

## Bhajana Sampradayam

The glory of naama sankeertanam? (Singing the names of the Lord)  
Not a mechanical process, but a practice with knowledge, self control, purity of mind,  
devotion and concentration

In the Bhagavadgita, Sri Krishna tells Arjuna

Vedaanaam Saama vedosmi (Among the vedas, I am Saama Veda)  
Saama Veda is the most musical of the 4 vedas and is the source of the  
upaveda Gandharva veda and all of indian music

Yagnaanam Japa Yagnosmi (Among the yagnas, I am japa  
yagnam) i.e., repetition of the Lord's name

Lord vishnu tells Sage Narada

Naaham Vasami Vaikunte Na Yogi Hridaye Ravow  
Mat Bhaktaha Yatra Gaayanti Tatra Tishthaami Naarada

I do not reside in Vaikunta nor in the hearts of yogis nor in the Sun  
Where my devotees sing, there I stand

From the Vishnu Puraana

Dhyaayan Krite yajan Yagnaihi Tretaayaam Dvaapare Archayan  
Yat Aapnoti Tat Aapnoti Kalow Samkeertya Keshavam

Meditation in Krita yuga, sacrifices in Treta yuga, worship in Dvaapara,  
What these give, that one attains in Kali by merely repeating the Name of the Lord  
Kali is the yuga where emotion dominates and it is through emotion that man has to be  
attain salvation. This is the basis of bhakti and the easiest vehicle now is Divya Naama  
Samkeertanam..

In the last few centuries, great musician/sages spread this naama samkeertanam  
practice. Examples of such bhaagavatas are  
Naamadeva, Tukaaram, Purandharadaasa, Kanakadaasa, meerabai, Kabirdaas,  
Tulasidaas, bhadrachalam Raamadaasa, Annamachaarya, Bodhendra, Sridhara Ayyaval,  
and Gopalakrishna Bhaagavar. More recently, Swami Haridasgiri united the different  
bhajana practices all over India and infused new life into this form of worship.

The format is

Start with

Ganesa stotram, guruvandanam, few cycles of naamajapam (Raama naama), Totaya (or Totak, in honour of Sri Totakacharya) mangalam (has jayajaya in the beginning and at the end of the stanzas), Call/response in praise of Ganesa, Guru, Saraswati, and all deities and the all the devotees, few cycles of Naarayana Naama. Then bhajans in praise of Ganesa, guru and all chosen deities. Always end with Aanjaneya bhajan. (the monkey representing the fickle human mind, with control of breath and discipline will attain great heights like Sri Hanumaan, one of the 7 immortals in the Hindu tradition), followed by a mangalam.

Items 1 through 3 are sung by one person. Then this person leads the audience for items 4 and 5. Items 6 is a call by the lead singer and response by all.

1. Vakratunda Mahaakaaya Koti Soorya Samaprabha  
Nirvighnam Kurume Deva Sarva Kaaryeshu Sarvadaa
  2. Guru: Brahmaa Guru: Vishnu: Guru; Devo Maheshwara:  
Guru: Saakshaat Param Brahma Tasmai Sri Gurave Nama:
  3. Jaya jaanaki Ramana jaya Vibheeshana Sharana  
Jaya Saroruha Charana Jaya Deena Karuna Jaya Jaya
  4. Raama Raama Raama Raama Raama Raama Raam (lead/all repeat)  
Raama Raama Raama Raama Raama Sitaa Raam  
Raama Raama Raama Raama Raama raama Raam  
Raama Raama Raama Raama Raama Sitaa Raam
  5. Hari Narayana Hari Narayana Hari Narayana Hari Narayana (lead/all repeat)
- | Call                            | Response              |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 6. Jaanaki Kaanta Smaranam      | Jai Jai Raam          |
| Jaya Vighna Vinaayaka Mooti Ki  | Jai                   |
| Shaaradaa Devi Ki               | Jai                   |
| Nama: Paarvati Pataye           | Hara Hara Mahaa Devaa |
| Govinda Naama Samkeertanam      | Govindaa Govindaa     |
| Valli Deva Sena Kaanta Smaranam | Jai Jai Subrahmanya   |
| Parashakti Maataa Ki            | Jai                   |
| Aanjaneya Moorti Ki             | Jai                   |
| Sadguru Swami Ki                | Jai                   |
| Gopika Jeevana Smaranam         | Govindaa Govindaa     |
| Samastha Bhakta Mandali KI      | Jai                   |

Now start with Ganesa bhajan, Guru bhajan and deities of your choice etc. Use one or two of call/responses in between bhajans, appropriately. Encourage participation by all to lead bhajans, taking turns. End with a bhajan on Sri Hanuman followed by a mangalam.