





# MACVISTA

Music  
Read more...

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Protect yourself and others from getting sick

**Wash your hands**



- after coughing or sneezing
- when caring for the sick
- before, during and after you prepare food
- before eating
- after toilet use
- when hands are visibly dirty
- after handling animals or animal waste



Hi! Hope you, your family and friends are all safe and healthy. Across the globe, several countries including ours is dealing with second or third waves of the COVID-19 pandemic. While there is news about vaccines being developed, there is also increase in the cases given the winter season in many places. Remember that the epidemic is far from over and the only way to stay safe is to follow guidelines being issued by the authorities. Stay home, stay safe and do not forget to be kind to yourself and others around you.

For regular updates, visit the [WHO website](http://who.int).

Even in the face of this virus, we will continue to live our normal lives. And in that spirit, presenting the MACVISTA newsletter with **Music** as the theme. Start your reading experience now.





# Happy 250th Birthday, Beethoven!

One would think that music is an art form that requires using the sense of hearing the most. Correct? However, read this now. Ludwig van Beethoven, one of the world's most well-known musician and composer, wrote his best music when he was going deaf. Isn't that unbelievable? There are many firsts associated with Beethoven. This year of 2020 is when the world is celebrating the 250th birth anniversary of this genius. Ludwig van Beethoven was born on December

16, 1770 in the city of Bonn, Germany (then a part of the Holy Roman Empire). His father was a court singer, who was unfortunately known more for his fondness of drinking than for his music. However, he was also Beethoven's first teacher and taught him to play the clavier (now known as the keyboard) and the violin. Beethoven gave his first performance at the age of 7! Yes, that's right and this was just one year older than the other great musician, Wolfgang Mozart, who had debuted at the age of 6. Beethoven took up professional work at the age of 14 to support his family. However, he had cast his magic already at 12 when he composed his first composition for the piano.

Beethoven's music flourished and proved to be a bridge between the Classical and the Romantic eras in western music. His work is roughly divided into three periods. The first period, 1794 to 1800, was one of traditional music techniques. The second period, 1801 to 1814 saw many improvisations and is known as one of his most prolific. The third period, 1814 to 1827, included a huge range of musical harmonies and textures. Some of his most famous compositions such as *the Eroica Symphony* (1805), *Symphony No. 5 in C Minor* (1808), *Symphony No. 6 in F Major* (1808) and *Symphony No. 7 in A Major* (1813) belong to his second period.







Beethoven's brilliance does not only come from him having started composing at an early age. Instead, his genius lies in the impact he continues to have in the world of music today and this started when he was alive. He has many innovations to his name. For example, he was the first to include a chorus finale. He was also the

first composer to combine vocal and instrumental music; thereby heightening the position of instrumental music forever.

Beethoven started losing his sense of hearing in the early 1800s and by 1819, he had gone completely deaf. He could hardly hear the charming music he composed and despite that, his compositions became even more magnificent in nature. From 1803 to 1812, Beethoven composed ***Fidelio***, his only opera, six symphonies, four solo concerti, five string quartets, six-string sonatas, seven piano sonatas and 72 songs. The most famous among these were the Moonlight Sonata, symphonies No. 3-8 and the Kreutzer violin sonata.

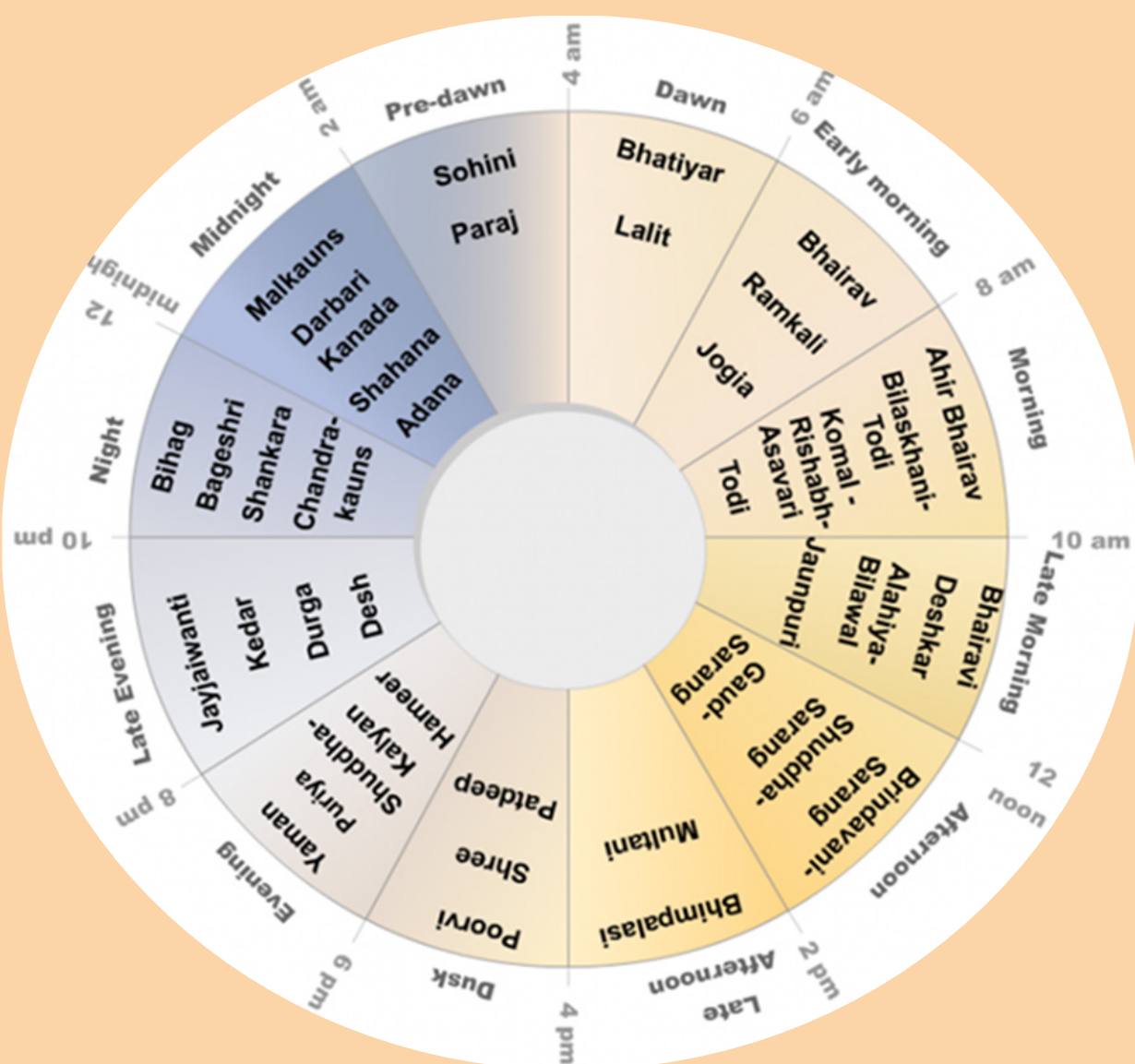
Till date, Beethoven's influence and his innovations remain undisputed and are considered equivalent to Shakespeare's contribution to literature. Beethoven, the much-admired composer, died at the age of 56. His Symphony No. 9 was adopted as the official anthem of the European Union in 1985. Beethoven's music has the power to convey a philosophy of life without the aid of spoken words.

