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WHY IS BRIDGE TO MUSIC SERIES IMPORTANT FOR SCHOOLS?

Currently music is considered just a frill of the education system in India. There are no clear syllabi guidelines or methods used to teach music in schools. Music teachers are always under pressure to make the students perform. Yet what should actually be taught in the music class is largely ignored. To elaborate, if English language were taught in a similar way, teachers would be preparing the students for debates and theatre without actually teaching them how to read and write English.

Bridge to Music series has following benefits:

- **Structured and Progressive Method:** The books provide music teachers a clear and well-designed syllabus to follow. They know what to teach, how to teach and what level of musical achievement to aim for at each level.
- **Measure the Level of Achievement:** Well-designed and clear syllabus enables teachers to assess students easily and accurately.
- **Global Language:** Staff notation (the language taught) is the standard language of written music used around the world. This language forms the bridge for aspiring musicians to learn and interact with musicians from other parts of the world.
- **Higher Performance Standards:** Music is a performing art. Since the Bridge to Music method uses voice as the principal instrument and language of instruction is staff notation, students can develop high degree of musicianship and aural skills. This enables the students to easily learn an instrument, as they only need to develop performance skills and build repertoire through already acquired musicianship.
- **Professional Prospects:** Formal study of music at school level opens avenues for talented students to pursue professional careers in music such as performance, music production, music synthesis, music education, film scoring, composition, etc.

IMPORTANCE OF MUSIC EDUCATION

Music education is now considered equally important, if not more, as studying other subjects. In fact, many schools teach regular subjects such as English, Sciences, etc. through music. The reasons are as follows:

- **Increases IQ:** Music is one of the three parameters used to evaluate IQ. A study conducted by Prof. Glenn Schellenberg of University of Toronto has clearly established that children receiving music lessons display higher development in IQ as compared to children receiving regular schooling with or without lessons in other forms of art.
- **Multi-tasking:** Unlike linguistics, music is created on the canvas of time. Children learning music are taught to rapidly co-ordinate almost every major area of their brain while using different elements of music such as rhythm, melody and harmony to create music. This enhances co-ordination and multi- tasking abilities in children.
- **Enhances Reading & Mathematical Skills:** “Educational Psychology” a study by Lamb & Gregory has established a high degree of correlation between reading both standard and phonic material with the ability to discriminate pitch. Another study by Rauscher & LeMieux further found that children receiving lessons in rhythm instruments showed superior mathematical reasoning skills.
- **Facilitates Emotional Stability:** An imbalance between the logical and emotional sides of the brain leads to depression, poor mental health and emotional instability. For children to deal with intense academic pressure, good mental health and emotional stability are indispensable. Music provides that stability and balance as it stimulates both spiritual and emotional sides of the brain.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The first book in the series, title “Bridge to Music, Level-1”, is appropriate for the age group 6-10, i.e. classes 1 – 5. The following table depicts the implementation plan for the first 5 years:

Class	Year-1	Year-2	Year-3	Year-4	Year-5
1	Level-1	Level-1	Level-1	Level-1	Level-1
2	Level-1	Level-2	Level-2	Level-2	Level-2
3	Level-1	Level-2	Level-3	Level-3	Level-3
4	Level-1	Level-2	Level-3	Level-4	Level-4
5	Level-1	Level-2	Level-3	Level-4	Level-5

Hence, in the first year of implementation, classes 1 to 5 will enjoy studying the Bridge to Music, Level-1 and in subsequent years each class will progress to the next level of the book.



