



WORLD MUSIC

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KELSEA CANNON
Resident Advisor | USA



Where words fail, music speaks.
- HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSON

LEANN CHERKASKY-MAKHNI
Director | USA



CONTRIBUTORS



AOIFE GRADY
Resident | Writer



MIYUKI NODA
Alternate Resident Advisor | Writer



TORI PAUL
Resident | Writer



LILLY ARSTAD HELMERSTON
Resident | Writer



YAHYA ALBNAWI
Resident | Writer



TAHIRA HAMDANI
Resident | Writer



RUI BATEMAN
Layout | USA, Japan



TIMBRAH NORTHRIP
Resident | Writer

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INDIAN MUSIC: ORIGINS & INSTRUMENTS

INDIA

Indian music in the modern day is being positively accepted all over the world.



PIKOSO.KZ



UCSB MUSIC

More musicians from diverse musical backgrounds are experimenting with Indian music through fusion and combining different forms to create a global musical outlook and experience.

The music of India that we hear today is a necklace of multiple varieties of popular folk, pop, and recently, rock music. If we were to go back to where this ancient form of music started in the Vedic period, we would see that the Vedas are the oldest Hindu scriptures. The Samveda forms the basis of Indian classical music and consists mostly of hymns.

All music and art form in the Indian culture is said to have come from divinity, gods and goddesses, Devas and Devis. Music in India began from chanting and singing the vocal recitations of the Vedas.

Most songs in Indian classical music are based on Ragas, which are based on Rasas or emotion, mood, or atmosphere.

Ragas are associated and played at specific times of the day. They can also vary from season to season.

There is a broad spectrum of Indian musical instruments. The four major categories include: Chordophones, which are string instruments (Sitar, Tanpura, Sarod, Veena, Esraj), Aerophones or wind instruments (Bansuri, Harmonium), Membranophones or drums (Tabla, Dhol), and Idiophones, which are non-drum percussion instruments (Jal Tarang).

A common Indian musical ensemble usually consists of a tabla player, a tanpura in the background and in the foreground as a soloist is either a singer, a string instrument, a wind instrument, or a combination of two or three.

Tori Paul

MIDDLE EASTERN MUSIC & TRADITIONAL DANCE

SAUDI ARABIA



MC-DOUALIYA



SYRIATOURISM

There are different kinds of music in the Middle East. We have sad music, which talks about bad experiences in relationships. We have sports music, which is for the people who like to watch football (soccer) games. Also, we have more traditional music.

Most of the time people use the traditional music during the formal dinner at a wedding. We call this kind of music "Dabkah".

In Dabkah music, people are lined up beside each other and they dance with the music together in an organized way. Usually there is one person that is the leader and uses a cloth to wave around to the music.

In many Middle Eastern countries, the Dabkah dance can be danced by either a group of men, a group of women, or the combination of men and women.

Yahya Albnavi

NORWEGIAN MUSIC

NORWAY

Because of how the terrain divides Norway into different geographical parts, so there is also a cultural divide and then also the music varies. There are still some parts of the music inheritance that stand out from the rest.

One is the musical instrument called Haringfela, which looks much like a violin, but is used for faster paced dancing music than classical pieces. The instrument comes from one specific part of Norway called Hardanger, but in modern times it is used across the country.

Another type of music inherent in Norway is from the Samick people in the north. Their song tradition is strong and is a big part of their personal identity. Yoik is a vocal music form but it is not constructed from any language, not even the Samick language. The sound that is made is meant to reflect or evoke a person, animal or place. In newer times, two types of Yoik is used, the traditional “mumbling” tail and a more modern style.

Traditionally, Yoik referred to one of several different Samick singing styles. However, in English language, it now represents one type of traditional Samick singing. Before Scandinavia became Christianized, Yoik was performed in some rituals to achieve a state of trance.

Norway has other musical traditions but many of them are heavily influenced by the rest of Europe and Christian traditions.