Visit this [site](#) to know more about the celebrations planned for this greatest of all musical geniuses. To listen to some of his musical compositions, tune in to [classical radio here](#). You can even sign up for a free course to learn how to appreciate Beethoven's music by [clicking here](#). Let the music live on!



# Music For All Time

Indian classical music is largely categorised into Hindustani classical and Carnatic classical schools of music. The base for both is a collection of musical notes referred to as the *Raga*. These notes have many permutations and combinations, which give birth to a medley of musical movements called *Thaat*. And this is what makes Indian classical music so fluid and free flowing.



The ragas are classified into different categories. All are based on the seven swaras, or musical notes.





The most defining and timeless attribute of Indian classical music is that the ragas are sung or played at a specific time of the day, and then there are seasonal *ragas* as well. And all this is based on science! The time and season of the *raga* is linked to the energy of the human body and through these sounds, this energy syncs with the energy of the universe. It is this harmony that gives rise to a sense of calm and fulfilment. The six seasons — *Vasant Ritu* (spring), *Grishma Ritu* (summer), *Varsha Ritu* (monsoon), *Sharad Ritu* (autumn), *Hemant Ritu* (pre-winter) and *Shishir Ritu* (winter) have their own ragas and compositions.

The six main ragas from which all other ragas emanate are *Raga Bhairav* (dawn, early autumn), *Raga Hindol* (morning, spring), *Raga Megh Malhar* (late night, monsoon), *Raga Shri* (dusk, early winter), *Raga Deepak* (evening, early summer) and *Raga Malkauns* (late night, late winter). Some popular ragas for the morning include *Raga Ahir Bhairav*, *Todi* and *Jaunpuri*. During the afternoon, *Raga Bhimpalasi* can be played or sung. As the day turns to night, the evening ragas such as *Raga Yaman* and *Jayjaywanti* take over.







