**Test your knowledge of Carnatic Music**

1. There are two types of musical systems - Harmonic and Melodic. Which type of system is Carnatic music?
2. How many basic notes are there in the Harmonic systems and how many basic notes are there in the Melodic system?
3. What is the fundamental difference in the frequency of notes between a harmonic and a Melodic system?
4. What is an octave?
5. In total, how many full and half-notes are there in Carnatic music?
6. Which type of notation does Indian music use - Staff notation or script notation?
7. What is the difference between a swara and a note?
8. What is a raga? Give at least two characteristics of a raga.
9. Why does the same raga (e.g. Kalyani or Sankarabharanam) sung by two different musicians sound exactly alike?
10. What are the two types of ragas?
11. What is the fundamental difference between the two types of ragas?
12. What is a varja ragam?
13. What is a vakra ragam?
14. At least give me two examples of Ghana ragas?
15. How is a thala different from rhythm?
16. In a Sulapdi Saptha scheme of thalas, how many thalas are available?
17. What is a jati? How would you differentiate thisra jati from Kanta jati?
18. Thalas are named in two parts - first part representing the jati and the second the name of the thala. If I say, Kanta Jati Triputa, would you be able to say how many units or aksharas it has? Similarly, what are the aksharas for the other thalas.
19. What is Venkatamukhi's greatest contribution to music theory?
20. According to the Melakarta scheme, how many parent or Janaka ragas are there?
21. Can you point out why these Janaka ragas are divided into two groups? What differentiates the two groups?
22. What is one principle requirement of Janaka ragas?
23. What does sampoornam mean when applied to Melakarta ragas?
24. What do we mean by Katapayadi scheme? What is this schme used for?
25. Can a Janya raga or a child raga be born from a raga that is not listed as one of the ragas in the Melakarta scheme? Why or why not?
26. What are musical forms? Why do we need them? Give at least two different musical forms in Carnatic music.
27. What is the difference between abhyasa ganam and Sabha ganam?
28. What is the difference in characteristic between a varnam and a Geetham?
29. What are the two types of varnams?
30. What is the difference between a thana varnam and a pada varnam?
31. Give on common characterstic and one differentiating charactistic between a kirtana and a kriti.
32. What are maguda swarams in a ragamalikai?
33. What differentiates a thillana from a regular kriti?
34. Can you give at least two examples of musical forms that focused on bhakthi or devotion?
35. Cite at least two composers from each of the following periods - pre-triniti, triniti, and post-triniti.
36. How many systems of Indian music existed before the 10th century?
37. Can you cite one or two reasons why South Indian classical music was called Carnatic music?
38. Who wrote the Thevara Padhikams and what type of musical form does it belong to?
39. There were three composers from the seventhy century who were pioneers of the bhakthi movement. Can yuoi cite two of those three composers?
40. How many Azhvars were there?
41. Who was responsible for compiling the 4,000 Divya Prabhandam?
42. In what language was 4,000 Divya Prabhandam written?
43. Can you name the only female Azhvars among the Azhvars?
44. Who composed the ThiruvAchakam and TiruvempAvai?
45. What is the Tamil equivalent of Raga?
46. What was the contribution of Jayadeva; name the set of his famous compositions?
47. Who wrote the Geetha Govindam?
48. What is the primary theme of the Geetha Govindam compositions?
49. Who wrote the Thiruppugazh?
50. What distinguishes Arunagirinathar's compositions (in terms of theme or messages) from some of the earlier composers?
51. Which pre-trinity composer is credited with providing the compositional structure into pallavi, anupallavi, and charanam?
52. Which composer, although born in a Saivitefamily of Advaitic followers, wrote most of his compositions about Vishnu and on the Vishishtadvaitic concept of Prapatti?
