



THE APPLICATION OF HARMONIUM AND GUITAR IN INDIAN FOLK MUSIC: CURRENT PERSPECTIVES

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Abstract

With the gradual development of human civilization, new instruments have been invented in today's modern world. The background to these inventions lies in centuries of history. From the very beginning, foreign footsteps have been on Indian soil due to foreign and domestic policies. With the arrival of foreigners, the arrival and departure of foreign music and instruments also took place. Today, guitars and harmoniums are used in almost every style of singing in Indian music, be it classical music or hymns, folk, devotional, fusion, film, ghazal, gurnat or dance. But the research paper focuses on the use of western instruments such as harmonium and guitar in folk music. Because instruments have been pay their important role in Indian music since Vedic times. In the present times, under the influence of Western civilization, the present generation of India has started experimenting with the involvement of Western instruments in the culture and civilization of India. There is a great need to compile and dissect these innovative experiments. Therefore, in this handy research paper, an attempt is being made to provide information about all the facts and experiments so as to clarify the accuracy of its title. Due to the hard work, dedication and dedication of Indian musicians, today even Western artists are adopting foreign instruments like guitar and Harmonium as a form of Indian instrument, which is a matter of pride and glory for the Indian musical tradition. Thus the Application of guitar and Harmonium in Indian folk music is particularly relevant in the modern context. For which it is hoped that the proposed research will prove meaningful.

Key Words: Guitar, Harmonium, Indian music, folk music, instruments

INTRODUCTION

Today, guitars and harmoniums are used in almost every style of singing in Indian music, be it classical music or hymns, folk, devotional, fusion, film, ghazal, gurnat or dance. But the research paper focuses on the use of western instruments such as harmonium and guitar in folk music. Because instruments have been pay their important role in Indian music since Vedic times. In the present times, under the influence of Western civilization, the present generation of India has started experimenting with the involvement of Western instruments in the culture and civilization of India. There is a great need to compile and dissect these innovative experiments. Therefore, in this handy research paper, an attempt is being made to provide information about all the facts and experiments so as to clarify the accuracy of its title.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The author did a lot of work on this subject during his PhD research. But no previous work or research paper on the subject. This research paper and topic is unique. So far only written information about the use of western instruments like guitar and harmonium in film music or ghazal music is available. Many scholars have studied the use of folk music instruments and their use in Indian music. But there is more need to discuss the use and dominance of Western instruments in Indian folk music today. This research paper has been written by using of survey method, analysis method, interview method and access to facts directly or indirectly.

Folk music refers to music in which the culture of the people is concerned with living, eating, drinking and dressing. The language of these songs is so simple that even an ordinary person can easily understand and sing and play it. Folk music is different in every region, in every state. Because the language, living style, eating or drinking style, religion are all different in each state. That is why the folk songs and instruments are also different for each province but the basic principles are the same. The purpose of folk music is to entertain the people and for which the emotions of the mind are exposed to the public through the combination of tone, rhythm and poetry. Vowels and rhythmic instruments are used to express these meanings. According to Dr. Darshan Singh Narula, "Music, like other folk arts, is a folk art which, like other arts, came into being through the process of human labor and gives play, excitement and spiritual bliss to the human mind. From a religious point of view, It is also considered a tool."¹

According to Dr. Gurnam Singh, "folk music is a modified and developed form of country music".²The rules of singing and playing are not as strict and strict as in classical music. When a melody or song becomes more popular and spreads over every language, then that song or melody becomes folk music in time is done.

Folk music, like a free bird, raises above all the rules of singing and playing in the open sky, enchants the minds of the listeners with its vocal and rhythmic wings and takes them on endless directions.

EXPLANATION

The folk music spirit of the folk song is predominant. Rhythm instruments are widely used in folk music. The use of vowel instruments in folk music is less than that of percussion instruments. Instruments have been of special importance in

Indian music since ancient times. In folk music too, like classical music, the instruments are divided into four parts. Classical Musical Instruments can be classified (by NatyaShastra) in four major categories: -

- Tata Vadya (String Instruments): Instruments in which strings are used are called element instruments, such as sarangi, tumbi, ektara etc.
- Avanaddha (Percussion Instruments): Musical instruments which are twisted by the skin of an animal to produce a sound with the stroke of a stick or hand. Such instruments are called Avanaddhavadya.
- Sushiravadya (Wind Instruments): Musical instruments in which air is induced to create a musical melody are called musical instruments. In folk music, instruments like flute, algoja bean etc.
- Ghana (Solid Instruments): Instruments made by metal are called Ghana vadya (solid instruments) like khartal, ghungru ,chimta etc

The genre of music which is deeply connected with heart of the people and also called the mirror of the culture of a particular society. The genre in which the soul of a particular society is reflected is called folk music. According to the Hindi SahityaKosh, 'Lok' is a section of human society which is imbued with aristocratic rites, classicalism, consciousness and ego, which survives in the flow of a tradition. Is taken, which has some or the other tradition.³

From time immemorial, music, folk music and classical music came into being as a form. One form was used by the common people and the other by scholars. The form used by the common people was simple, straightforward and natural while the scholars. The form was developed and difficult. Scholars had achieved this form by practicing day and night. That is why the difference between the two forms is obvious.

