



Great Composers' Day Competition 2026

Updated as of June 21, 2026

Age Groups –

Please click on the links below to see eligibility cutoff dates and categories within each age group. All ages below are those based on September 30, 2026.

Group	Age	
<u>Pre-Junior</u>	under 8	(must be born on or after 10/1/2018)
<u>Junior</u>	under 10	(must be born on or after 10/1/2016)
<u>Intermediate</u>	under 13	(must be born on or after 10/1/2013)
<u>Intermediate Plus</u>	under 15	(must be born on or after 10/1/2011)
<u>Senior</u>	under 18	(must be born on or after 10/1/2008)
<u>Advanced</u>	under 18*	(must be born on or after 10/1/2008)

* Those who will be exactly 18 years of age on September 30, 2026 and would like to participate in the Advanced competition are asked to send an e-mail to gcd@cmna.org.

**** Sangeetha Saagara MS Subbulakshmi award will be a separate category for Vocal participant and open to Intermediate Plus and above age group.** For additional details, refer to rules section.

1. The 2026 registration fee is \$60 per competition per participant. No refunds/adjustments/credits will be offered for no shows, cancellations, etc., even if for any unforeseen reason, once the registration form has been submitted and payment remitted. **Late registration fee will be \$75 per competition per participant.**
2. Talam assistance is limited to Instrument and Percussion categories only and from judges only. No one from the audience is allowed to assist and violations may lead to disqualification of participants.
3. Participation in each competition will occur in a computer generated random order or possibly based on logistical considerations such as in the case of certain instrumental competitions. Anyone missing when their turn comes up will be moved to the bottom of the competition or disqualified.
4. Participants are allowed to compete in an age group above their own, however, in such cases, participation is judged purely on the merits of their rendering and no allowance will be given for their actual age.
5. The number and type of prizes awarded in each competition will depend both on the number of participants and the judges' scoring and feedback of all participants within that competition with final decision of the Board. All participants, however, can download a certificate of participation from their account on the website.



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6. Judges' scores are final and binding and not open to the public. No other feedback will be available .
7. If you have won the first prize once in a particular competition (by age group and category), you CANNOT compete in that same combination again. You may compete in the next higher age group or in a different category of music. For example – if you have won the first prize once in the Junior Vocal Krithi competition, you can compete in any competition within the Intermediate age group or in Instrumental Krithi or Percussion competitions within the Junior age group.
8. Winners from previous years' GCD competitions are not allowed to repeat any winning Krithi or Ragam performance (in the case of Alapana competitions only) this year, even if they have moved to a higher age group.
9. Each individual is allowed to participate in multiple competitions, up to a maximum of 7 competitions.
10. **Time limits are strictly enforced** by a timekeeper in each competition room. Participants may be given visual cues when there is 1 minute and/or 30 seconds time remaining for the performance. Participants may be stopped if their performance has not concluded when the time limit has been reached. Although no marks are deducted for a participant whose performance is stopped when time has expired, credit may be given to participants who plan and execute songs in their entirety based on the time granted, especially in the event of a tie or marginal difference in scoring among participants in a competition.
11. Each participant must make their own arrangement for Sruthi. All instruments must be tuned prior to coming on stage.
12. CMANA reserves the right to combine or split groups based on administrative convenience and participation.
13. Decisions of CMANA GCD Coordinators and/or Board members – individually or in combination are Final. All participants agree to abide by such decisions.

Special Awards and Concert Opportunities

- Founders' Prize/Junior Musician title – The top-ranking participant in the **Advanced** competition is awarded the opportunity to present a full concert at the following year's GCD event as the "Junior Musician" and awarded the Dr. P. Rajagopalan "Founders' Prize" upon successful completion of the concert. If there is only one participant in the Advanced competition this year, presentation of the concert opportunity and award will be determined based on the judges' scores and the final decision of the Board.

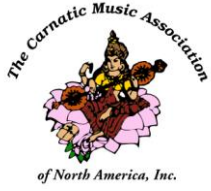


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- **Sangeetha Saagara M.S. Subbulakshmi Award** – To participate for this award, an individual must also register for and participate in either one of the categories: **Krithi, Swaram OR Alapana Vocal competitions within the Intermediate Plus or Senior age group**. Past winners of this award are ineligible to receive the award again.
- **Sangeetha Saagara Lalgudi Jayaraman Award** – The top-ranking participant across the **Krithi, Swaram AND/OR Alapana Instrumental competitions within the Senior age group** will be conferred with this award.
- **Teachers' Day Concerts** – Prize winners of GCD competitions from various age groups may be given opportunities to present mini-concerts as part of the following year's CMANA Teachers' Day function subject to schedule availability on a first come first served basis. Such communication will be sent to all members by an email communication.

