



SEMI CLASSICAL MUSICAL TRADITIONS IN HINDUSTANI MUSIC

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ABSTRACT

In India, music is considered as a sacred gift from the God and it is regarded as an art, dedicated to the God. The Indian culture has gradually provided such a base for the Indian music for which the people music loving people, here have always been mesmerized with the melodies of the scientific musical tunes. Semi classical form of music in Hindustani music is a harmonious combination of words and tunes. It is a combination of melodious tunes and emotional expression. The purpose of a semi classical song is to clearly express the lyrical word or the concept of the song. This style of music is a beautiful combination of words and tunes along with certain concept. Various singing styles found in semi classical music have originated from the folk music. For this reason the Hindustani semi classical songs are natural and easy.

KEYWORDS : Semi Classical, Hindustani, Folk, Music

The Indian musicians have made judicious and proportionate divisions among the music, sounds and tunes, according to the seasons, time and months, which are related to human lives minds and thoughts of the humans. It is said that music has always been providing energy to the Indian people in the time of happiness and sorrow as well. For this, India is unique. Here in India there is different music on various occasions.

In Indian there are two major forms of music. One is called Hindustani music and the other one is Carnatic music. Here we are talking about the Hindustani music. Hindustani music has three major divisions. Folk music, classical music and semi classical music, though there are some other forms of music like light music, playback music. All these musical forms prevalent in India are the parts of Indian art and culture. The purpose of a semi classical song is to clearly express the lyrical word or the concept of the song. This style of music is a beautiful combination of words and tunes along with certain concept.

Though Hindustani semi classical songs are based on classical 'Raga' but various tunes are used in these songs. Various metaphors of music like 'Meend', 'Khatka', 'Moorki', 'Kann' etc. are used in the semi classical songs. In this way the concept of 'Bandish' of the music and also beautifies the song. Folk music is said to have come up from the heartfelt emotions of the common people. Actually a composition of song or poem comes through the medium of a particular poet or a singer. But when this composed song becomes popular and then the name of the concerned singer or composer is not so important but that particular creation or composition becomes popular and is one which remains in the hearts and minds of the people. Folk music is that which is created by the music loving people, it is meant for the entertainment of the people. It can be sung by the common people. The sounds, tunes, melody of the folk songs reflect various moods and emotions of the people. The Hindi classical form of music which is prevalent in the Northern parts of India, which is near or closely related to the traditional or classical music, but is not fully confined within the limitation or rules of pure classical music is called semi classical music. Semi classical music is also called melodious or fine classical music. It is because the words used in these songs express the feeling in a simple and clear manner. Semi classical music is loved by one and all irrespective of their knowledge regarding music.

The beauty of semi classical music depends mainly on the combination of various 'Raga' and tunes. Sometimes semi classical singers use to sing their own 'Bandish' lines, still, the audience enjoy those performances. This is because the use of 'Raga' along with the singing style which amuses the audience. But this does not happen in the singing of semi

classical songs, as a singer of semi-classical song chooses the 'Bandish' lines from a folk or traditional style which cannot be changed. The lyrical stanzas composed by Meera Bai, Soor Das, Tulsi Das cannot be modified. 'Kajri', 'Chaiti', 'Thoomri' etc. are traditional ones, though some 'Thoomri' lines are composed in unconventional way.

