

Music of India

Traditions

Hindustani

- Came from 13th and 14th centuries from existing religious, folk, and performance practices
- Diversified over several centuries
- Contemporary tradition established in India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh
- Extemporized variation generated from a composition set to a meter designed primarily for vocal performance
- **Amir Khusrau** - father of Hindustani music
- Government run radio in India and Pakistan have helped to keep Hindustani music alive after the fall of the patronage system
- **Tansen** is recognized for introducing many innovations, ragas, and compositions
- **Ravi Shankar** -

Carnatic

- Based in Southern India
- Influenced by pan-Indian bhakti movement -> inspired use of religious themes
- **Puranda Dasa** - father of carnatic music
 - produced around 475,000 compositions
- Meant to be sung

Classical System

Ragas

- Melodic pattern characterized by specific ascent and descent
- Each raga has a specific register and glissando
- Usually involves considerable improvisation

Talas

Rhythmic pattern

Semitones

- Uses 12 semitones similar to Western music

- No fixed base frequency
- Varying intertonal gaps is possible
- Sa Re Ga Ma Pa Dha Ni Sa + 5 interspersed half notes

Folk Genres

Bhavageete

- "emotion poetry"
- Form of expressionist poetry and light music
- Mostly includes themes of love, nature, and philosophy
- Especially popular in Karnataka and Maharashtra
- **Raju Ananthaswamy** is a notable performer

Bhangra

- Originated in Punjab (in Southern India)
- Started as a harvest festival celebration -> diversified for use in weddings + New Year's celebrations
- Dhol drum, iktar (single stringed instrument), tumbi, chimta (looks like large tongs)
- Small couplets written in Punjab called bolis
- Mostly includes themes of harvest celebration, love, patriotism, or current events
- Tabla sometimes used
- Dholki used to be used to keep the beat

Lavani

- Popular folk form from Maharashtra and Southern Madhya Pradesh
- Traditionally female singers
- Derived from Lavanya (means beauty)
- Two types: philosophical and erotic
- Devotionals

Dandiya

- Dance folk music
- Originated to accompany Garba (performed to honor Durga)
- The dandiyas represent the sword of Durga
- Traditional dresses worn - embroidered choli, ghagra, and dupattas
- Heavy makeup and jewelry
- Men may wear turbans and/or kedias
- Dhol and tabla used, dancing is to the beat

- Traced back to Krishna
- Important during Navratree

Rajasthani

- Diverse collection of music
- Primitive string instruments - sarangi, rawanattha, iktara
- Small and large percussion, including dhol
- String, percussion, and wind

Bauls

- **The Bauls of Bengal** were mystical order from the 18th-20th centuries
- Uses khamak, ektara, and dotara
- Baul means divinely inspired insanity
- Folk song with bhakti movements
- Iktara - one stringed drone instrument

Religious Origin

Devas and Devis

- A deva refers to a god or deity
- Believed to be the divine origin of music (along with natural origins) and of all Indian art forms

Vedas

- The oldest Hindi scriptural texts
- The origins of Indian classical music is found in the Vedas

Samaveda

- The Veda of melodies and chants
- Said to have laid the foundation for Indian music
- Consists mainly of hymns of Rigveda (set to melodies using 3-7 notes during Vedic sacrifices)