Competition-Specific Notes

1. **Pallavi/Advanced** - Judges will ask theoretical questions, make requests and/or pose challenges for those participating in the Pallavi and Advanced competitions. Judges will likely request portions of each item given by the participant for presentation in any combination and order within the time allotted.
2. **Sangeetha Saagara M.S. Subbulakshmi Award/Senior/Intermediate Plus/Intermediate** – Judges will ask theoretical questions or make requests in competitions within the Sangeetha Saagara M.S. Subbulakshmi Award participants/Senior age group and may do the same in competitions within the Intermediate and Intermediate Plus age groups. At their discretion, judges may request portions of each item given by the participant for presentation in any combination and order within the time allotted.
3. Though there is commonality in participants presenting krithi, alapana and swaram when competing for the Sangeetha Saagara M.S. Subbulakshmi Prize or the Founders' Prize/Junior Musician title, the important distinctions between the two (aside from all format-related ones) are as follows:
 - a) **Sangeetha Saagara M.S. Subbulakshmi Award**: The Sangeetha Saagara M.S. Subbulakshmi Award combines krithi, alapana and swaram presentation and has only vocal participants tested, the focus of evaluation is more technical, i.e. based on the actual rendition and whether the participant can present all element correctly and artistically.
 - b) **Founders' Prize/Junior Musician title**: Given the Advanced competition combines krithi, alapana, swaram and neraval presentation and combines both vocal and instrumental participants, the performances are more concert-style and the focus of evaluation is more on the overall presentation and the participant's ability to demonstrate more advanced talents/skills (showing flexibility, thinking and reacting quickly and effectively to judges' requests and challenges, managing time demands, etc.).



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Pre-Junior

Eligibility – must be born on or after 10/1/2018

Categories –

- * Varnam – Vocal
- *specify one Varnam of your choice*
- *Time limit – 4 minutes*

Pre-Junior

Eligibility – must be born on or after 10/1/2018

Categories –

- * Krithi – Vocal
- *specify one Krithi of your choice*
- *Time limit – 4 minutes*

Junior

Eligibility – must be born on or after 10/1/2016

Categories –

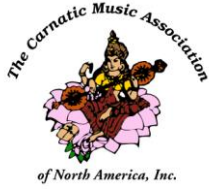
- * Krithi – Vocal and Instrumental
- * Percussion
- *specify one Krithi of your choice, except for percussion*
- *there are two groups in the Krithi Vocal category.*
Boys (8-9) and Girls (8-9)
- *Time Limit - 4 minutes*

Intermediate

Eligibility – must be born on or after 10/1/2013

Categories –

- * Krithi - Vocal and Instrumental



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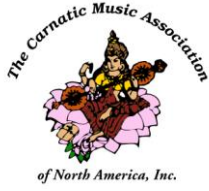
- * Alapana - Vocal and Instrumental
- * Swaram - Vocal and Instrumental
- * Percussion
- *For all Vocal Krithi competitions, boys and girls (age < 13) will compete separately.*
- *Specify **two** Krithis with Composer/Talam/Ragam information of your choice.*
Judges will select one of these krithis for performance.
- *Specify **two** ragas of your choice for Alapana.*
Judges will select one of these ragas for performance.
- *Specify **two** krithis of your choice for Swaram.*
Judges will select one of these krithis for performance.
- *Both boys and girls will be combined for the Vocal Alapana and Swaram competitions.*
- *Percussion participants are to give **two** choices for Talam.*
- *Time limit - 5 minutes for vocal, instrumental and percussion*
- *Judges may ask questions at their discretion (more theoretical in nature)*

Intermediate Plus

Eligibility – must be born on or after 10/1/2011

Categories –

- * Krithi - Vocal and Instrumental
- * Alapana - Vocal and Instrumental
- * Swaram - Vocal and Instrumental
- * Percussion
- *For all Vocal Krithi competitions, boys and girls (< 15) will compete separately.*
- *Specify **two** Krithis with Composer/Talam/Ragam information of your choice.*
Judges will select one of these krithis for performance.
- *Specify **two** ragams of your choice for Alapana.*
Judges will select one of these ragas for performance.
- *Specify **two** krithis of your choice for Swaram.*
Judges will select one of these krithis for performance.
- *Both boys and girls will be combined for the Vocal Alapana and Swaram competitions.*



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- Percussion participants are to give **two** choices for Talam.
- Time limit - 5 minutes for vocal, instrumental and percussion
- Judges may ask questions at their discretion (more theoretical in nature)

Senior

Eligibility – must be born on or after 10/1/2008

Categories –

- * Krithi - Vocal and Instrumental
- * Alapana - Vocal and Instrumental
- * Swaram - Vocal and Instrumental
- * Percussion
- For Vocal Krithi competitions, boys and girls will compete separately.
- Specify **Two** Krithis - one in ragam of your choice and one more in one of the following ragas –

Saveri, Keeravani, Bhairavi

- Specify **Two** Ragas for Alapana - one of your choice and one of the following –
Saveri, Keeravani, Bhairavi- Specify **Two** Kritis for Swaram - one in ragam of your choice and one more in one of the following ragas
Saveri, Keeravani, Bhairavi- Percussion participants to give **two** choices for Talam
- Time limit - 5 minutes for vocal, instrumental and percussion
- Judges will ask questions (more theoretical in nature)

