



MUSIC COMPETITIONS – 2026

Dates of Competitions: 3rd October & 4th October 2026

The timings of the competitions to be held in The Music Academy, 168 T.T.K. Road, Chennai – 600 014, would be duly notified. Details of the competitions are as follows:

1. VOCAL MUSIC:

(Separate prizes for ladies and gentlemen) (GNB Memorial Prize)

Participants should submit 4 compositions of each of the Trinity and should render alapana, niraval and kalpanaswaram

2. Tyagaraja Compositions (Vedagiri Memorial Prize, Swaminathan Prize and Sangita Kalanidhi Chittoor Subramaniam Pillai Prize respectively)

Competitors should submit a list of 10 kritis of Tyagaraja including one Ghana raga Pancharatna.

3. Shyama Shastri Compositions (Uttaram Chamba, Sacchidananda and V.S.S.K. Brahmananda Prize)

Competitors should submit a list of 8 kritis including one Svarajati from the three Svarajatis.

4. Muthuswami Dikshitar Compositions (Bhikshandarkoil Rajagopala Pillai Memorial Prize, Indira Ramadurai Prize and C.Venkatraman Prize)

Competitors should submit a list of 8 kritis of Muthuswamy Dikshitar including one Navagraha Kirti and one Navavarana Kirti.

5. VEENA: (Dhanammal Memorial Prize)

- a. Varnam Competition – List of 5 varnams including one Ata Tala varnam to be rendered in two speeds.

(Veena Seshanna Memorial Prize)

- b. Veena Seshanna composition V.N. Rao Memorial prize. Candidates should play 4 songs including one Veena Seshanna Composition.

(Participants can register for both of the above or any one of a or b)

6. VIOLIN: (Kasturi Ranga Iyengar Memorial Prize)

Candidates should play raga, kriti and niraval and kalpana svaras. They should submit a list of 9 songs not more than three of the same composer.

7. PALLAVI SINGING: (Dr. Sankaranarayana Iyer Memorial Prize)

The Candidates should render Ragam, Tanam & Pallavi and submit four different pallavis from ragas mentioned below with different tala structures.

RAGAS: Todi, Bhairavi, Kambhoji, Sankarabharanam, Kharaharapriya, Kiravani, Simhendramadhyamam, Shanmukhapriya, Latangi, Dharmavati, Vachaspati, Kalyani, Saveri, Mohanam, Natakurinji, Madhyamavati.

8. PADAM & JAVALI (K Tripurasundari Prize)

Competitors should submit a list of 3 Padams & 5 Javalis. Out of the three Padams, atleast one should be of Kshetragna. Among the Javalis, one each of Patnam Subramaniya Iyer and Ramnad Srinivasa Iyengar should be included.

9. TAMIL SONGS FOR GENTLEMEN & LADIES: (Kalki Ninaivu Trust and V. Natarajan Prize)

Competitors should submit a list of 8 songs, (not exceeding 2 songs of each composer) from the following: Tayumanavar, Muthuthandavar, Arunachala Kavirayar, Marimutha Pillai, Gopalakrishna Bharathi, Ghanam Krishna Iyer, Subbarama Iyer, Vedanayagam Pillai, Ponniah Pillai, Uthukkadu Venkatasubbier, Mazhavai Chidambara Bharathi, Ramaswami Sivan, Lakshmana Pillai, Nerur Srinivasachariar, Periasami Thooran and Ambujam Krishna. The candidate should, apart from rendering the songs well from the musical point of view, be able to enunciate the sahitya correctly.

10. MAHARAJA SWATI TIRUNAL & GNB COMPOSITIONS (R.K. Murthy Memorial Prize)

A list of 5 compositions of each composer should be submitted along with the application.

11. a. TULSIDAS & MIRA BHAJANS (Rajalakshmi Jagannarayanan Memorial Prize, U. Ramachandra Rao Memorial Prize)

Candidate should submit a list of 4 Bhajans each of Tulsi Das & Mirabai.

b. BHADRACHALA RAMADAS COMPOSITIONS & NARAYANA TEERTHA TARANGAM (Tadepalli Swarajya Lakshmi, Sri Narayana Teertha Educational & Charitable Trust Prize)

Candidates should submit 4 compositions of Bhadrachala Ramadas and 4 Narayana Teertha Tarangam. (Participants can register for both of the above or any one of a or b)

12. PURANDARADASA PADAS, MYSORE VASUDEVACHAR & VEENA SESHANNA (K. Seethalakshmi Memorial and V.S.S.K. Brahmananda Prize, Dr. Sinnathambi Prize)

- Competitors should submit a list of 5 padas of Purandaradas and 5 songs of Mysore Vasudevachar
- Compositions of Veena Seshanna – a list of 5 songs to be submitted.
(Participants can register for both of the above or any one of a or b)

13. POST-TRINITY COMPOSITIONS: (Soundarya Ladies Association Prize)

Competitors should submit a list of 6 compositions of the composers listed below (not to exceed 2 compositions per composer):

Subbaraya Sastri, Veena Kuppier, Mysore Sadasiva Rao, Patnam Subramanya Iyer, Ramnad Srinivasa Iyengar, Muthiah Bhagavathar, Koteeswara Iyer.

