

Musical, Vocal and Instrumental Arts Competitions

(Online & Offline Modes)

1. Historical Background and Vision

Vocal music has been an intrinsic part of human civilisation, serving as a medium for storytelling, worship, emotion, and cultural identity. From the Vedic chants of India to the spirituals of Africa and the operas of Europe, vocal traditions are a universal language of expression.

The Modern Pythian Games are rooted in the ancient Greek legacy of the original Pythian Games, where music and art stood equal to athletics. Revived in the 21st century, these Games aim to create a global, inclusive, and democratic platform for traditional, classical, and emerging cultural expressions.

The vocal music competition under these Games seeks to promote diverse vocal traditions, encourage youth participation, and preserve intangible cultural heritage through ethical and artistic excellence.

2. International Terminologies and Global Reach

Vocal traditions are practiced globally under different names. While names may vary, their purpose remains culturally enriching:

- India: Hindustani, Carnatic, Bhajan, Sufi, Baul, Kajri, Maand, Lok Geet
- Russia & CIS: Народная песня (Narodnaya Pesnya – Folk Song), Романс (Romance), Хоровое пение (Choral Singing)
- Europe: Opera (Italy), Lied (Germany), Chanson (France), Flamenco Cante (Spain), Balkan Vocal
- Asia: Gagaku (Japan), Pansori (Korea), Tuvan throat singing (Mongolia, Russia)
- Africa: Zulu traditional vocals, Yoruba chants, Gnawa (North Africa)
- America: Gospel, Country, Native American chants, Jazz vocals
- Middle East: Maqam singing, Arabic Nasheed

Vocal traditions are actively practiced in over 100 countries, making this competition a truly global celebration.

3. Accepted Vocal Styles

Participants may perform in the following genres:

- Indian Classical: Carnatic, Hindustani (Khayal, Thumri, Dhrupad, etc.)
- Folk and Tribal: Baul, Sufi, Maand, Tamang Selo, Sopana Sangeetham, Lok Geet, etc.
- Devotional: Bhajan, Kirtan, Shabad, Sohar
- Global Traditional: Balkan, Nordic, Tuvan, African chants, Opera, etc.
- Fusion & Semi-Classical: Bollywood, light music, experimental blends (subject to approval)

All performances must maintain cultural respect and originality.

4. Age Categories

- Sub-Junior: 6 to 10 years
- Junior: 11 to 17 years
- Senior: 18 to 30 years
- Open: 31 years and above
- (Solo and Group entries are allowed in all age categories)

5. Competition Format

Round 1 – Preliminary (Online):

Participants submit video recordings via the official platform. Jury will shortlist the top 20 in each category.

Round 2 – Final (Offline):

Finalists perform live at a designated Pythian Games venue. Winners receive Gold, Silver, and Bronze medals.

6. Eligibility Criteria

- For national or state level events: Participants must be citizens or residents of the country for at least one year.
- For international events: Open to global participants.
- Valid age and ID proof is mandatory.
- Consent form signed by a parent/guardian is required for minors.
- Please read the eligibility carefully for each category before registering.

7. Registration Process

1. Register online (solo and group categories require separate entries).
2. Upload valid ID and age proof.
3. Pay registration fee (if applicable).
4. Submit video entries following format and deadline.
5. Confirmation will include a unique registration number.
6. Finalists must self-arrange travel and report at the venue for the live round.

8. Rules & Regulations

1. Songs must be original or traditional (no plagiarism).
2. Classical and folk forms must maintain authenticity.
3. Maximum duration: 5 mins (prelims), 7 mins (finals).
4. No karaoke/backing tracks in final round; up to 5 live accompanists allowed.
5. Traditional attire is encouraged.
6. Video must be recorded specifically for this competition.
7. Group size: 3 to 12 participants.
8. No substitutions allowed post-prelims (max 2 in groups if pre-approved).
9. Jury/organisers may interrupt any act violating rules.
10. All props/instruments are participant's responsibility.
11. Organisers may use content for promotion/documentation.
12. Questions may be asked by the jury post-performance.

9. Jury Format

- 3 to 5 members per round
- Preliminary Jury: Academics, vocal teachers, regional experts
- Final Jury: National/international award-winning artists
- Jury ensures cultural and genre-specific representation
- Conflict of interest must be declared
- All decisions are final and binding

10. Judging Criteria (Total: 65 Marks)

- Technique (20): Clarity, voice control, raga/melody execution
- Presentation (20): Stage presence, coordination, attire, instrumentation
- Expression (10): Emotional delivery, meaning, connection
- Knowledge (10): Genre understanding, cultural context
- Bonus (5): Creativity, uniqueness, exceptional impact

In the event of a tie, jury deliberation will decide the final winners.

11. Disqualification Grounds

- Late submissions
- Copyright infringement or plagiarism
- Use of karaoke in finals
- Inappropriate content or behaviour
- False information or impersonation
- Time limit exceeded by 30 seconds
- Misconduct toward jury/organisers

12. Safety and Legal Notes

- Consent and liability forms are mandatory
- Onsite safety (medical/CCTV) provided for offline events
- Organisers are not liable for loss of belongings
- Jury decisions are not subject to appeal

13. Recognition and Rewards

- Certificates for all registered participants
- Medals and merit certificates for winners
- Top acts featured on Pythian digital media
- Opportunities for performance at future Pythian events
- Select performers may receive mentorship and promotion