Lily Arstad Helmersen



EXPERIENCE THE SAMI CULTURE



FRODE INGE HELLAND | HARDINGER FIDDLE

MARCHING BAND

UNITED STATES



VLADISLAV VASNETSOV

Marching band is a music-based sport, and is common in most American high schools and colleges. A marching band can be competitive, non-competitive, or both. A competitive band is when the band travels to field show competitions. Two common circuits that hold these competitions in California are WBA (western band association) and NCBA (Northern California Band Association).

Students memorize a seven to a ten-minute-long piece of music. Then, as a group, they learn “dots” which are placements on the field that create shapes and sometimes images. Props, back drops, and other visual aids (e.g. color guard with flags) spice up the performance. People in color guard provide visual entertainment by dancing, twirling flags, and rifles.

A ‘Pep Band’ is usually considered as a noncompetitive marching band. These bands stand in the bleachers at football games and perform pep tunes like “go big red,” “Hey song,” and “fight song.” They also include more popular songs shortened like “Sugar,” “Happy,” and, “Hey Baby.”



MARIUSZ

The type of music in general for any of these bands depends on the director. Some play classical while others play pop. Medleys are popular for field shows; a medley is like a remix where multiple songs are composed together with smooth transitions. These are usually based on a theme (e.g. an artist, composer, movie soundtrack, etc.).



HIGH SCHOOL BAND

Parades are a middle ground when it comes to competitive and noncompetitive marching band. There are competitive parades where the bands are scored based on their marching, music, and drum major performance. Even so, there are other parades that are more for fun and entertainment such as holiday parades and hometown parades.

Being a musician, in general, takes a lot of practice both with the band and by oneself. It is much like how students need schoolwork and homework to learn; musicians need ensemble and individual practice not only to perfect the main variables of a piece (tempo, notes, rhythm, dynamics, etc.) but also to commit the piece to memory.

Timbrah Northrip

QAWWALI

PAKISTAN

Qawwali music is used to express love for God and to celebrate one's devotion to the creator. There are generally eight or nine men formed into a group. A Qawwali song can last for fifteen minutes or so, however songs can even go up to two hours. The songs usually contain a few minutes of harmonizing, which is the introduction, then everyone joins in either with an established song or informal ad-libbing. Generally, there is no set structure or order, it is all about feeling.

Listening to Qawwali is meant to be a transcending experience that brings one closer to God. It is meant to engage the audience and to have a hypnotizing effect. Traditionally, women did not perform Qawwali music. Women such as Abida Parveen and The Nooran Sisters have challenged that norm, however Qawwali is still a male dominated industry today.

The Sabri Brothers and Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan have globalized Qawwali music and brought it into the western world. Qawwali has been used in both Hollywood and Bollywood in movies such as "Dead Man Walking" and "Baadshaho."

Tahira Hamdani



A TAPESTRY OF SACRED MUSIC



ABIDA PARVEEN



LEEDS TOWN HALL



NOORAN SISTERS

THE IRISH MUSIC FESTIVAL FLEADH CHEOIL NA HÉIREANN

IRELAND

The Fleadh Cheoil, pronounced flaa kheol, means a festival of music. It is a competition of various parts and a music festival. It is held in August of every year in the chosen location for that year and hundreds of thousands come from all over the world to experience the Irish culture, music, dancing, and art. The Fleadh strongly promotes Irish music and showcases upcoming artists.

In recent years, the numbers in attendance are growing significantly with approximately 500,000 people having attended the Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann in 2018. This emphasizes modern Ireland's appreciation & value for traditional Irish music and the rising of its 'trendiness' today.

Musicians line the streets, gather in bars and restaurants to play to the onlookers while Irish dancers perform to the music. The musicians play for the most part by ear, the style of music is mostly ornamentation and is typically quite decorated.



