

The UCSC History Department and the UCSC
Khan Classical Indian Music Endowment present

Violins and Veenas, Airs and Ragas:

Dialogues between European and
Indian music in 19th-century India

**A LECTURE BY
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Thursday, May 18th, 2023

Humanities 1 Room 520

2:00-3:30 pm

This illustrated talk illuminates a fascinating chapter in the encounter between European and Indian music. Tanjore (Thanjavur) was a cosmopolitan center of innovation in the multilingual south Indian traditions of Karnatic raga music and Bharata Natyam dance. European music came to Tanjore in the early nineteenth century, when the kingdom was subordinated by the English East India Company. Even as the fretted veena was queen of instruments, and new lyric genres were developed, Karnatic music absorbed European musical styles, and instruments such as the violin and clarinet. The story of south India's engagement with European music is a tale of dialogues among violins and veenas, and of tunes and genres that travelled across national and cultural boundaries, with an emphasis on the novel and the popular.