In the field of music, all human beings are singers, musicians and dancers. Even the animals and birds begin to dance and spread out in joy. The vegetation begins to sway. Anyone can be controlled by the infinite power of music.

Art thrives where people are art lovers and Serving Art and Artist. From time immemorial, Art has been encouraging religious sentiments. Every form of art in India is religious.

Change is a law of nature. If this process stops, then the course of life will stop. Therefore, with the passage of time, while new instruments have started to be used in Indian classical music, Western instruments like harmonium and guitar have also started to be used in folk music. When asked about the use of guitar in folk music, the famous Indian classical slide guitarist shri Brij Bhushan Kabra ji said that “I was born in Rajasthan which is why folk music has always impressed me so I started playing Rajasthani folk music on guitar”⁴.

Jasleen Aulakh has used Punjabi folk instrument dholak, algoza as well as western instrument harmonium and guitar in her song 'Ghodi'.⁵ Rajasthani folk instruments were 'jugalbandi'⁶ with dholak, khartal, ngara, morchang and harmonium. Today, with the use of foreign instruments, Indian instruments can be played on a single instrument, also called a synthesizer. The sound of each instrument can be played on the synthesizer, whether it is a classical instrument or a folk instrument. An example of this can be seen in 'Jugni'⁷ sung by Tanishq Kaur.

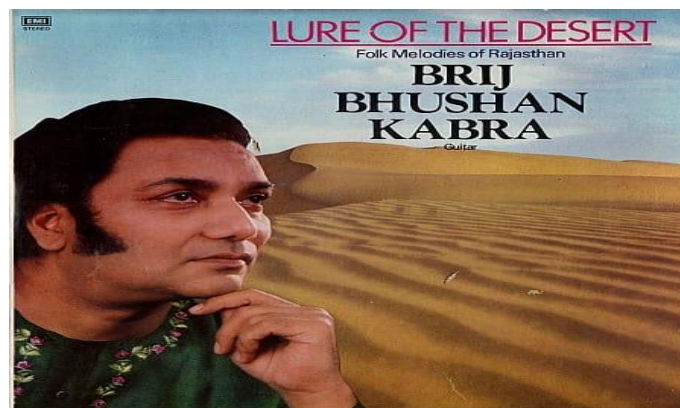


Jasleenaulakh singing folk song “Ghodi”



Singing as Rajasthani folk tradition

Before the advent of the guitar in India, only instruments used in folk songs were the sarangi, algoza, dhad, chimta, been and flute etc. But with the advent of the guitar, Indian artists started playing film tunes and raga music on it. Currently, Rajsthani folk music can also be played on slide guitars by Pandit Brij Bhushan Kabra and Vishwamohan Bhatt.



Pt. Vishwamohan Bhatt with slide guitar during folk song Album on Rajsthani folk by Pt. Brij Bhushan Kabra

CONCLUSION

Today every music artist is playing the tunes of folk songs on the guitar and harmonium. Although the guitar did not get the status of a folk instrument, the younger generation has adopted the guitar in such a way that it can be heard in every style of Indian music today.

Folk music No matter which province, no music could escape the shadow of foreign instruments. Among them Yamla Jatt, Kuldeep Manak, Surinder Chhinda, Mohammad Sadiq, Narinder Biba, Asa Singh Mastana, K. Deep, Surinder Kaur, Amar Singh Chamkeela etc. are prominent folk singers. But the use of these foreign instruments has increased the threat to the existence of folk instruments.

That is a matter of concern. Of course we have become modern but we should not give up our art, culture and culture. There is nothing wrong with playing folk songs on a slide guitar and singing folk songs with a Spanish guitar. But along with these, the younger generation also needs to pay attention to their traditional instruments. Just like today harmonium has been included in folk instruments. In the same way, the guitar will get a place with a harmonium. But music-loving, artists and the audienceneed to show interest in reviving the tradition of folk instruments on their own, without looking at the government, so that the instruments used in folk music can survive.

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