

# **FREQUENTLY** **ASKED QUESTIONS**

- **How long would it take to learn Instrument?**

- Progress in a particular music instrument depends upon the right practice, time-devotion, good teacher and individual music sense. It is obvious for a person to show good improvement and rapid progress when he/she has a music background and natural sensitivity towards music. It helps them understand and happy concepts and exercises more easily and efficiently.
- Setting goal with the teacher can help one evaluate one's level after a specific period time. So in order to know how long one can take to reach a level, one must have clearly defined goals and strategies along with the syllabus to be covered. The answer to this question can't be general.

- **Can I play and learn all the instruments?**

- There is a lot of difference between playing few songs in an instrument and getting specialized in it. Few advanced players otherwise experienced musicians, who are good at ears and know the basics of the Music and different instruments are very close to adapt it and learn it fast, If you find few people playing many instruments then they may be in the same category. But knowledge about a particular instrument and accessibility to play few compositions over it doesn't mean specialization in it, though laymen always interpret them as professionals. Music directors and Music teachers are also in the same category due to their nature of job but in general they are also specialized.



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- **Why I need to stick to my instrument and not get more creative?**

- The professionalism and maintenance factor require regular touch and practice of your instrument which leaves less time and scope for other instruments practice and devotion moreover, each instrument is so open to creativity and next experiments that it seems a big loss to play that cost.
- It is also essential to understand that each instrument though different in technique, tones and features express the same musical tones. As the musician grows with music the mysteries with regard to other instruments no longer remains a mere mystery, they happened to be picking the product as a freebie. That is why we see different musicians coordinating on a stage with different music instruments.



• **What music instrument should I try to learn being a beginner?**

- Every instrument has its own feature, quality, sound and impression. Good to give a thought to something you would spend countless hours in future but better to gain it through experience instead of delay. Though this question demands probing of yours thoughts and further counseling as it's being more personal rather general so better to talk senior musicians or teachers.

⊕ There are few suggestions :-

- ❖ Know the styles of music you prefer to hear. I.e. Classical, Rock, Pop and light etc.
- ❖ Discover the sound that relaxes you the most and you would love to hear again and again like Strings, Wind and Drums etc.
- ❖ Discover your goals in music considering the professional, Academic choices and other factors like time-devotion, dedication and practice.
- ❖ Hold different instruments, listen to their playing and begin few exercises on them for a small period. Sooner you will be able to find the right instrument of yours choice.

## • Why we need a teacher in music?

- The significance of Guru-shishya tradition is still undeniable in Indian Classical Music. While learning music through a teacher you not only learn or play notes that can be written and readable but also discover the feelings, styles, colour of the note which cannot be written and mathematically transferred through books or words.

## • Do we also need a teacher in a western instrument?

- Yes, because the lessons given by a teacher are not always general but spontaneous, personal and specific. Even though key board and guitar is a western instruments and we have some good examples of self-taught learners yet teacher helps in guiding, monitoring and commenting the student that no music book or video can help.

- The important thing is to know ours' perception about instruments and ourselves and the expectations we carry. The teacher helps in counseling and setting of individual goals. A good teacher always adds something to student's ability.

• **How long must one practice like a professional?**

- The word “professional” has many implications. A professional artist generally means an artist holding specialization in playing the style of music he/she is associated with. Even a professional artist has to improvise, learn, adapt and practice. But the term “professional” makes him/her associated to a particular style of music and a definite platform or arena. A professional is the one who is responsible, accountable and committed to the style of music and instrument he/she plays. A professional is dependent on the instrument for his/her bread and butter and committed to it for his/her livelihood. But it never

means that a professional is better or always the best.

- As far as the quality and presentation of music by a professional is concerned, it can easily be weighed upon the factors such as time-devotion, dedication and sacrifice made by him/her in consideration for money, recognition and above all love towards music. The knowledge and potentiality of a professional demands an equivalent effort to achieve it. So in order to play like a professional one must have clearly defined goals and strategies to accomplish them. One should define the term professional in his/her context and form a plan and practice schedule to achieve that standard in a particular period of time with the help of a professional teacher.

• **How can I take out the listened compositions on my own?**

- Ear training is the key to get this work upon. Register of notes in the mind, ability to distinguish between different pitches. Recognizing them and

locating them on the instrument. Also clear understanding of the basics of music and the instrument concepts such as scale, chords, fingering that helps to know the route and finally relating all these, helps to take out the listened composition on the instrument. Until an artist reaches at this level, he/she can never feel him/her self as learned or complete. This level is best achieved by complementing instrument education with vocal training.

### • How to fight through the stage fear?

- There is difference between the stage fears, one is anxiety due to pressure of task and responsibility and other is fear of rejection and failure. Though they both seem two sides of the same coin but they are different indeed. The fear of rejection is more an assumption rather reality, it's a thoughts distortion. The anxiety is natural and somewhat helps to you stay alert.



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## • How can music be used to relax?

- Music therapy is the science that developed and answers this question perfectly. Music indeed relaxes when association of a feeling to a particular pattern of sounds is being produced again and again to generate the same feeling inside us. It creates an inner harmony and helps us to relax.
- The expression of moods and thoughts through the channel of music also contributes our health. In order to better understand and realize this fact, few ragas in Indian classical music can be understood and listened. It's important to remember that receptivity, sensitivity of the individual also contributes proportionately.

*“Music is your own experience, your own thoughts, your wisdom. If you don't live it, it won't come out of your horn. They teach you there's a boundary line to music. But, man, there's no boundary line to art.”*

*Charlie parker*