



Jai Shree Krishna Shreemay Bhakti Kirtan Group

Vision:

The “Shreemay Bhakti Kirtan Group” (SBKG) provides seva during weekly satsangs on Sundays as well as during special functions/celebrations, which are also known as utsavs. The group’s goal is to empower and encourage the group’s devoted members to take a more active role during our regular Sunday satsangs and then gradually become part of the utsav celebrations.

The SBKG currently has approximately 50 devotees consisting of both singers and musicians. The SBKG has become a medium for an on stage “Kirtan Bhakti seva.” Each devotee’s contribution is vital to the success of this group’s seva. Through “bhajans” and music; the devotees communicate with the Lord and create “bhavas” through praising, praying, and expressing happiness. Singing bhajans and kirtans during satsangs and various Utsavs strengthens Vaishnav’s faith, provides spiritual enrichment, creates positive vibes, enthusiasm, and immense joy and delight.

The Shreemay Bhakti Kirtan Group shares and dedicates their time to give seva in the Pushtimarg tradition. Pushtimarg Seva’s components are Raag, Bhog, and Shrungar.

If you would like to sing:

You have two choices:

- Sign up as an individual or a group. Please contact the kirtan group coordinator to sign up.
- Once a quarter, there will be a “free” bhajan singing session. Please come to the mandir on that day and sign up on the sign-up sheet. This is on a first come first basis.

Please follow the Bhajan guidelines below.

Bhajan Guidelines:

- **Choice of Bhajans:** The Bhajan/Kirtan has to be Krishna/Shreenathji, Shree Yamuna Maharaniji, and Shree Vallabhacharyaji Bhajans appropriate to the given celebration or time

of the year (tithi of the year). Some examples are Mirabai bhajans, Narsinh Mehta Bhajans, Modern day Krishna Bhajans, Haveli Sangeet Kirtans, and pusti marg bhajans. **Please have your list checked with the group coordinator.**

- Please allow for participation of Vaishnavs at the mandir during your session– this can be either through chorus singing **or using a dhoon.**

- **Presenting other information during the bhajan sessions:**

- Background information about the bhajan before it is sung would be highly beneficial for the audience, and therefore highly recommended but not mandatory.
- **Artists presentation/Vote of thanks:** The Bhakti Kirtan Program is offered as service/seva to our Thakorji. **Please do not offer thanks or words of praise for/ any individual(s) between each Bhajan or after completion of each bhajan.** If you prefer vote of thanks, please provide a list of each participant and **we shall do that at the end of the Kirtan Program.**

- **Time Guideline:**

- **Please try to maintain the schedule and the time allocated to your session.** We will try to follow the timing schedule, and try and start your session on time; however, there might be delays at times due to previous items in the Sunday Satsang or the Utsav.
- Please confirm the total duration of your performance with the group coordinator.
- For the 25 to 30 minutes kirtan program, three bhajans and one dhoon will complete the program.
- If there are long introductions on background information on the bhajans then you need to ensure that you fit within the time frame either by picking shorter bhajans or having less number of bhajans/dhoon.
- The complete group should arrive 25 minutes before the program.

- **Projecting bhajans on the screen:** If you wish to have the bhajan projected then please have it available a week before. We have an arrangement for the projector. In any case, we should have soft copy of Bhajan(s) a week in advance for review.

- **Dress Code:** The stage used for performance by Bhakti Kirtan Program is right next to the temple altar. It therefore becomes a responsibility for each participant to maintain dignity and respect to the almighty as well as to the ambience in the main sabha hall. Dress code plays a very important role here: all participants MUST wear traditional Indian Dress.

- **Seating Arrangement:** As per Haveli tradition and as a sense of offering service to Thakorji, all singer(s) shall seat facing the main deity by 30 degrees or so.

Instrument support and audio system:

- At BAYVP we have an audio system with nine microphones. Please let us know how many of them we will need to setup **one week** in advance. It is preferred that microphones are not exchanged between singers mid-performance. Otherwise it is very hard for the PA person to maintain the right level of sound.
- Generally you need to arrange for your own support on Harmonium, Tabla, Manjeera etc. If you need help in this area, please inform us with a reasonable advanced notice. We will try our best to arrange it.
- If you are bringing your own music instruments, please let us know for proper planning for PA etc.

Aarti and Mahaprasad:

- As part of offering service to Thakorji and as a vote of thanks from BAYVP for your dedication; we request you to participate in “Aarti” of Thakorji at the end of the program with the group. Please sing Yamuna Maharani Aarti **unless during a specific utsav celebration a different Aarti is required.**
- Typically, Mahaprasad is served on the main celebrations and Sunday Satsangs. Please join us for that. There may be times when the mahaprasad will not be served such as during the bhajans/kirtans seva during some days of Diwali celebrations or Monday through Saturday special satsang celebrations.

Please visit the link below for more information about the Pushtimarg:

http://www.vallabhkankroli.org/kirtan%20dhol%20pad_rich%20heritage_chapter_3.htm

Please contact Bhakti Kirtan Group coordinator for any questions/comments/suggestions.

Coordinator: Mitaben Vora at mita.bayvp@gmail.com

Jai Shree Krishna