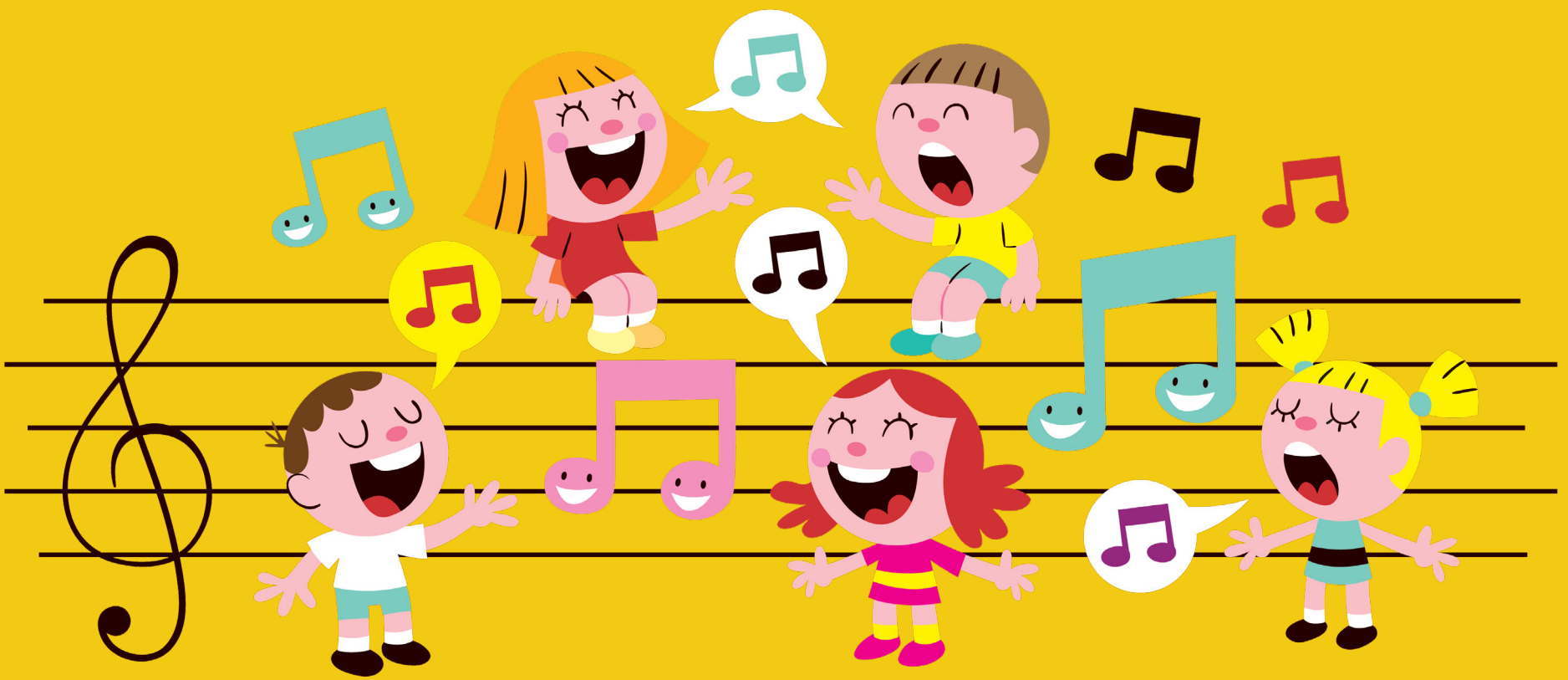
# MUSIC IN OUR CURRICULUM

Can you imagine human history without its art forms? Wherever we have used science to define ages, we have also looked at the art forms that developed during that age. Starting from the cave paintings to art movements of the 20th century, all have a place in human history. And if that is the case, how can art be separated from the all-important field of learning and education?

The objective of Art-integrated learning is to make art a medium of the learning-teaching process. The importance of Art-integrated learning has also been recognised in the recently formulated National Education Policy (NEP 2020) by the Government of India. NEP 2020 visualises art as a tool for building concepts, inculcating cultural awareness and creating an all-inclusive learning experience.







Music plays a very crucial role in the learning process. It has been proved scientifically that Musical ability is a form of intelligence. The other forms of intelligence include Logical/Mathematical, Linguistic, Spatial, Bodily-Kinesthetics, Naturalist, Interpersonal and Intrapersonal. Musical intelligence is boosted by teaching concepts through song writing, appreciation of music, music making and recognising pitch, rhythm, timbre and tone.

Integrating music into the curriculum not only helps with creative expression but also builds cognitive and affective skills. Moreover, making use of music to teach concepts brings students closer to global cultures through sounds and languages. That's not all! Music has been known to create a sense of peace and happiness and what can be better than feeling this during the learning process.

# LET THE MUSIC PLAY





# TRIBAL MUSIC OF INDIA

Musical instruments have had their own journey alongside the rise and fall of different musical traditions. Some of the most ancient sounds originate and still continue to find a place in the tribal and aboriginal music around the world.



In India, percussion and wind instruments are still a part of tribal community celebrations.

The Santhals play two types of drums – *Tamak'* and *Tumdak'* – while the Bhils have their *Jhanjh* drum. Both these tribes also lay emphasis on the flute.

Some musical instruments from the tribal lands that are endangered now include the *Nagphani*, *Sursingar*, *Gubguba*, *Pakhawaj* and *Ravanhatha*, to name a few.

Many tribal musical instruments depended on animal parts and have since dwindled due to conservation efforts.

These include *Changu* (a flat drum made of animal skin stretched tightly over a hollow, wooden base) *Kandra* (made of the hard shell of a turtle), *Pepa* from the north east (made from the horns of the bison or wild buffalo. Most songs in tribal communities are



related to nature, seasons, agriculture, cycle of life and death and are sung at important life events such as birth, marriage, death etc. Community music and dance is an essential element that keeps the tribes connected and rooted; this form of music is also like an ancestor to many modern musical instruments and traditions.







## TECHNews

All parts of the world and all the things that we do now as humans have been touched by technology. So, how could music be left out?

The Global Orchestra Foundation joined hands with Accenture Interactive to create a musical experience that was part-human and part-robot.

Taking centre stage at Sydney Opera House, from the technology front was Baxter, an Artificial Intelligence (AI) Robot. Not only did Baxter play the marimba but also had a solo! This was achieved by making use of millions of pieces of music and custom-built AI technology, first to have Baxter play the marimba and then to be able to respond to the conductor during the live performance.

The experience was enhanced further by enabling the audience to interact with the performance via their mobile phones to create visual projections. Along with AI, other elements of technology that made this performance a first-time ever was the combination of machine intelligence, real-time visualisations, robotics, and of course the harmony of music and data.



**[LISTEN TO THE ORCHESTRA HERE](#)**





# WORLD



# VIEW

While the world is moving forward with discoveries and inventions in the music industry, there are some sounds that seem to have gotten lost, forgotten or simply disappeared. However, there are certain organisations which are working at the cusp of history, anthropology and music to bring these back to the forefront.

One such organisation is Anahad Foundation, a not-for-profit, that is working towards recording, preserving, documenting and consolidating the available knowledge about the evolution of Indian tribal folk music.