Q. How is the *Bridge to Music* method suited for Indian students?

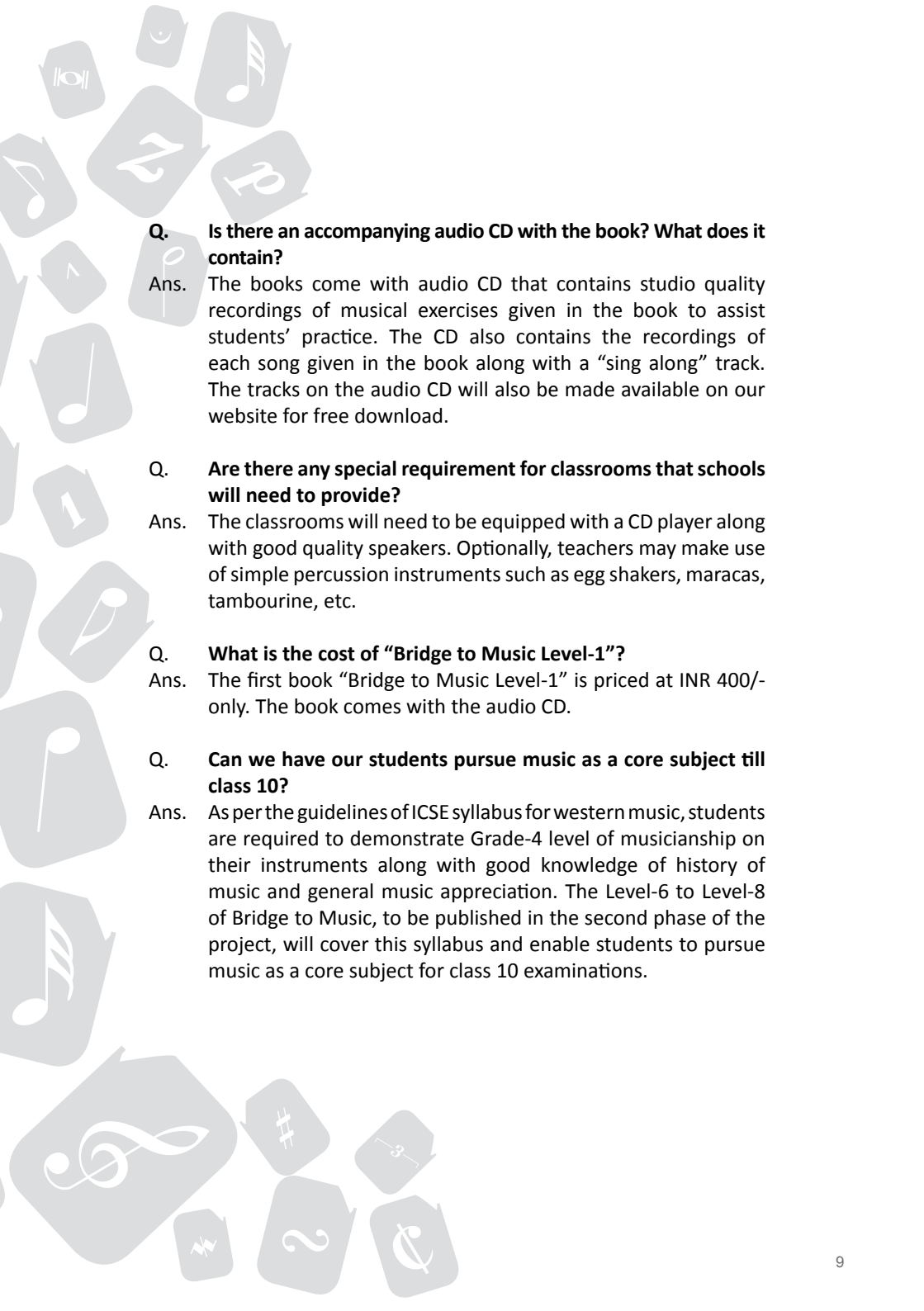
Ans. The music education methods of the west uses Sol (Pa in Hindustani music) as the tonal centre at initial stages, whereas the students in India are exposed to Hindustani and contemporary music that uses Do (Sa in Hindustani music) as the tonal centre. Most of the songs and all exercises used in *Bridge to Music* are composed to the tonal centre of Do (Sa), which is best suited for students in India. Apart from this, the rhythms used also draw influences from common rhythm patterns used for Tabla and other Indian percussion instruments at higher levels.