LIMERICK VOICE

"There are two ways of telling a story
and twelve ways of singing a song"



PRESSPACK.RTE.IE

Ornamentation adds grace notes and fills intervals with extra notes for embellishment. Performers vary the melody by changing notes, and keeping the bare outline of the melody for melodic variation, in addition to varying the rhythm by shortening the length of notes for rhythmic variation.

There is an Irish saying "Tá dhá innsean ar chuille sceál agus dhá ghabhail deág ar amhráin" meaning there are two ways of telling a story and twelve ways of singing a song. This is truly amplified by the various types of music heard and experienced through the Fleadh.

Aoife Grady

CONTINUING TO THE NEXT GENERATION

JAPAN



KATSUSHIKA OI

In Japan's educational system, school children are required to learn traditional Japanese music and culture; from watching Kabuki and Nō (types of musical plays), to learning how to use the traditional instruments, such as the shakuhachi (a longitudinal bamboo flute), koto or sō (generally a 13-stringed instrument with adjustable bridges), and the shamisen (the 3-string instrument that looks like a guitar/banjo). There is something about listening to the sounds made by these instruments and the tuning scales that are used for these that are quite unique.

Take the example of the scale for koto, as I have the most experience with it. The first scale that we learn is the hirajyōshi (平調子) which is usually D, G, A, A#, D, D#, G, A, A# D, D#, G, A. But this can differ a little. To go deeper, the tune changes according to the base note (e.g. If a base note or first note is D, the second note of the scale is five full notes lower than the 1st, so it would be G). This is a music scale that one can consider exotic, so this may be one of the reasons why people are drawn to traditional Japanese music. Or it may be the unique lingering sounds, or yoin (余韻) that are made. Yoin is an integral

part when playing with some of these instruments, and as such, you have ways to manipulate the lingering sounds after the note is played.

However, after mandatory education ends in middle school, most people lose the chance of playing these traditional instruments. Only the ones who are truly passionate about it continue allocating their free time to practice the instrument of their choice. As such, there is the fear that we may lose the number of craftsmen who know how to create these wonderful instruments, which bring the possibility of losing part of our culture.

However, passionate people began to adapt the instruments to create more “modern” pop culture music to make it more appealing to the younger generations. One example would be the Yoshida Brothers, a duo of Tsugaru-jamisen players whose music is a fusion of traditional Tsugaru-jamisen style

and western music influence (think of a shamisen version of 2 cellos and you might get the picture).

Another popular band that incorporates traditional Japanese instruments and singing style, which has attracted an international audience is the Wagakki Band. Alongside with the usual drums, bass, and guitar you would see in a band, they also have the taiko drums, koto, shakuhachi, and the shamisen playing rock songs.

In an interview, that I watched, they mentioned that one reason why they do what they do is to gather more interest among the young people and encourage more people to play and create traditional music. I believe that this is a very awe-inspiring goal that they have, and is a good way to keep a part of our old culture alive.

Miyuki Noda

PORTLAND JAPANESE GARDEN



YOSHIDA BROTHERS

“The Yoshida Brothers, a duo of Tsugaru-jamisen players, whose music is a fusion of traditional Tsugaru-jamisen style and western music influence.”

Music around the World

We have been given an opportunity with the newsletter articles written this semester by residents of I-House to gain insight regarding regional styles of music within countries, evolution and change within society over centuries, types of instruments and their use historically and in modern times, and how music is incorporated into cultures through daily life, festivals, art, and competitions.

At Internationally-inspired Pancake Breakfast each semester, we enjoy hearing some of these types of music, getting introduced to various instruments, and seeing the styles of dance that accompany the instruments. We feel the energy that the music brings into our lives, see the colors that represent cultures in traditional dress worn by performers, and feel transported to places near and far by the musicians and dancers.

Enjoy your musical trip around the world in these well-written articles representing Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Norway, the U.S., Japan, India, and Ireland.

Leann Cherkasky Makhni
Director of the SJSU International House