

An Analytical Study of the Components and Genres of Indian Classical and Semi-Classical Music

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Abstract

People think of music as a performance art that lets people express their feelings of pleasure. To put it simply, music has a direct connection to the soul. Music is a combination of three great arts: singing (vocal), playing instruments (instrumental), and dancing. People think that music is one of the most important forms of creative art. Because of continuing exploration, everything is always changing in our modern age of science. Music and its fields have also gone through these changes. Because musical instruments are now the main source of energy for important music, it was important to talk about how Indian music has changed throughout time and how musical instruments were made. There is also more and more attention in how religion affects mental health. Researchers have linked several parts of religious life, such as being involved in an organisation, praying, believing in an afterlife, using religion to cope, getting help from a congregation, and having a strong relationship with God, to mental health.

Keywords: Raga, Tala, Indian Classical Music, Semi-Classical Music, Religious Music

Introduction

People think of music as a performance art that lets people express their feelings and pleasures. In terms of ideas, music combines three main types of art: singing, playing instruments, and dancing. It serves as both a skill and a cultural practice, and its organised organisation across time is what makes it unique (Sharma, 1996).

Pitch (melody and harmony), rhythm (tempo, meter, articulation), dynamics (loudness variations), and timbre (tone colour) are all basic parts of music that are included in full

definitions. These parts are given varied amounts of importance in different genres (Kasliwal, 2001).

People often call Indian music "Sangeet," which is one of the oldest musical traditions still going on today. It is based on three main parts: Swara (notes), Tala (rhythmic cycles), and Laya (pace). Gayan (vocal music), Vadan (instrumental music), and Nritya (dancing) are all ways that these things are shown (Prjananada, 1984).

Indian Music and Its Styles

The Vedas are where Indian music got its start. They say that sound, which they call Nadabrahma, is divine (Singh, 1994). Musicians are told to give up their own will in order to become one with Lord Brahma, the mythological author of the four Vedas, especially the Sama Veda, which is sung in melodic patterns (Saxena, 2009). The first Vedic hymns used simple tunes with three notes.

Indian music features metric cycles such duple, triple, and quadruple time signatures, with the first beat often emphasised. In mythology, Brahma is tied to Samgana (musical chanting), and Goddess Saraswati, who is linked to wisdom and art, is linked to the Veena (Suneera Kasliwal, 2001).

People think that vocal music is the basis for all instrumental music, and the human voice is the first instrument. India has preserved almost all of the stages of musical evolution, from Vedic writings to classical treatises like Sangeet Ratnakara (Sarangadeva, around 1230 A.D.), which is the basis for later works like Sangi to panish at saroddhara, Sangitaraja, and Sangita Damodara (Saraf, 2011).

The basic ideas behind classical music, such Shruti, Grama, Murchana, Jatis, Svara, Raga, Tala, and Prabhanda, haven't altered much. However, new styles that came from Gramme ragas and Desi sangeet revolutionised classical music. By the 13th century, new ideas had added to tala systems, which had started with five talas (Bharata Muni) and grown to more than 120 (Durga, 2004).

A description of the parts of music

1. Melody and Pitch

Pitch is how high or low a sound seems to be. A melody is a series of pitches that make up a tune, and it is generally made up of modes or scales. For instance, a folk song in C major might exclusively use notes from the C major scale (Sharma, 1996).

2. Harmony

Harmony is when vertical sounds (notes) are played or sung at the same time to make chords. It can also be conveyed melodically by outlining chord notes in a certain order (Kasliwal, 2001).

3. Beat

Rhythm puts sounds and silences in order over time. There are meter groups that group beats into bars or measures like 2/4, 3/4, and 4/4. The first beat is usually the most important one (Prjananada, 1984).

Indian Classical Music (Shastriya Sangeet)

There are two main styles of Indian classical music, which is the classical music of the Indian subcontinent. These are Hindustani (North Indian) and Carnatic (South Indian). During Islamic governance in the 16th century, they started to go their separate ways. Hindustani music focusses on improvising on ragas, while Carnatic concerts are largely based on written music. Even if they are different, they have more in common than differences (Saraf, 2011).

Art Music, Kalatmak Sangeet, or Raagdari Sangeet are some of the names for the rules and principles that govern Indian classical music. Ragas express feelings, and the words and structure are important in their own right. In folk music, the words are typically more important than the notes (Sharma, 1996).

Tala (rhythm) and raga (melodic framework) are the most important parts. The raga is the melody, and the tala is the rhythm that you can use to improvise. Indian classical music doesn't include harmony or chord structures like Western music does. Instead, it focusses more on the space between notes (Singh, 1994).

Indian semi-classical music

Semi-classical music, also called Light Music, is not as stringent and doesn't require you to know classical ragas and rhythms perfectly. It mixes poetry, pace, and melody, putting more emphasis on the content of the composition than on the purity of the raga (Saxena, 2009). Semi-classical music uses classical elements but doesn't necessarily follow traditional laws exactly. Instead, it changes based on the singer's skills and the situation. This also includes folk songs sung in a classical way (Kasliwal, 2001).

Lok Sangeet or Folk Music

Folk music doesn't have a set grammar like classical music does, and it changes from place to place. It comes from village life and tradition and is full of feeling and expression. India has a lot of different cultures, which leads to a lot of different folk music styles, like Bhangra, Sufi folk rock, Dandiya, and Lavani (Saraf, 2011).

Religious Music:

In Indian culture and tradition, religious music is one of the best means for devotion and worship of the Divine. Among the nine types of devotion for spiritual bhakti, religious music is considered the most excellent form of devotion. It is used during festivals, rituals, customs, and worship ceremonies.

In Sikh music, the hymns of Sri Guru Granth Sahib are organized according to ragas (musical modes), and the Sikh Gurus established a definite method and system for singing this sacred text. The tradition of Kirtanthe combined presentation of sacred words (shabad) and musicwas initiated by the Sikh Gurus and continues uninterrupted to this day.

In Indian culture, devotional songs and religious music hold significant importance and are part of the religious customs of almost every faith. Within devotional music, traditions such as Gurmat (Sikh) devotional songs, Sufi music, and Hindu devotional songs dedicated to goddesses and deities are the most widespread and distinctiv

Religious music includes Upasana Sangeet, Bhakti Sangeet (devotional), and Goodhatma (mystical). Today, Bhakti Sangeet is the most well-known and important (Sharma, 1996).

Popular Music

The music that most people like is basic and easy to understand, which shows how different groups of people interact with each other. Social movements, urbanisation, the media, and ideas about free time all affect how it grows. Media shapes the structure and content of popular music through time limits and transmission facilities (Prjananada, 1984).

Conclusion

Music is an important part of our creative and cultural history. Changes in music and its fields happen because people keep trying new things. This study looks at how experimentation affects instrumental music and how Indian music has changed over time and how musical instruments were made. Listening to religious music is also becoming more linked to mental health. Studies have shown that it is linked to mental health (Aldridge, 1995; Bailey, 1984).

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