Q. The music teachers in the school are either unaware of western music system or are new to this approach of music education. How will they teach effectively?

Ans. The *Bridge to Music* method mostly makes use of general musicianship that all music teachers naturally have. The theory of music part of the method is introduced in a slow progressing, step-by-step, manner considering the age of the students. The learning resources made available to teachers include Teacher's Handbook, Instruction DVD, online forums and Professional Development Workshops. These provide detailed explanations and practical examples of concepts used in the book to help teachers at every stage.

Q. Are there exams for students? If yes, how will the exams be conducted?

Ans. Music learning is supposed to be a fun process and we do not encourage examinations for students of the intended age group. However, teachers will have access to sample test papers and/or practical assessment material available for download from our website (www.bridgemusic.in) that may be used to conduct internal assessments.

A decorative background on the left side of the page features various musical symbols and icons in shades of grey. These include musical notes, a treble clef, a bass clef, a sharp sign (#), a double bar line, and other musical notations, all arranged in a scattered, artistic pattern.

Q. Is there an accompanying audio CD with the book? What does it contain?

Ans. The books come with audio CD that contains studio quality recordings of musical exercises given in the book to assist students' practice. The CD also contains the recordings of each song given in the book along with a "sing along" track. The tracks on the audio CD will also be made available on our website for free download.

Q. Are there any special requirement for classrooms that schools will need to provide?

Ans. The classrooms will need to be equipped with a CD player along with good quality speakers. Optionally, teachers may make use of simple percussion instruments such as egg shakers, maracas, tambourine, etc.

Q. What is the cost of "Bridge to Music Level-1"?

Ans. The first book "Bridge to Music Level-1" is priced at INR 400/- only. The book comes with the audio CD.

Q. Can we have our students pursue music as a core subject till class 10?

Ans. As per the guidelines of ICSE syllabus for western music, students are required to demonstrate Grade-4 level of musicianship on their instruments along with good knowledge of history of music and general music appreciation. The Level-6 to Level-8 of Bridge to Music, to be published in the second phase of the project, will cover this syllabus and enable students to pursue music as a core subject for class 10 examinations.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

In his career spanning almost two decades, Ritesh Khokhar has taught at all premier institutes of western music in Delhi. After completing Grade-8 in Solo Piano and Theory of Music from Trinity College London, he cofounded the Gurgaon School of music in 2003, where he served as a director and senior faculty member for Theory of Music, Piano and Electronic Keyboard for six years. With a vision to spread quality music education and awareness across the country, he conceptualized Bridge Music Private Limited in 2008.

Ritesh has been working closely with various academic schools and colleges in Delhi in his pursuit to spread music awareness among the youth through music appreciation workshops on general music, and specialized topics such as Evolution of Jazz and Blues, Origin of European Art Music, etc. "Bridge to Music" is a result of his three years of research and application of Hungarian music education system that has also been adopted in North America.

ABOUT THE COMPANY

Bridge Music Private Limited: The company was formed with the vision to spread music awareness across India. To achieve this, the company has formulated three divisions:

- **Bridge Music Academy:** A unit of BMPL, the Academy currently has 4 branches in Delhi and Chandigarh. The Academy provides international standard music education through instrumental coaching and lessons in Harmony, Composition, Arranging and Music Appreciation. Students learn in an environment conducive to imparting complete music education with ample performance opportunities at all levels. Music exams are conducted by three international music exam boards from United Kingdom, namely Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music, Trinity-Guildhall and Rockschool.
- **Bridge Music Publication:** A unit of BMPL, the publication division focuses on publishing music books in India. These include original scores of composers in India, music textbooks for schools, method books for rhythm, ear training, etc. by various local and visiting musicians/authors.
- **Bridge Music Shop:** A unit of BMPL, the shop stocks a vast selection of music books by various publishers from across the world. The music shop also manages orders and services for all books published by Bridge Music Publications.



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