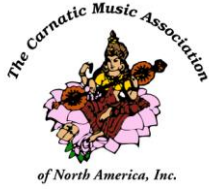
Sangeetha Saagara M.S.Subbulakshmi Award:

Eligibility – must be born on or after 10/1/2008

(those who will be exactly 18 years of age as of September 30, 2026 and would like to participate in the Advanced competition are asked to send an e-mail to gcd@cmna.org)

Categories –

- * Krithi (with alapana and swaram allowed) – Vocal only
- only one group consisting of boys and girls/vocal
- specify **Three** Krithis - one in ragam of your choice and **two** more from these 5 ragas:



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Madhyamavathi, Begada, Saveri, Pantuvarali, AnandaBhairavi- time limit -12 minutes

- Judges will ask questions, make requests and/or pose challenges

Advanced

Eligibility – must be born on or after 10/1/2007

(those who will be exactly 18 years of age as of September 30, 2025 and would like to participate in the Advanced competition are asked to send an e-mail to gcd@cmna.org)

Categories –

* Krithi (with alapana, neraval and swaram allowed) – Vocal and Instrumental

- *only one group consisting of boys and girls/vocal and instrumental*

- *specify **Three** Krithis - one in ragam of your choice and **two** more from these 3 ragas:*

Pantuvarali, Begada, Poorvikalyani

- *time limit -20 minutes*

- *Judges will ask questions, make requests and/or pose challenges*

Pallavi (vocal and instrumental only)

Eligibility – must be born on or after 10/1/2007

- *Specify one Pallavi of your choice*

- *Time limit – 10 minutes*

- *Judges will ask questions, make requests and/or pose challenges*

- *Note: Performance in Pallavi competition is not required for and will not be used in the evaluation of participants for the Sangeetha Saa*

gara M.S. Subbulakshmi award.

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Table of Competitions

Age Group & Gender	Age Limit	Time Limit	CATEGORIES							
			Krithi Varnam(Pre Junior only)		Swaram		Alapana		Pallavi	Percussion
Pre-Junior (boys/girls)	< 8	4 min	V(1)						V(16) <i>boys/girls age < 18 10 min</i>	
Junior - Boys	< 10	4 min	V(2)	I(1)						P(1)
Junior - Girls			V(3)							
Intermediate – Boys	< 13	5 min	V(4)	I(2)	V(6)	I(3)	V(7)	I(4)		P(2)
Intermediate – Girls			V(5)							
Intermediate Plus – Boys	< 15	5 min	V(8)	I(5)	V(10)	I(6)	V(11)	I(7)		P(3)
Intermediate Plus – Girls			V(9)							
Senior – Boys	< 18	5 min	V(12)	I(8)	V(14)	I(9)	V(15)	I(10)		P(4)
Senior – Girls			V(13)							
Sangeetha Saagara M.S. Subbulakshmi Award* (boys/girls)	< 18**	12 min	Intermediate Plus/Senior(Vocal)							
Advanced* (boys/girls)	< 18**	20 min	ADVANCED (Vocal/Instrumental)							

* Participants in the Advanced competition are allowed to present krithi, alapana, neraval and swaram.

**Those who will be exactly 18 years of age as of September 30, 2026 and would like to participate in the Advanced competition are asked to send an e-mail to gcd@cmana.org.



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NOTES:

- *V = Vocal Competition; I = Instrumental Competition; P= Percussion Competition*
- *Each individual competition is represented by a unique code composed of a letter ("V", "I" or "P" for vocal, instrumental or percussion, respectively) and number. Advanced is the only exception as both vocal and instrumental participants are included within the same competition.*
- *The grayed out cells are competitions that are not applicable for a particular age group and category. There are no Instrumental competitions within the Pre-Junior Krithi or Pallavi competitions*

REGISTRATION

Registrations will **open on or around SATURDAY, JULY 25, 2026** (please watch for an announcement with the exact date) and will **close on SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, 2026 at 11:59 PM EDT.** A few notes:

1. Please start planning accordingly to ensure you submit a completed registration form with payment within this window and try to avoid waiting too close to the end of the window to register, in case any technical issues are encountered.
2. Please submit the registration form preferably after reaching a final decision on which competition(s) to register for as this will greatly reduce time and burden of the administrators in having to manually adjust registrations on the backend.

All registrations are submitted online via CMANA's website: www.cmana.org. After member login, click on "GCD" towards the top and select "GCD Registration Form" from the drop-down menu.

QUESTIONS

If you have any questions, please e-mail them to gcd@cmana.org. All efforts will be made to respond to inquiries as soon as possible although response times may vary based on the volume of inquiries received at any given time. No phone calls, please. Your patience and cooperation is greatly appreciated.