

## A Guide to Music Genre Choice

An extremely complex and subjective area; however this document is an attempt to put forward the various arguments and our own suggestions and view of why we choose the styles and genre of music.

## The Balance of Music Genre Choice

**PRIMARY**



**SECONDARY**



- Western Classical
  - Music Notation
  - Harmony
  - Huge Repertoire
  - Written availability
  - Recordings
- A. International Popular Music
  - B. India : Carnatic
  - C. India : Hindustani
  - D. The pull of Bollywood

### 1. What is Genre?

It is a generic style or type (genre) of music. Examples include Western Classical, Carnatic, Hindustani, Chinese Classical, Japanese Classical, Ragtime, Blues etc. Most non-pure forms can be grouped into being folk (of one specific country or culture), pop, Bollywood, filmy gana etc.

### 2. Which Genre is taught?

Any and all forms are taught. Mostly as 1-on-1, guru-sishya, mentor-protégé etc. None of them lend themselves nor are taught in classrooms nor as mass education.

### 3. Is selecting a genre important?

Extremely. The folk, culture and grounding of the mother tongue, and in songs of a mother to a new-born (even before birth) form the very core and character of a human being. The reason why everyone likes music.

#### 4. Teaching Singing

An instrument that everyone carries with them. Everyone can be taught to sing. Even people who are clinically dumb cannot talk may be able to sing. That's how the human mind works. Singing can help children and people with breathing problems or other related lung problems. The right way – least strain on the vocal chords, correct posture, optimal breath control is western vocal training.

#### 5. Teaching an Instrument

Classical music teaching has instrument systems, process, workbooks, standards, systems including various options called methods. These are for Clarinet, Saxophone, Concert Flute, Recorder, Oboe, Bassoon, Violin, Viola, Cello, Double-Bass Classical Guitar, Trumpet, French-Horn, Trombone, Tuba, Euphonium etc. These takes years of study; grades, degrees, post-graduation options exist. The electric guitar, drums and keyboard are not. (Digital Piano is an exception).

#### 6. Research

- Western Classical Music shows improvement in plant life growth. Cows give more milk. Calms mentally ill patients. Improves math. Reduces stress, cannot perform under drugs, alcohol or substance abuse.
- Pop Music (non-western classical music) has less research around it. However rock music induces mental cessation, alzheimers, parkinsons disease are strictly forbidden from rock and pop music. A culture of drugs, alcohol and drug abuse surrounds music and pop-culture. Ask the Bangalore Police.

#### 7. Teaching & Performing numbers

- Numbers : Western Classical Music can have 4,8,30,60,100 even 1000 musicians playing together. El Systeme in Venuzeula has brought millions out of property with Western Classical Music and the violin. Lends itself to classroom and mass education.
- Pop-music with an electric guitar (3 max?) and 1 drummer. Even for this Music International has a way forward and potential results. We are working with Yamaha on this. Can never lead to classroom nor mass education.

## **Classical Music**



1. Full of History
2. Years to learn
3. Rules
4. Discipline & Structure
5. Dress code
6. ANY generation
7. Behave
8. Can't perform on Drugs
9. It's the same – Familiarity. Consistent. Refreshed. Calming.
10. Soft & loud. Fast & Slow. Emotional Connectedness
11. Words. Libretto. Story Telling. Ethical, Moral.

## **Popular Music**



1. Little history
2. Start playing from day
3. No rules
4. No discipline nor structure.
5. Younger Generation
6. No dress code
7. Scream & Shout
8. Drug-Alcohol Abuse Culture
9. Fad. Top-of-the-pos. What's new. Change. Agitates.
10. Loud. Louder. Loudest. Frenzy. Energy-outlet. Exhausting.
11. Lyrics. Bad language. Talk, write & sing about anything.