Semi classical music varies from classical music as every form of music differs from other form. The changes and modification of musical form is a continuous process which goes on and on. But this has not happened with the semi classical music, as the above said styles or forms are still prevalent in the folk music. In the composition of folk music the tunes are kept intact. Folk music is not confined with conventional rules, as per the tradition lyrics as well as the tunes of folk songs are done orally. There is a deep impact of regionalism on the folk music. For this, the folk songs enchant one and all. Even when a musician of classical music listens any folk song, he also wishes to sing that song. It would be appropriate to say that semi classical music is also the folk music and a singing style, if examined through the view of classical music. Semi classical music came into existence, when the singing styles of folk music were recognized with classical status. If we go through the traditions of Hindustani music, then we come to realize that both classical music and semi classical music have their own significance. Both of these forms of music have been developed and modified in course of time. By going through the history, we come to know that the semi-classical music has mainly evolved in the form of 'Thoomri' and 'Tappa'. 'Thoomri' has been recognized as the main singing style of semi classical music. Now a days during the classical music programmes, this is also performed on the stages along with 'Khayal' songs. All credit goes to the great talented singers who after adopting this singing style, have added their own creativity in 'Thoomri'. Due to their creative innovations in this direction, 'Thoomri' form of music has gained much popularity. If we go through our history, then we come to know that earlier, this art of singing was applied along with the performance of dance and acting. In course of time, 'Thoomri' has undergone various changes, modifications and finally has established itself as a specific form of singing in the Indian music. Various singing forms prevalent in any period or era have been influenced with one and other. The impact of 'Dhrupad' and 'Tappa' singing styles are found on the 'Thoomri' singing form. 'Bol-Baant-ki-Thoomri' songs are also sung by some singers in 'Laya' of 'Dhrupad' style and also in the 'Tappa' style. When we view it from 'Laya' angle, then we find that 'Bol-Baant' style of 'Thoomri' songs are sung in 'Madhya' (medium) Laya or else in 'Drut' (speed or fast) Laya. These 'Thoomri' songs are mostly sung with the use of 'Teen-Taal' 'punjabi-Adda' or 'Sitarkhani'. Sometimes the 'Thoomri' songs are found entwined with 'Roopak', 'Jhaptal Ektaal',

'Aada Taal' but these types are very few in number. Usually these type of 'Thoomri' songs are sung these days, in 'Teen-Taal' and 'Ek-Taal' process. The language in which the lyrics of these 'Thoomri' songs were written is mainly 'Brj-Bhasa' (a dialect prevalent in Uttar Pradesh state). The literary contents of these songs are 'Radha-Krishna-Leela', 'Braj-Chitran', romantic stories related to Men-women, shringar (beauty) etc. The quintessence of semi classical music is discerned in the intrinsic vision of the learners and listeners, who repose in Hindustani songs, for its traits like composition, improvisation, raga repertoire, treatment of rhythms and rhymes, usage and genre. Although there are differences reflected in the classical music form of North, South, or East India, sensibly, these should not be considered as entirely different types, rather the underlying similarities are to be noted as the essence of Indian classical music but carrying distinctive form or style. The distinctive form or style emphasized, is rather based on its regional identity, tradition, culture, language and glorious history brought about by the kings who and how they had patronized the music form or by the Poets and composers of their time. It is ultimately the outcome of the fine work of the schools from different regions of India, following the same principles stated in the ancient Sanskrit treatises on music. Each stanza of the semi classical Hindustani song signs in the same tune without any alteration. It generally bounds by 'Tala'. However, in some parts of India it signs without in harmony with 'Tala', say to be a sort of musical recitation. These semi classical Hindustani songs are descriptive and have some stanzas. Amongst lots of stanzas, a few necessary one signs on selection. In semi classical Hindustani song, mainly devotional compositions are sung. A Bhajan is a prayer of devotee to God. It is based upon Ragas. Emotion tinged with devotion is the chief constituent. In semi classical Hindustani Bhajan speaks of his names and his activities, miraculous and stupendous. No expansion is done. All these are mainly sung with that are traditional semi classical tunes of traditional folk songs of difference part of India. The poetic imagination as well as the creativity of ancient and medieval India, a great extent, concentrated on depicting the divine love between Sri Radha and Sri Krishna. That time poets in both Sanskrit and regional languages have been composed innumerable songs and lyrics about this divinely mysterious romance. A number of Hindustani semi classical romantic songs depicting the feelings of the lover and the beloved. However, a dozen of such songs are collected and appended to his works as semi classical romantic songs which center round love from a sentimental point of view. These songs are an illustration of his wit, good humour, aesthetic sense, artistic skill and creativity of a high order. The love songs of the poet though small in number speak of the romantic sensibility, aesthetic sense and artistic skill of a genuine medieval poet. Semi classical Hindustani music has a special identity. It is sung with its own style or pattern like Carnatic music. In all India level, all kinds of music are equal and are sung on regional basis with some similarities and dissimilarities. Semi classical Hindustani music gives great importance to the lyric where words are required to be sung without fragmentation or distortion.

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