[Click here to visit the website](#)

The foundation believes that recording the history and creating music festivals around the tribes can lead to a revival of interest in these forgotten sounds.

Revival has also been at the centre of the Government of India's idea to start a national tribal festival called Aadi Mahotsav. This festival features tribal art and culture and has seen artists from the Kondh, Dhemsa, Munda Dobru, Toda and Gond tribes participate in the past.

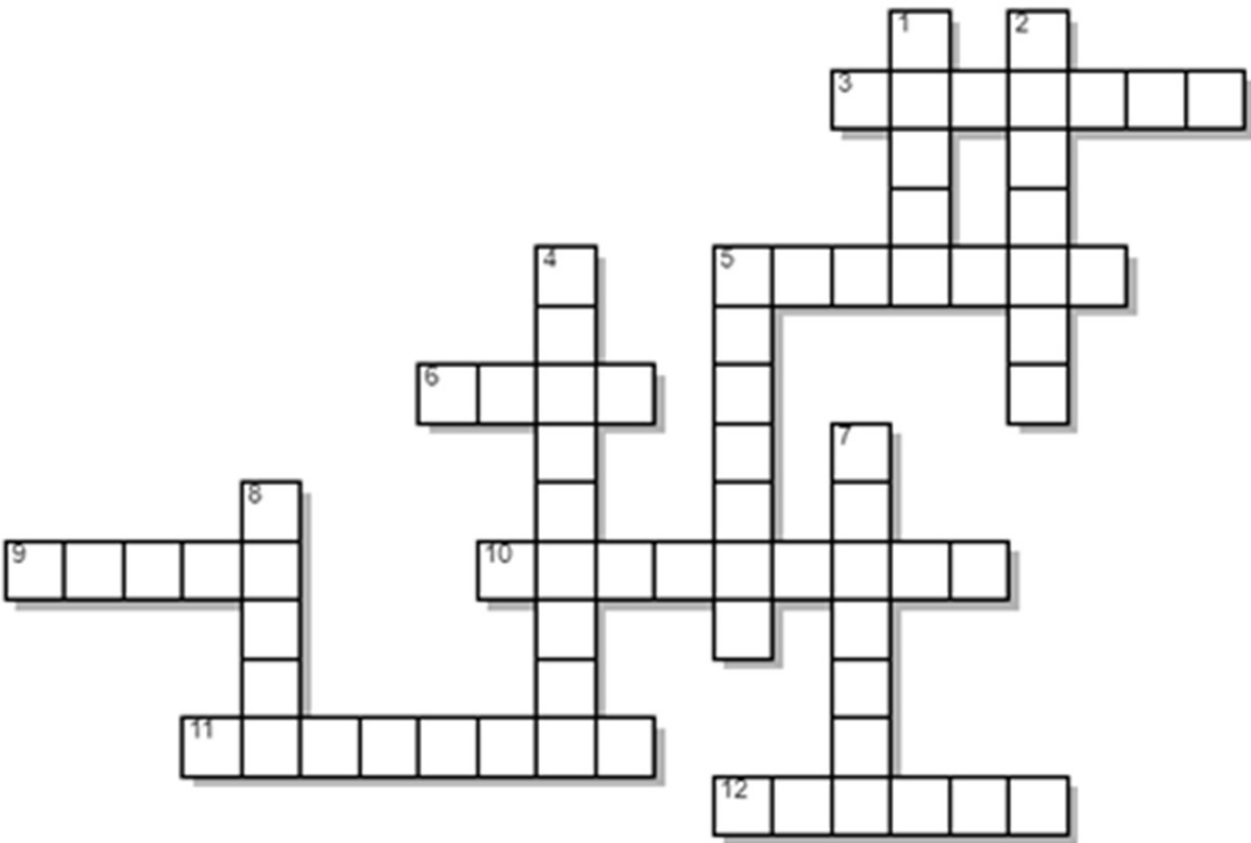
Acaté Amazon Conservation has partnered with the Matsés tribes of the Amazon river valley to document their way of life, their music, the elders' knowledge and even information about the animals of the area. This society has conservation at its heart and encompasses culture, ecology and health in its work.



[Click here to visit the website](#)