## **An analogy : Organised vs dis-organised Sport**

### **A FIFA vs A village game ...**

#### **Classical Music**



1. You have to know that FIFA is the world body for Soccer.
2. It took years of practice, skill development, training & effort.
3. Eleven on each side
4. Rules
5. Discipline
6. Dress code
7. Referee
8. Good Audience
9. Fixed size goal-posts
10. The lines and markings are clear.
11. Two halves of 45 minutes
12. Everyone KNOWS the rules.
13. Everyone know who won and what happens next.

#### **Popular Music**



1. You haven't heard of FIFA. Who cares.
2. Some are getting onto the field for the first time in their lives.
3. Any number of players
4. No rules
5. No discipline
6. Any dress will do
7. Local dada
8. Just us watching
9. Stones as goal posts
10. Everyone imagines the lines.
11. No one is even wearing a watch.
12. No ONE knows the rules.
13. Few know who won, what was the final score.

## Group vs Self Character Building



### *Classical Music*

1. You produce harmony.
2. You work as a team.
3. You play your part in the performance.
4. You follow the Conductor.
5. You avoid attention – but it's inevitable.
6. You are an artist playing the 'character' of another.

### *Popular Music*

1. Solo. You are the diva; the idol; the God.
2. Everyone else play to your tune.
3. You are the MAIN part of the performance.
4. You follow the money.
5. The more outrageous you are the better. Dress. Sex, Drugs, Behaviour, Music Style, Performance ... any which way to attract attention



## More about Groups & Genres

### Types of possible Western Classical Groups

Solo	Just one instrument or voice.
Duet	Two instruments or voices.
Trio	Three instruments or voices
Quartet	This is the most stable, widely used musical format. For voices this could be Soprano, Alto, Tenor & Bass. Church Choir. We could have Male Voice Quartets. String Quartet. 1st violin, 2nd violin, viola and Cello Woodwind Quartet : Flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon. Brass Quartet : Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Tuba. Chorales, Madrigals for Choirs and Chorus are also typically quartets.
Quintet	Is mostly a Quartet with one other instrument. A flute quintet will usually be a String Quartet + Flute A piano quintet is not 5 pianos but usually a piano + string quartet.
Octet	Typically doubled. i.e. 2 of each of the 4 in a quartet.
Chamber Ensemble	A group of instruments where plays an individual and separate part An odd not-defined combination of instruments
Band	Could be a Marching band or Bandstand. (eg. Circus etc.)
Group	Contemporary use of a group of musicians. Pop, rock, country, jazz etc. The last 2 typically will not be playing Classical Music

## What is the musical style and format?

Fugue	Fugues, Canons etc. early 2-part (or more) music
Suite	A series of dances or pieces of music in a particular sequence 1.A German Allemande, in 4/4 time, at a moderate speed. 2.A French Courante, (or Italian) in 3/2 time, at a moderately fast speed 3.A Spanish Sarabande, in a slow triple time. 4.An English Jig or Gigue, usually in compound time
Baroque Suite	A series of dances or pieces of music in a particular sequence 1. Bourée - a brisk dance in four time starting on the 4th beat of the bar 2. Gavotte - a medium tempo dance in four starting on the 3rd beat 3. Minuet - a graceful dance in triple-meter. 4. Chaconne - a stately dance in three (somewhat sarabande like) 5. Passacaglia - Strictly a variation form based on a bass figure.
Symphony	Complete work of music for an Orchestra
Sonata	Usually a format ... complete work for 2 or more instruments.
Cantata	Orchestra plus vocal church music
Oratorio	Orchestra plus vocal church music with spoken Biblical verse.
Concerto	Symphonic work with a focus and emphasis on one virtuoso instrument.
Opera	Sung and vocal theatre with a backing Symphony Orchestra
Worship	A substantial part of western classical music has its roots in Christianity.
Dance	Music to Listen and Music for Dance are 2 distinct halves even today.

While seeming a difficult and complex choice; its quite an easy decision. In teaching language & literature you would teach the classics while definitely accepting and acknowledging slang, porn, pulp, texting, smileys and pop-culture when the leave your campus.

Likewise you teach western classical music – theory, notation and content while accepting pop-music and the guitar-keyboard-drums culture when they leave your campus.

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