53. What is madhura bhakthi?
54. List one or more great contributions of the Poet Annamacharya?
55. Name a composer who is called the father of padams (more than one composer is credited with this title)?
56. Who wrote the Kshetrayya Pancharathnams?
57. Who is the author of Krishna Leela Tharangini?
58. Who wrote the musical operas, Parijatha Abaharanam and Haribhakthi Sundarnavam?
59. Can you name a composer who was accused of misusing tax collections to build a temple for Sri Rama?
60. Name a great composer who was also a Minister of Education.
61. Which composer is called the Pitha Maha (Great Fatgher) of Carnatic Music?o
62. What is the greatest contribution of Sri Purandaradasa to Carnatic Music?
63. Name a popular varnam written by Pachimiriyam Adiyappa.
64. Who is the composer of Rama Nataka Keerthanaigal?
65. Which composer is popularly known as the Tanavarna margadarsi?
66. At least name one composer who took up Sanyasa (relinquished family life) at a young age.
67. Who is Venkata Kavi and what were some of his great accomplishments and contributions?
68. Who are the Trinities of Carnatic Music?
69. In which century did the Trinities live and compose music?
70. Can you name one or two composers who also lived during the period the Trinities lived?
71. Who was the guru of Syama Sastri?
72. What is Syama Sastri's greatest contribution?
73. Name one or two of Syama Sastri's swarajatis?
74. On the thala front, can you cite one or more notewrothy contributions made by Syama Sastri?
75. Name a disciple of Syama Sastri.
76. What is the mudra or signature generally used by Syama Sastri?
77. Which one of the trinities is the youngest?
78. Which one of the Trinities was proficient in both Carnatic and Hindustani music styles?
79. What is a sthala kriti?
80. What is Manipravalam?
81. Can you name one or more sthalas where Dikshitar composed songs in praise of the local deity?
82. What is the mudra or signature used by Dikshitar?
83. Which book written by Bharatha is often regarded as the fifth Veda?
84. How many intervals are there in the seven notes of the scale and what are they called?
85. Prior to even Bharatha’s time, there were three parent scales in India. Name them.
86. What is the first text on music to discuss Raga? Name the author.
87. Is Raga unique only to India? Are there equivalents to Raga in other countries, e.g. Greece, Persia, or Arabia?
88. Ragas are classified into three classes, depending on the number of notes used in the arohana and the avarohana. Names these three classes.
89. What is the key note in a raga that is emphasized constantly while the raga is exposed?
90. What is the subdominant note in a raga that reinforces the key note and a note that is usually the fourth or fifth note from the key note?
91. Notes which conflict with the mood of a raga and that could destroy the inherent effect of a raga is called?
92. Grace notes in a raga are known as?
93. Who wrote Geetha Govinda?
94. Who is the author of the Sangeetha Rathnakara?
95. What does the work Keerthana mean?
96. Although used synonymously, what is the difference between a Keerthana and a Kriti?
97. Name the three parts of a Kriti?
98. Which are the oldest Kritis?
99. Who is a vaggyekara?
100. Name one or two vaggekara?
101. Name a child prodigy who composed songs and whose parents are Kumaranarayana and Lakshmamma of Tallapakkam?
102. Who used the mudra, guru guha in his compositions?
103. Which Maharaja of Travancore, a contemporary of the Trinity from Tamilnadu and was also an eminent composer?
104. Name the violinist to whom, the Maharaja of Travancore presented an ivory violin?
105. What is a padam?
106. What is a Javali?
107. Who was a very well-known for Padams and Javali?
108. Which is the earliest evidence of the use of musical instruments in India?
109. What is a Yazh?
110. What is a Kuzhal?
111. Who is credited with introducing the violin into Indian music?
112. What do these terms commonly refer to –Tata, Avanaddha, Ghana, and Sushira? And, who used these terms?
113. What are the Thevarams?
114. Who composed the Thevarams?
115. Who are these three individuals – Thirunavukarasu, Gnanasambandar, and Sundaramoorthy (7th through the 9th AD)?
116. Who were the Alvars?
117. Arunagirinadhar, a famous 15th century composer from Tamilnadu wrote 1,400 songs that are collective called?
118. What was Purandaradasar’s original name and when was he born?
119. Who was known as the Pithamaha of Carnatic music?
120. What is Purandaradasa credited with as his great contribution to the teaching and learning of Carnatic music?