# CROSSWORD PUZZLE

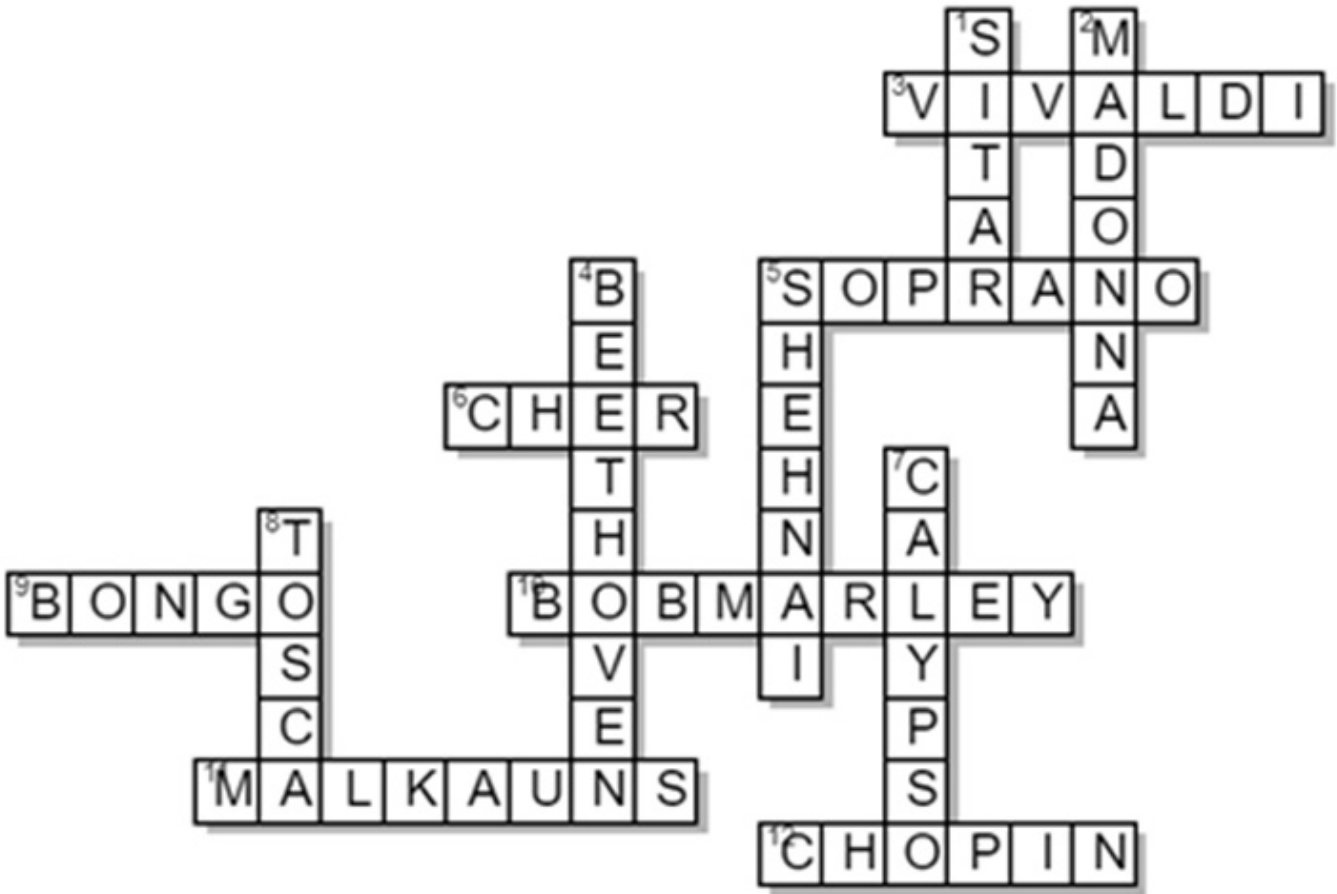


ACROSS	DOWN
3 Composer of the Four Seasons	1. Associated with Pandit Ravi Shankar
5 Technical term for the highest pitched female voice in classical music	2 Popular American singer to have won 4 Grammy Awards
6 Singer popularly known as "Goddess of Pop"	4 Composer of Moonlight sonata
9 Pair of drums originally from Cuba	5 Popularised by Ustad Bismillah Khan
10 Legendary Reggae singer	7 Type of West Indian music known for its rhythm
11 Oldest raga sung late at night	8 Name of an opera by Giacomo Puccini, means "from Tuscany"
12 Famous Polish-French music composer of the Romantic period	



# CROSSWORD PUZZLE

## ANSWER KEY







# Lighten Up RIDDLES

## GUESS WORDS WITH THE HINTS.

1. I have lots of hammers inside  
But there's no nails for them to hit  
To use them you press down on keys  
They play notes while on a stool you sit

---

2. Although this is sometimes a bass  
It's not a fish in the sea  
Instead it's something with some strings  
And it gets used musically

---

3. Tom-toms and steel pans  
Djembes and bongos  
Kettles and tympani  
What are all of those?

---

4. These things are made of metal  
You might have lots or just a single  
If you give them a good shake  
The noise that they make is a jingle



Read the  
ANSWERS  
on page  
14







# JOKES



Why did the orchestra have bad manners?  
 Because it didn't know how to conduct itself!

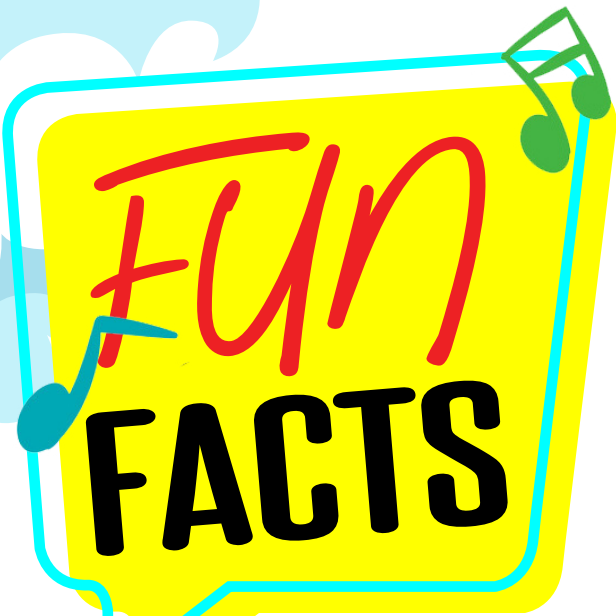
What kind of band doesn't play music?  
 A rubber band

Why is a piano so hard to open?  
 Because the keys are on the inside.

What type of songs do planets sing?  
 Nep-tunes!

Why was the musician arrested?  
 Because she got in treble!

