



TECHNICAL STRUCTURE  
of Bharata Natyam

**Bharata Natyam**

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graph TD; A[Bharata Natyam] --> B[NRITTA]; A --> C[NRITYA]; A --> D[NATYA]; B --> B1["-Pure dance style<br>- Consists of<br>adavus"]; C --> C1["-Expressional<br>dance"]; D --> D1["- Dance Drama"];
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**NRITTA**

-Pure dance style  
- Consists of  
adavus

**NRITYA**

-Expressional  
dance

**NATYA**

- Dance Drama

Nritya: It is  
based on the  
**NAVARASA**

Nava = 9      Rasa= flavor/sentiments

The Navarasas are:

- Shringara (Love)
- Haasya (Laughter)
- Karuna (Sorrow/compassion)
- Raudra (Anger)
- Veera (Heroism/Courage)
- Bhayaanaka (Fear)
- Bhibhatsya (Disgust)
- Adbhuta (Surprise/Amazed)
- Shanta (Peace/Tranquility)

**MARGAM:** The repertoire where dance compositions are performed in an established order

1. **Alarippu**
2. **Jatiswaram:** combination of adavus danced to musical notes (sa re ga ma....)
3. **Shabdam:** It describes the glory of a God/King through a song. It has adavu pieces in between
4. **Varnam:** It is the climax of the repertoire. It describes the glory of a God with more intricate details, and interspersed with complex adavus sequence
5. **Padam:** Devotional dance
6. **Thillana:** sequences of adavus, with a little bit of expression at the end describing a God.

# Alarippu

It is the first item in the Bharata Natyam margam

The dancer offers a Namashkar to the Gods, the Guru and the audience

Alarippu means blossoming. Hence, it is the blossoming of the dancer as he/she performs the first Bharata Natyam item in the sequence.