

## **A Visit to Kalkeri Sangeet Vidyalaya on 27th Jan 2026**

**By Shruti Sankolli**

Our visit to Kalkeri Sangeet Vidyalaya, nestled amidst the serene lake and forest of Karnataka, was one such experience... Where Music becomes a Way of Life.... Some places don't just impress you; they quietly make you think deeply.



I had heard about Kalkeri Sangeet Vidyalaya (KSV) before, from one of my close friend Bhavana Gallewale. Since then, I wanted to visit. I called Adam Woodward (director KSV, a residential music school for underprivileged children) and said I will be in Dharwad for couple of days and want to visit KSV. He readily welcomed me and recommended to visit the school during weekday morning session as I wanted to see music and art classes. We fixed our appointment on 27th Jan, 8:30 am. We were pretty excited but nothing really prepares you for the feeling of being there.



As I walked through the campus, the first thing I noticed was not the buildings or the landscape, but the sound. Music floated gently in the air... a tanpura humming

somewhere, young voices practising their swaras, a tabla keeping time. It felt as if the entire place was breathing music.



Adam n Agathe Fortier greeted us and asked Krishna to show us around. Krishna is a former student of KSV who recently completed his PhD and is currently KSV's Director of Performing Arts.

KSV is not just a school; it is a home where music, discipline, and dignity come together. Children from economically and socially challenged backgrounds are given something priceless here — quality education rooted in Indian classical music, along with academics, values, and



a sense of self-worth. Many of these children come from families where there are no opportunities to progress. But these children are talented. KSV simply gives that talent a chance to bloom.



What touched me deeply was the simplicity of life on campus. No noise, no rush, no distractions — just focused learning and joyful living. The children wake up

early, get ready to practise art and music from 8:30 to 11 am and after 11:30 till 5 pm they learn academic subjects. They help each other, play, learn and grow together like a family. There was no sense of burden on their faces; instead, there was a quiet contentment. They conduct parent-teacher meeting after every term and communicate about their children's progress, problems etc. They do have counsellor to help the children.



I felt, here in KSV, music is not treated as an extra activity — it is a way of shaping the mind and the soul. Teachers n volunteers are dedicated, interacting with them was the most heartwarming part of my visit. There are 150 students of different ages, residing in KSV. The students were happy to see us, some of them talked with us, some were shy, but all of them carried a deep respect for their gurus and their art. Watching them practise with such sincerity reminded me that passion doesn't need luxury, it needs guidance and faith. Children get to choose the art according to their interests after initial training. After their academic training at KSV, they

seek admission to different colleges in Dharwad and KSV supports them financially. There is hostel n bus service provided to them.





The teachers/mentors and volunteers at Kalkeri deserve special mention. KSV Director n founder members, their children stay there for the maximum period of the year. They teach, play and eat with them. They shape lives with patience, compassion, and belief. It takes a special kind of commitment to nurture these children.



While observing and listening to a practice session, I realised how transformative music & art can be. KSV is living proof that when art meets purpose, miracles happen.

I returned from KSV with a heart full of gratitude and hope. In a world often obsessed with speed, competition, and



material success, places like KSV remind us of what truly matters — opportunity, mentorship, and the power of culture.



My visit was not just a trip; it was a gentle reminder that when society invests in its children — especially the most vulnerable ones — it doesn't just change individual lives, it creates harmony, much like music itself.

Kalkeri Sangeet Vidyalaya is not merely teaching music. It is preserving culture and creating better future for underprivileged children.