Source: Multiple sources



- The sea organ at Zadar, Croatia, creates music when sea waves rush into the pipes below the marble stairs. Music is created by the sea and the sounds echo over the steps.
- Vienna, Austria, hosts an unusual music concert. Bands play with musical instruments made of vegetables! The band members buy vegetables from the market and turn them into instruments, and also provide soup at the end of the concert.
- The Australian Aboriginal tribes played a wind percussion instrument called the Didgeridoo; this instrument was important for their dreamscape. The Mayans also had a similar instrument known as the Mayan flute.

- One of the oldest violin makers, Gasparo da Salò, developed the art of string making during the 16th century, in Italy. Today only about 80 instruments made by Gasparo remain in existence.
- The Glass Harmonica was invented by Benjamin Franklin. It includes a series of rotating glass bowls, which the player simply touches with wet fingers to create beautiful notes. Great composers like Mozart and Beethoven also arranged pieces to include the glass harmonica.



1. PIANO
2. GUITAR
3. DRUMS
4. BELLS



# ACTIVITY SHEET

## Activity 1 D-I-Y Musical Instruments

### TINY BANJOS

Let's learn how to make our very own, personal musical instrument.  
Ready?

#### What You Need

- Small lids or bottle covers
- Couple of large rubber bands, use multi-colour ones for more fun
- Craft sticks or wooden ice cream spoons
- Stickers and sequins for decoration
- Colourful tape
- Duct tape
- Glue



#### How To Make Your Tiny Banjo?

1. Take one bottle cover and wrap 4 rubber bands around it. Fix these rubber bands with tape on the top side of the cover.
2. Next, take the craft stick or ice cream spoon and cut one end of it so that it is straight.
3. Decorate the stick with colourful tape or paper, per your design.
4. Next, stick the flat side of the stick to the same area where you stuck the duct tape for the rubber bands. Secure the stick against the cover with tape again.
5. Now, go ahead and add any further decoration like stickers and sequins using glue.

Your Tiny Banjo is ready. Strum the rubber band strings to start playing your own music. Let's make another one, shall we?





### What You Need

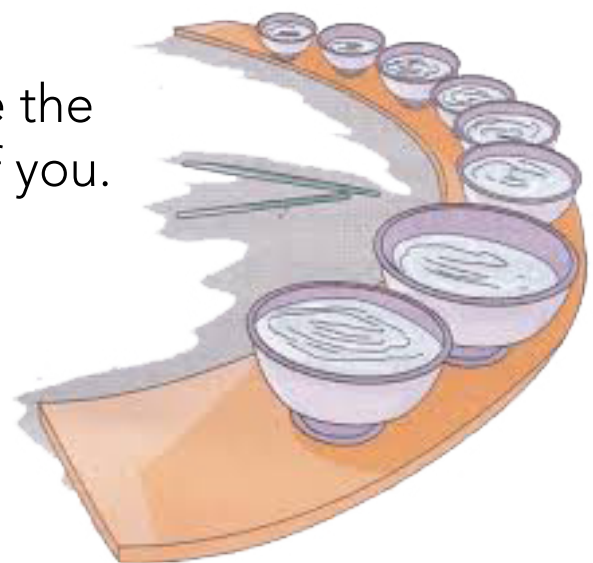
- Bowls or glasses made of glass or ceramic or steel – At least 4-5
- Steel spoons – At least 2 (or 2 sturdy wooden sticks)
- Water

### How to Make Your Jal Tarang

1. Fill the bowls or glasses with water at different levels. If you have taken transparent containers, you could fill it with coloured water, for more fun.
2. Now use the spoons to beat on the rims of the glasses or bowls and keep alternating the ones that you use.

**Tip:** For ease of comfort, sit down and arrange the containers in a semi-circular manner in front of you.

***Unleash your creativity!***




Activity 2

Match Game

Here are some awards given across the world for excellence in music and performing arts. See how many you know. Match the award with the names:


Column A

1.




☐

2.




☐

3.




☐

4.




☐

5.




☐

6.




☐

7.




☐

8.




☐

9.



☐

10.



☐

Column B

☐

A. Classic BRIT Award

☐

B. Mirchi Music Award

☐

C. Grammy Award

☐

D. MTV Video Music Award

☐

E. Golden Globe Award

☐

F. Filmfare Award

☐

G. Billboard Music Award

☐

H. BAFTA Award

☐

I. International Indian Film Academy Award

☐


J. Global Indian Music Academy Award



# Match Game

Column A

1.





2.





3.





4.





5.





6.





7.






8.





9.






10.







