

MUSIC

The word derives from Greek word "**Mousike**" which means "**Art of Muses**". In its most general form, the activities describing music as an art form include the production of works of music (songs, tunes, symphonies, and so on), the criticism of music, the study of the history of music, and the aesthetic examination of music.

Ancient Greek and Indian philosophers defined music as tones ordered horizontally as melodies and vertically as harmonies. Common sayings such as "**the harmony of the spheres**" and "**it is music to my ears**" point to the notion that music is often ordered and pleasant to listen to. However, 20th-century composer **John Cage** thought that any sound can be music, saying, for example, "There is no noise, only sound. Music is an art form and cultural activity whose medium is sound and silence. The common elements of music are

- **Pitch** : This governs Melody and Harmony)
- **Rhythm** : This is associated with concept tempo, meter and articulation
- **Dynamics** : refers to loudness and softness
- **Color of Musical Sound:** sonic qualities of timbre and texture

The Different styles of music may emphasize, de-emphasize or omit some of the said above elements. Music is performed with a vast range of instruments and with vocal techniques ranging from singing to rapping, and there are solely instrumental pieces, solely vocal pieces (such as songs without instrumental accompaniment) and pieces that combine singing and instruments.

The **music of India** includes multiple varieties of Indian Classical Music, Folk music, Filmi and Indian Pop. India's classical music tradition including Hindustani music, Carnatic Music that has a history spanning millennia and developed and developed several eras. Music in India began as an integral part of socio-religious life.

The Hindustani music

The Hindustani music tradition diverged from Carnatic music around the 13th-14th centuries AD. The practice of singing based on notes was popular even from the Vedic times where the

hymns in Sama Veda, an ancient religious text, were sung as Samagana and not chanted. Developing a strong and diverse tradition over several centuries, Hindustani music was not only influenced by ancient Hindu musical traditions, historical Vedic and native Indian sounds but also enriched by the Persian performance practices of the Mughals. The Classical genres are Dhrupad, Dhamar, Khyal, Tarana and Sadra and there are also several semi-classical forms.

Carnatic Music

The word 'Carnaadagam' means 'old' in Tamil. As this music is from the very old days it was called carnatic music and not because of the south Indian state 'KARNATAKA'. The present form of Carnatic music is based on historical developments that can be traced to the 15th - 16th centuries AD and thereafter. It is said to have originated in the South India.

Like Hindustani music, it is melodic, with improvised variations, but tends to have more fixed compositions. It consists of a composition with improvised embellishments added to the piece in the forms of Raga Alapana, Kalpanaswaram, Neraval and, in the case of more advanced students, Ragam – Talam- Pallavi. The main emphasis is on the vocals as most compositions are written to be sung, and even when played on instruments, they are meant to be performed in a singing style known as Gayaki. There are about 7.2 million ragas (or scales) in Carnatic Music,¹ with around 300 still in use today.

Purandara Das is considered the father of Carnatic music, while Tyagaraja, Shyama Shastry and Muthusamu Dikshita are considered the trinity of Carnatic music.

Western Music:

Western Music History can be traced back to Medieval times, with the Introduction of Chanting (later termed Gregorian Chanting) into the Catholic church services. Western Music then started becoming more of an art form with the advances in music notation and more focus on secular themes.

Let us learn Music to invest Peace and Harmony with in ourselves and in our civil society too.

In Solidarity

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08.08.2015

