

Uzbek national traditional music art

By Sayfiddinova Ruxsora

It is impossible to imagine the national and spiritual heritage of our people without music. From time immemorial, national customs created and formed by our ancestors as values have been passed down from generation to generation, embodying the great spiritual world of our people. Folk musical creativity, written sources in the field of music, composing, professional musical creativity are vivid examples of this. Therefore, this process serves as a basis for all professional branches of musical art.

Main characteristics

Uzbekistan boasts a rich and diverse musical tradition, influenced by Central Asian, Persian, and Turkic cultures. Here are the key aspects of Uzbek national music:

- **Maqom:** The foundation of Uzbek music is **maqom**, a system of complex melodic modes and improvisation techniques. Each **maqom** possesses a unique character and evokes a specific range of emotions.
- **Shashmaqom:** This is the most celebrated and revered form of Uzbek **maqom**, comprising six distinct **maqom** suites. Each suite features its own unique sequence of melodies and rhythms, conveying a specific narrative or mood.
- **Instrumental music:** Instruments such as the **dutor** (two-stringed lute), **tanbur** (long-necked lute), **doira** (frame drum), **nay** (flute), and **surnay** (oboe) are central to Uzbek music.
- **Vocal music:** Uzbek music features both solo and ensemble vocal performances, often accompanied by instruments. Traditional genres include **ashula** (solo songs), **lapar** (improvisational songs), and **qushlari** (bird songs).

- Folk songs: Uzbek folk music is characterized by simple melodies and rhythms, often accompanied by handclaps or instruments like the *doira*. They often narrate stories of love, nature, and daily life.

Musical instrument

The heart of this music beats to the rhythm of instruments like the *dutor*, a long-necked lute with a resonant tone; the *rubob*, a lute with a lively voice; the *tanbur*, another type of lute, favored for its bright timbre; and the *doira*, a frame drum, which provides the driving pulse for energetic dances and introspective melodies.

But Uzbek music is more than just instruments; it's about storytelling. There are two main traditions: *Shashmaqom*, meaning “six maqoms” (referring to musical modes)—a classical form often performed in formal settings. Its intricate compositions, based on the poetry of greats like Rumi and Hafez, explore themes of love, loss, longing, and the divine. In contrast, *Khalq musiqasi*, or folk music, is the lifeblood of rural communities, featuring joyous songs for weddings and celebrations, poignant ballads reflecting daily life, and lively tunes inspiring dance.

Important elements:

- * Ornamental melody: Uzbek music is renowned for its intricate melodic ornamentation, characterized by vibrato, graceful slides, and other embellishments.

- * Rhythmic complexity: Rhythmic patterns in Uzbek music are often complex and intricate, with a strong emphasis on syncopation and polyrhythms.

- * Improvisation: Improvisation plays a crucial role in Uzbek music, allowing musicians to express their individuality and emotions within the framework of the *maqom*.

Contemporary Influences:

In recent times, Uzbek music has been influenced by contemporary genres such as pop, rock, and electronic music. However, traditional elements like *maqom* and folk music remain integral to the musical landscape.

Conclusion

This publication, dedicated to preserving the unique musical heritage of the Uzbek people and passing it on to future generations, includes sections from treatises on the ancient art of maqom.