Column B




A. Classic BRIT Award




B. Mirchi Music Award




C. Grammy Award




D. MTV Video Music Award




E. Golden Globe Award




F. Filmfare Award




G. Billboard Music Award



H. BAFTA Award



I. International Indian Film Academy Award



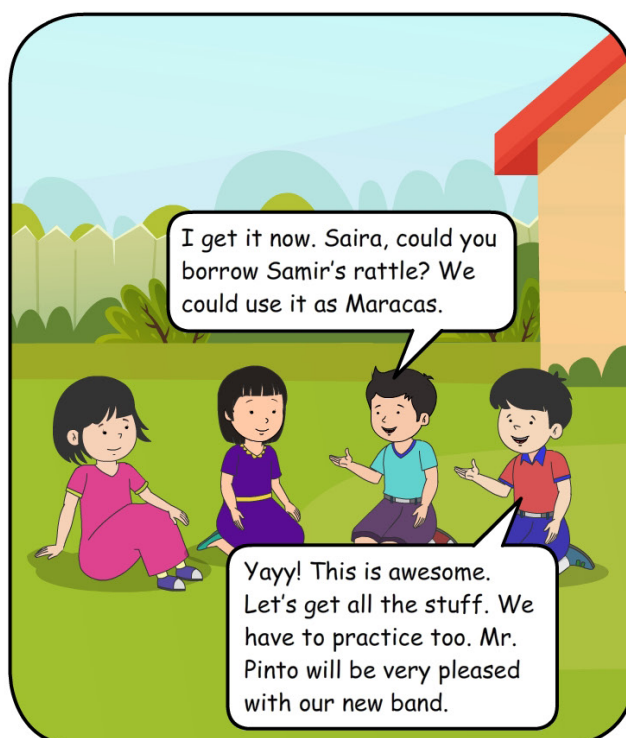
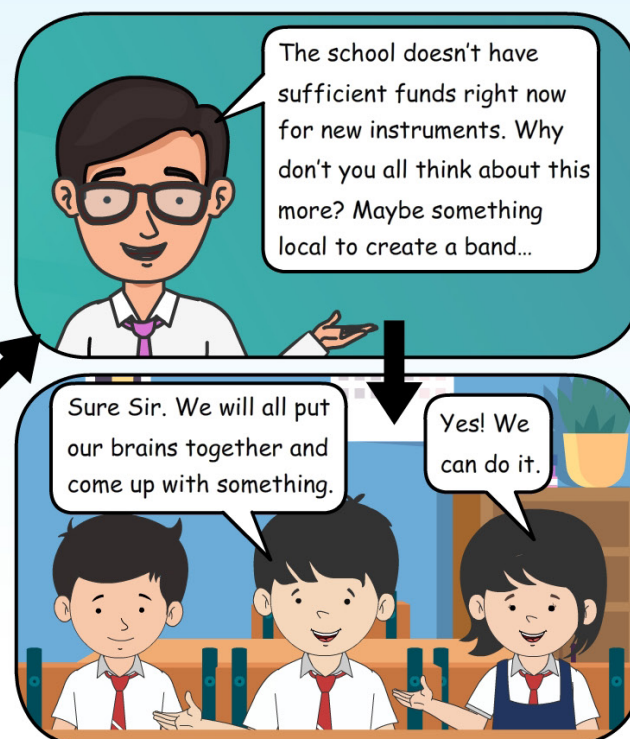
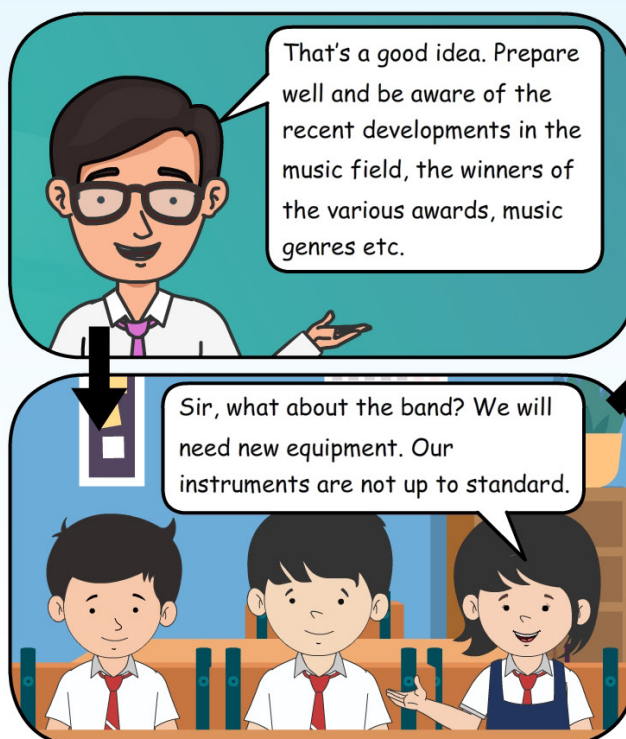
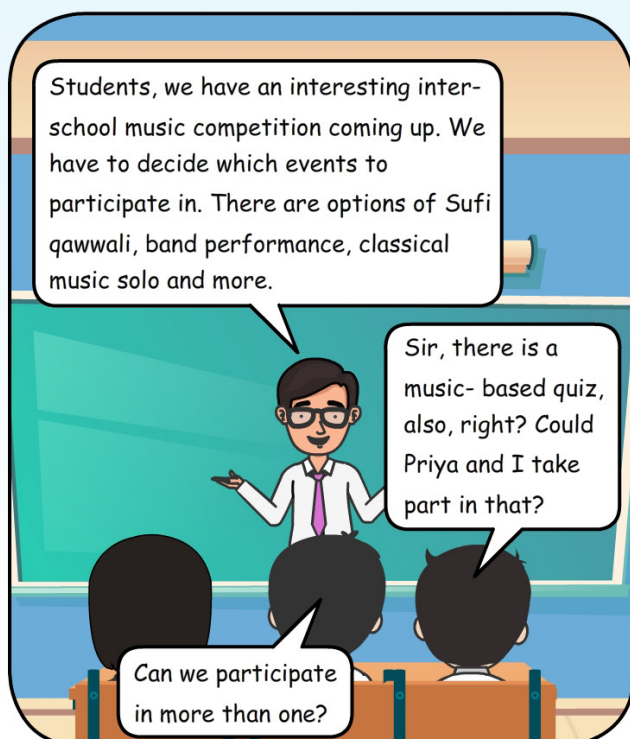
J. Global Indian Music Academy Award



# Comic Strip



## BAIRA AND BELA





# CURRENT EVENTS UPDATES

## October 2020

### October 03

Sheikh Sabah Al-Sabah, the monarch of Kuwait, for 14 years died at the age of 91. He was widely respected for his dedication to peace.



