening/Closing Prayers and SSE slots.
- Please choose simple bhajans that are easy to follow for devotees with Indian or non-Indian background.
- Preferably sing namasmarana type bhajans as they are melodious to hear and follow.
- Include English bhajans - they are as devotional as bhajans in any other language.
- Please render bhajans that are often sung at your centers.
- No preludes/aalaps as well as crescendos to the bhajans.
- For bhajans that have more than 6 lines please sing only once in first and second speeds. Please follow the words projected. Adding new lines/phrases during the offering is not recommended.
- Musicians - Please tune your instruments ahead of your center slot outside of the bhajan hall.