

Sanskrit/Hindi transliteration pronunciation guide

In the score and vocal parts, I use an anglicized simplified transliteration which is quite sufficient for performances, especially outside of India. (Please note that the aspiration from an "h" following a consonant is a subtle effect except in the case of "sh".) In this simplified system, given in the English alphabetical order;

The letter "a" is pronounced as "u" in "but."
The letters "aa" is pronounced as "a" in "father."
The diphthong "ai" is as in "aisle".
The diphthong "au" is as the German "Haus".
The letter "b" is pronounced as "b" in "baby"
The letter "bh" is pronounced as "b-h" in "tub-hot"
The letter "c" is pronounced as "ch" in "church."
The letter "ch" is pronounced as "ch-h" in "staunch-heart"
The letter "d" is pronounced as "d" in "road"
The letter "dh" is pronounced as "d-h" in "red-hot"
The letter "e" is pronounced as "ay" in "pay"
(avoid adding the "y" sound at the end)
The letters "ee" are pronounced as "ee" in "seed"
The letter "g" is pronounced as "g" in "goat"
The letter "gh" is pronounced as "g-h" in "dig-hard"
The letter "h" is pronounced as "h" in "heaven."
The letter "i" is pronounced as "i" in "sin"

The letter "j" is pronounced as "j" in "jiffy"
The letter "jh" is pronounced as "dge-h" in "hedge-hog"
The letter "k" is pronounced as "k" in "kite"
The letter "kh" is pronounced as "ck-h" in "kick-hard"
The letter "l" is pronounced as "l" in "light."
The letter "m" is pronounced as "m" in "mother."
The letter "n" is pronounced as "na" in "nut."
The letter "o" is pronounced as "o" in "no"
(avoid the u/w sound as the end)
The letters "oo" are pronounced as "oo" in "roof"
The letter "p" is pronounced as "p" in "popcorn."
The letters "ph" are pronounced as "p-h" in "up-hill"
(This is not pronounced like f. There is no "f" in Sanskrit.)
The letter "r" is pronounced as "r" in "right."
The letter "s" is pronounced as "s" in "seven."
The letters "sh" are pronounced as "sh" in "shut."
The letter "t" is pronounced as "t" in "hot"
The letters "th" are pronounced as "t-h" in "hot-house",
and not like
thin"
The letter "u" is pronounced as "u" in "should"
The letter "v" is pronounced as "v" in "victory."
The letter "y" is pronounced as "y" in "yes."