### October 06

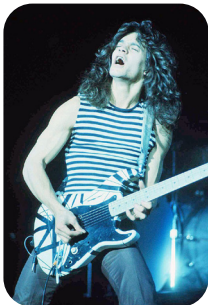
The Nobel Prize for Physics was awarded to Roger Penrose, Andrea Ghez and Reinhard Genzel for their groundbreaking discoveries about black holes.

The Nobel Prize for Chemistry was jointly awarded to Emmanuelle Charpentier and Jennifer A. Doudna for their work on genome editing.



### October 07

Eddie Van Halen, one of rock n roll’s singular and most gifted guitarists, passed away at the age of 65 due to throat cancer.



### October 12

Rafael Nadal beat Novak Djokovic to win the 13th French Open, and with this tied with Roger Federer at 20 Grand Slams.



## October 2020

### October 15

Bhanu Athaiya, renowned costume designer and India’s first Oscar winner, passed away at the age of 91.



### October 16

Samuel Paty, a middle-school teacher, was killed brutally in Paris. This was a terror attack and France’s president, Emmanuel Macron, called it a “typical Islamist terror attack”. Multiple protests were seen for and against the government’s reaction.

### October 21

NASA announced its partnership with Nokia to establish the first lunar cellular tower on the moon; to provide communication between lunar rovers.killing at least 30 people and injuring another 800.

### October 27

Armenia and Azerbaijan violated the ceasefire as fresh violence erupted between the two war-logged countries.

### October 28

Rising COVID-19 cases have led to further lockdowns and stricter rules while trying to keep the economy from collapsing in countries like Italy, Portugal, France and Germany.

### October 30

An earthquake of magnitude 7.0 struck the Turkish city of Izmir and the Greek island of Samos, killing at least 30 people and injuring another 800.

## November 2020

### November 02

Vienna saw a night of terror attack when gunmen went around bars and restaurants shooting at people; at least four people died and 22 were injured during the terror attack.

### November 03

Belarus continues to protest against president Alexander Lukashenko even as thousands of protestors are arrested and detained.

Kabul University was rocked by gunfire as gunmen opened fire on students, killing and injuring many.

### November 07

Kamala Harris became the first woman to become the Vice President-elect of the USA.



### November 10

Joe Biden has become the President-elect of the USA, defeating the current president Donald Trump. He will become the 46th president of the USA and will take oath in January 2021.



### November 16

India’s Covishield vaccine by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Serum Institute of India has entered the third phase of human testing.

Renowned actor Soumitra Chatterjee passed away at the age of 85; he is fondly remembered for his portrayal of Feluda and Apu in Satyajit Ray’s magnum opus Feluda and Apur Sansar.

# CURRENT EVENTS UPDATES

## November 2020

### November 20

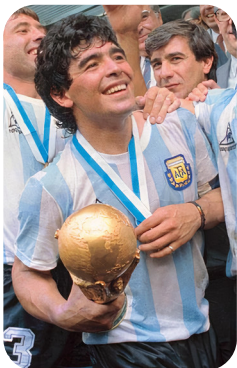
Douglas Stuart, British author, won the Booker prize for his debut novel - Shuggie Bain.

### November 23

Drugmaker AstraZeneca announced that its Oxford vaccine against Corona virus is 70% effective with no safety concerns reported.

### November 26

Soccer legend Diego Maradona passed away at the age of 60 due to a heart attack. There were outpourings of tributes for one of soccer's greatest from across the world.



## December 2020

### December 3

Farmer protests continue against the three agricultural reforms passed in the Indian Parliament; no agreement has been reached between the Central government and the farmers have blocked borders of Delhi to express their displeasure.

### December 4

Jacinda Ardern, New Zealand's Prime Minister, who won a landslide victory in the elections held in October, has declared a climate emergency; she said that the country would become 'carbon neutral' by 2025.

### December 7

Jehan Daruvala became the first Indian to win the Formula 2 race at Bahrain.

### December 8

Mt. Everest has a new height! It is now considered to be 8848.86m tall, 0.86 cm taller than earlier.



## December 2020

### December 10

Margaret Keenan, a 90-year-old Briton became the first person to receive the Pfizer vaccine against the COVID-19 virus.

Astad Deboo, a pioneer of modern dance, known for his fusion of Kathak and Kathakali, passed away at the age of 73 in Mumbai.



### December 11

China successfully activated its nuclear-powered Artificial Sun, the HL-2M Tokamak reactor. It is expected to foster China's energy ambitions.

### December 12

John Le Carré, renowned British writer known for his spy novels set in the Cold War era, died at the age of 89 in Cornwall.

### December 17

Russia has been banned from using its name, anthem or flag for two Olympic years due to state sponsored doping allegations.

### December 22

UK announces curfews and lockdowns as the COVID-19 virus has taken on new forms due to mutations. More European nations like Italy, Spain and France are also impacted by these mutations.



**MACVISTA  
WISHES ALL ITS  
READERS A  
VERY HAPPY  
NEW YEAR 2021**



**HERE'S HOPING THAT  
2021 BRINGS HEALTH,  
HAPPINESS &  
KNOWLEDGE TO ALL!!**