14. SANSKRIT COMPOSITIONS: (Dr. V. Raghavan Memorial Prize)

Candidates should render Sanskrit compositions of Tyagaraja, Shyama Shastri, Jayadeva, Sadasiva Brahendra, and Jayachamaraja Wodeyar. They should submit a list of 10 songs covering 2 each of the above 5 composers. The candidate should, apart from rendering the songs well from the musical point of view, be able to enunciate sahitya correctly from the point of view of Sanskrit.

15. DIVYA PRABANDHAM: (Vijayaraghavalu Naidu Memorial Prize), RAMALINGA SWAMIGAL ARUTPAS (Dr. M.G. Varadarajan Prize)

Candidates should submit a list of 5 Arutpas & 5 songs from Divya Prabandham, atleast one being Tiruppavai and others of Alvars.

16. PAPANASAM SIVAN SONGS: (Alamelu Viswanathan Prize & Gowri Mahadevan Prize)

Competitors should submit a list of 6 compositions of Papanasam Sivan.

17. COMPETITION IN VARNAMS: (Chowdiah Memorial Prize)

Competitors should furnish a list of 8 varnams in different ragas of which at least 2 should be in Ata tala. They are expected to sing in two speeds.

18. MRIDANGAM: (S.A. Venkatarama Iyer Memorial Prize)

Candidates should be able to play in 1 & 2 kala Adi, Rupaka, Khandachapu and Misrachapu Talas. They should be able to play in different Eduppus in the above talas. There will be separate prize for Juniors (12–17 years) and Seniors (18–25 years).

19. MAYURAM T.R.VISWANATHA SASTRY (TRV Memorial Prize), NEELAKANTA SIVAN and Dr. E.S. SANKARANARAYANAN SONGS (Maragatham Sankaranarayan Trust Prize) (Smt. Saraswathi Ram Prize)

Candidates should submit 9 songs covering 3 each of the above composers.

20. THAMBIRAJAN PRIZE: (Vocal) (Smt. Meenakshi Shankar and Smt. Kanaka Cadambi) Juniors & Seniors

Two individual Prizes for talented school boys and girls. This competition is open to children between the ages of 11 & 13 for Juniors and 14 & 17 for seniors studying in classes up to XII Std. The competitors should give a list of five songs of well known composers in different ragas. The candidates should furnish a certificate from the Headmaster / Headmistress of the school in the application form. There will be separate prizes for Juniors and Seniors.

21. ANNAMACHARYA KIRTANAS: (Bulusu Parameswari prize)

Competitors should submit a list of 5 compositions of Annamacharya.

22. TEVARAM & TIRUPPUGAZH: a) Smt. Mangalammal Ganesa Iyer Prize, Parthasarathy Memorial Prize, Shanmugasundaram Prize & Sangita Kalanidhi Chitoor Subramanyam Pillai)

Competitors should give a list of 5 Tevaram & 5 Tiruppugazh

23. SUBRAHMANIA BHARATI SONGS: (Bharath Film Distributors, Madras)

A list of 5 songs of Subrahmania Bharati should be given.

24. NATIONAL INTEGRATION SONGS: (Dr. M.G. Varadarajan prize)

a. Individuals / School or College Students.

b. Groups should not exceed 8.

A list of 4 patriotic songs promoting national unity and integration in any of the Indian languages should be given. At least one must be in Tamil or Hindi.

25. ELOCUTION IN MUSICOLOGY: (Dr. Rangaswamy Iyer Prize)

Competitors should be able to speak on any one of the following musical forms and their Lakshanas
a) Varnam b) Kriti c) Padam d) Javali e) Tillana.

Time given will be five minutes. Bonafide Certificate from the School / College / Institution / should be furnished along with the application.

GENERAL RULES

- All persons who are Non-Professionals and who are within the age group of 12 and 25 are eligible for all competition except for No. 20, for which, the age limit is 11 to 17.
- Competitors shall be present half an hour before the appointed time for the competition.
- The last date for submission of application is **25.9.2026**
- Graded artists of **AIR** and **DD** are **not eligible** for participation. Candidates who have participated in Spirit of Youth & HCL series of Music Academy are not eligible.
- Competitors shall sing only to **Tambura Sruti / Electronic Tambura / Sruti Box**.
- There are no competitions for Instruments other than Veena, Violin & Mridangam.
- In all matters, the decision of the Judges shall be final. The authority reserves the right to withhold the award of any of the prizes, if the judges so recommend.
- No competition shall be held in any item if there are less than three entries.
- **The winners of the first prize in any particular competition in a previous year will not be eligible to apply for that particular competition.**
- Forms are available at the office of the Academy. **Separate application has to be submitted in original for each competition.** Application in the prescribed form shall reach the office of "THE MUSIC ACADEMY" 168, T.T.K. Road, Chennai – 600 014. THE COST OF EACH APPLICATION FORM IS Rs. 25/-
- Competitors shall attend the competition at their own expense.
- ***Forms can be collected from the office of the Music Academy from 1st September 2026 to 26th September 2026 or can be downloaded from the website and sent duly filled in. A sum of Rs. 25/- per entry may be remitted at the venue on the day of the competition by outstation applicants. The local applicants may, however, remit the entry fee along with the completed applications at the office of the Music Academy in cash.***



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