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Workshop Title: Ta Na Na Song as an example of participatory music therapy – song composition with musical phonetics with children with special needs.

Abstract:

Musical phonetics constitutes a significant part of music culture. Its origins may date back to several millennia and yet it is infused in contemporary songs and even spoken in everyday life and language, conveying meaning through its innate sound words. Phonetics can be learned by one and all since our diverse syntax and semantic barriers don't count anymore.

'Know Your Rhythm' (KYR) is our programme to discover one's musicality and a sense of rhythm.

Rhythm is where we begin since we believe it is innate in each one of us. Our recent KYR project has been with children with special needs and their teachers. These special educators who may not be musically trained can learn to make music purposefully and learn to make musical intervention during classes and therapy sessions.

The key is to understand the power of Participation in music therapy is in making music together.

'*Ta Na Na*' is a song composed with the participation of about 60 children with special needs and their 10 special educators at Special School for the Children with Mental Retardation, CERTH-India Hospital, Pondicherry. (<http://therapy.ninad.in>)

In the workshop, we will study the basics of *Ta Na Na* song architecture: its lilt, cadence and Rhythm structure (*Tala* system). The baseline's sub-architecture introduces the Middle C as the tonic note, involving the fifth (G) downward (F, E, D) in a cadence.

The song is eco-sensitive and lends itself to associative memory building that the special educators and their students experience together.

For children, learning and making music is a whole body experience. Sonic and melodic motifs, the varying *Laya* (tempo) and harmony create 'AHA! moments', children and their teachers learn alike --- in mind, body and spirit.

Keywords: Participatory Music Therapy, musical phonetics, children with special needs, from single to group music therapy, Know Your Rhythm, *Ta Na Na* Song, music architecture, AHA! Moment, Learning