

Grace Abounds

News October 2025 from Vancouver Community Kirtan / Harreson

Happy Diwali!

The festival of Diwali celebrates the return of the light and the return of Ram to Ayodhya. It starts the 15th day of Kartik which started Oct 8th 2025.

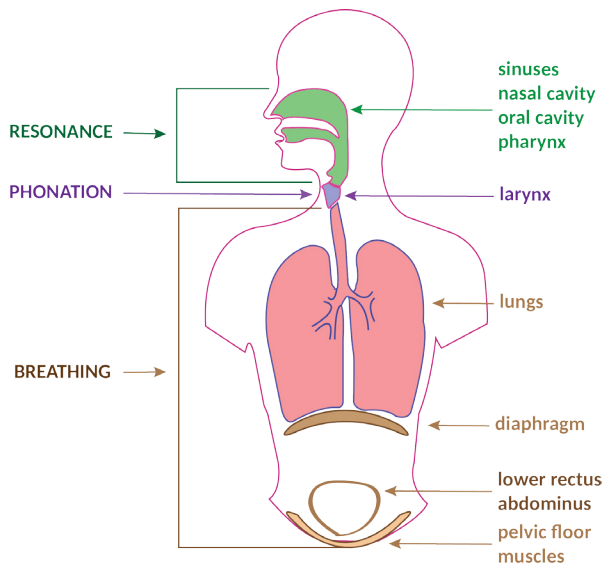
It's a wonderful time to set an intention to bring more into your life, whether it's financial abundance by the grace of Lakshmi or positive spiritual qualities as represented by Ram.

Vancouver Community Kirtan won't be hosting a community kirtan in October as there a couple other Diwali kirtans happening on the same third Saturday of the month (Oct 18th).

I'll see you at one of the other Diwali kirtans, whether it's the one organized by Geetanjali at the Gordon Neighbourhood House (kirtan and food), or the one organized by Gurnimit Singh at 333Energy Dance (kirtan and a Lakshmi puja).

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/west-end-diwali-celebration-tickets-1740722500859>

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bhakti-fest-bc-diwali-celebration-tickets-1774411796449>



Saturday Nov 15th Community Kirtan and Potluck at Open Door Yoga



My Online Western Kirtan Music Education Training

I've been working hard (as much as I can manage) on completing my online kirtan training before the end of 2025. Back in 2023, I created a curriculum which provides a music education in Western music basics while teaching folks how to play the harmonium, sing on pitch and on time, and how to lead kirtan.

It's taken me many years to navigate the technical challenges of creating music scores which provide a clear map of the chants, creating a keyboard methodology that makes it easier to learn how to play the harmonium, and the needed website steps.

These recent weeks involved converting the diagrams that I used in my in-person course handouts into my own versions that I can use in my online training without worry about copyrights.

So I learned how to use Adobe Illustrator to create the graphics. There's an example on the left. It took a lot of frustration and banging my head against the wall, as I didn't really know how to use Illustrator. Thanks to people sharing their knowledge on the Internet, slowly slowly I learnt enough skills to do the diagrams.

I'm planning to have 9 beautiful chants included in the online course. I'm blessed to develop an innovative approach to learning which, I think, will supercharge peoples' ability to learn how to lead kirtan. There's lots of details - from each note, each bar, each melody, and each transition. Great for beginners, especially people who have never touched a keyboard before.

I hope to have good news to share with you before 2026!