

Term Paper

Introduction

Music is a form of communication, which mainly renders emotions unlike language communication, which manipulates information. That is why music takes a peculiar place in the world culture. Moreover, each country has its own cultural way of development of the traditional music. In this way, traditional American music differs from its counterparts from Europe, China, Arabic countries or India. Likewise, some music traditions incorporate hundreds of years of practice. That is why they have tight connections with philosophy representing the state of thought and emotions transitioned into musical forms. One of such national cultures is India, where there are several traditional instruments, among which are Sitar and Tabla. Apparently, my attendance of the courses of Tabla influenced personal perceptions of Indian musical theory, form, and philosophy. Therefore, this paper presents a personal experience of Tabla classes as well as the analysis of traditions of drums in Classical Indian Music. Classical Indian Music is a peculiar blending of music and philosophy, which makes a special accent on the inner state of the player making it a unique phenomenon.

Discussing Tabla and Indian Music

Before characterizing Tabla, there is a need for the characteristics of its place in Classical Indian Music. Thus, Tabla consists of two main drums named the Tabla (treble sound) and the Dagma (bass sound), which originated from Pakhawaj, a single drum with two playable sides (Gargeya, Pratap). Their sounds have a significant difference from the traditional drums of any country because the Indians pay special attention to its harmonic structure. Moreover, the skills of a Tabla drummer require the understanding of Indian concepts and theory of music. The reason for this is that the structure of Classical Indian music may incorporate a variety of beat cycles. Thus, their quantity may vary from three to 108, which may be divided into cycles with fractional beats such as $4\frac{1}{2}$, $6\frac{1}{2}$ or $11\frac{1}{2}$ (Seshadri). Therefore, when a person starts learning the concepts of the Indian

music, the Guru starts with traditional rhythmical shapes such as 4/4. As a rule, the students follow and repeat simple patterns in order to learn the basic rhythmic principles of Indian music. At the same time, gradual mastery of the instrument causes that the student learns complex beats and patterns. The outstanding mastery of a Tabla player is characterized by enormous rhythmical speeding and improvisation built up on the basis of Indian musical concept. Likewise, the students gradually learn the theory of timbre characteristics, which is a crucial aspect for a Tabla player (Patranabis, Banerjee, Midya, Chakraborty, Sanyal, Banerjee, Sengupta & Ghosh). Gradually, the students explore the principles of building the complexity of rhythm along with simultaneous variations of integral harmonics of Tabla's fundamental frequency (Gargeya, Pratap). Therefore, lessons of Tabla increased my personal awareness of the structure and principles of Indian music and increased my interest towards practical lessons. Consequently, I have become aware of the fact that Classical Indian Music significantly differs from any other music due to its complexity and philosophic approach.

Conclusion

Summarizing the presented information, the paper concludes that Classical Indian Music takes a peculiar place among other music traditions of the world. Its first significant difference is the blending of philosophy and musical practice. Thus, a musical player is regarded as a creator, which expresses one's feeling and emotions. At the same time, Indian music differs from any other traditional music due to its original rhythmical and harmonic structure. As a student of Tabla class, I have become aware of the differences in rhythm, which may incorporate enormous cycles and fractional beats, which make it perfect for improvisation. Likewise, the ability for changing the harmony of the beat gives the player one more domain for improvisation. Therefore, Classical Indian Music and its Instruments have a specific cultural value, which is caused with their unique interpretation of musical forms.