

# **IMPORTANCE OF** **READING MUSIC**

- Instruments can be played either by listening, watching or reading and every method has to be practiced, developed and followed because each method has its own merits and features. If one develops sight-reading then certain exercises are to be focused to keep it locked with memory.
- Western musicians are always caught by surprise at the intellectual ability of Indian classical performers performing continuously for hours and hours just depending on memory. Also Musicians back home are awestruck at the well-timed play of hand and eye in synch by western classical performers going through the written practice.
- Both styles vary in nature, training and overall development of a musician's personality. There are very few musicians blessed with both styles of experiencing music but there are plenty of good musicians, great listeners with extraordinary grasp

of Music yet they don't feel the need to know Music-reading.

### **Why people avoid reading music?**

- Few musicians believe that it is an indirect form of learning that cannot focus on the feeling aspect of music learning without the presence of a teacher.
  - Each and Every aspect of Music is not distinctly expressive and clear in notations.
  - Many prevalent music styles are more difficult to express through staff notation and that is how they are independent and complete in themselves.
  - Some good musicians adamant in nature prefer being confined to a certain but limited boundary. Age and professional arena is among few main factors that lead them to avoid music-reading.
  - As observed few beginner students are slightly apprehensive about being classical and exploring the depth of music.
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- The statement mentioned above discloses most of the myths and facts that are generally responsible to avoid staff notation learning. The first three

statements are true beyond and shadow of doubt as Notations and Music sheets collections cannot help you to be a Musician, it is what is inside you that is expressed and reflected as Music and it's never a victim of reading at anytime. The last statements are more myths that disclose the fear of a beginner or layman out of ignorance. Divorce or discard the myth, as age may be the culprit to learning process. One should not limit oneself to just one way to rehearse musical notes rather he should have a wider vision with musical mindset.

### ***Why should people learn to read music?***

- Music reading knowledge is a complementary asset to the artist's talent and it's never as lengthier of difficult as believed to be without facts & experience. It can easily be transferred in simultaneous process that it shouldn't be kept on side stand as a separate subject. Why it is given so much hype is just due to specific avoidance and preconceived notions. Though it takes time to master it depending upon the student's ability yet

basics can be taught and covered within stipulated time.

- In the context of piano, keyboard and guitar, staff notation is not only an essential part but also worth knowing disregard of the style one chooses to play. The study of staff notation is valuable and beneficial to any progressive professional part of the trade. While learning classical instruments, the written material helps the student in playing compositions, which cannot be memorized initially, as it being much technical and based on harmony.
- Rock, Blues, Jazz and Indian classical Musicians do not necessarily need staff Notations as most of the music played is based on spontaneous improvisations depending upon the feel and knowledge of the artist, in fact there are various styles of music, which hardly need any reading knowledge.

### ***knowledge of Music reading helps in:-***

- Writing and Record-keeping of melodies.

- Communication and exchange of music/music ideas between two classified people ranging from different part of the globe.
- An easy access to reading and playing music belonging to different eras.
- Understanding and developing of Music theory.
- Preserving the music that is written through the ages, which further forms the basis for study, analysis and research by music colleges.
- Expansion of the initial composition.

One of the other significant reasons is to facilitate arrangement for more than one player (example: symphony, orchestras, music bands, chorales etc.)

At last it should neither be forced nor imposed. Beginners may choose to avoid it and is also difficult and complicated for kids, it sometimes demoralizes learning. Time limitation to practice, lack of motivation and lack of initiative are among few factors that are also responsible in avoidance of staff notation learning by a beginner.

*“After silence that which comes nearest to express the inexpressible is music.”*