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Modern problems of maqom creativity

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Abstract

Maqom creativity represents a unique synthesis of tradition and innovation within Central Asian musical culture. This study investigates how modern composers and traditional bastakor masters navigate the evolving challenges of preserving maqom's authenticity while integrating contemporary musical elements. Drawing on insights from the international conference Modern Problems of Maqom Creativity, the paper explores the dynamic roles of researchers, musicians, educators, and cultural practitioners in sustaining and advancing the art form.

Key themes include the pedagogical legacy of oral transmission, the impact of globalization and technology, and the aesthetic tension between microtonal experimentation and traditional modal frameworks. Particular attention is given to the contributions of bastakors in maintaining regional maqom styles, their improvisational mastery, and their influence on new compositional practices. The study also highlights how collaborative projects, digital platforms, and cross-genre innovations are expanding maqom's reach to new audiences while preserving its cultural essence.

Ultimately, the research argues for a balanced approach to maqom composition—one that respects historical depth while embracing creative adaptation—positioning maqom as a living tradition with global relevance and artistic vitality.

Keywords: maqom, composer, creativity, Central Asia, tradition, bastakors, maqom composition.

The Institute of Uzbek National Musical Art is organising a global conference on the captivating field of maqom creativity. The reason for this meeting is to examine the sophisticated relationship between traditional and modern musical pieces in the maqom creativity that is a crucial aspect of Uzbek cultural legacy. The conference unites esteemed researchers, composers, bastakors, and musicians and acts as a key forum for exchanging ideas and digging into the constantly evolving realm of maqom creativity. Herein, the participants will explore the potentials of combining tradition and innovation in maqom composition through lively discussions and insightful presentations. This paper will emphasize the continued importance and artistic liveliness of this musical tradition.

The active involvement of a individuals who have a common interest in maqom music is crucial for the success of the Modern Problems of Maqom Creativity Conference. Primarily, the intended participants consists of researchers, creative organizations, teachers, and experts in the field of music. In this study, the researchers would include candidates, PhD students, and postgraduate students, who are passionate about maqom creativity. Their academic input will enhance the conference dialogues. A collaborative alliance will also involve composers, bastakors (traditional musicians), filmmakers, and theatre workers whose hands-on experience and artistic viewpoints are extremely valuable during the sessions. In addition to this, teachers, professors, and musical art specialists in the educator group actively participate in academic discussions and offer direction for the future of maqom composition.

When sharing out invitations to a specific audience, event planners should take into account the participants' knowledge, research experience, and dedication to improving maqom creativity. The criteria also include selecting individuals who show a passion for maqom music, appropriate credentials, and a desire to actively participate in the conference sessions. Invitations are sent through formal channels such as personalized emails and official letters.

Problems of Modern Composition: Initiatives and Results.

In consideration to modern music composition scenario, it is challenging for artists to find a balance between novelty and conventional practices. As merging modern musical elements with maqom's traditional modal and improvisational energy presents challenge in terms of maintaining it ture essence (Klenke, 2019; Zolfagharzadeh, 2022). Composers like Saidmuradov from Uzbekistan and Najmuddin from Azerbaijan have made efforts to address this challenge. These musicians have explored microtonal variations within the established dastgah framework (Safarov *et al.*2023). The aim of this research is to create fresh sound patterns without compromising the essential essence of maqom. Maqom composers can expand the instrument's appeal to different audiences by incorporating microtonal variations, delving into extended harmonies, and testing out intricate rhythms. This can be achieved without upsetting long-time supporters. The expansion of the sounds in this genre may appeal to listeners who enjoy unique sounds but still appreciate the traditional roots of maqom music (Zolfagharzadeh, 2022).

Still, the continual challenge remains in maintaining a delicate balance between innovation and tradition. Reviving maqom through incorporating modern music elements can breathe new life into it, but there is a risk that the composition may lose its core identity or stray too far from its cultural roots. Therefore, composers and practitioners need to carefully navigate this landscape, always remembering to uphold the integrity of maqom while also welcoming creative advancements (Zolfagharzadeh, 2022). If maqom composition is continuously studied, collaborated on, and discussed, its current environment has the opportunity to develop dynamically. This will enable the tradition to be enhanced while also embracing the potential of the future (Klenke, 2019).

State of Maqom Creativity in Modern Conditions.

While examing the continuously changing and developing state of maqom advancement shows, it can be said that the art is influenced by globalization and technological advancements. The complete analysis of the dual impact of these elements was demonstrated in a publication in the Central Asian Music Journal by Klenke (2019) who states that even though globalization and digital tools have expanded the creative options for maqom composers, there is a risk that the genre could lose its originality and become overly commercial (Klenke, 2019). The authenticity of maqom compositions is being doubted due to the increase of Western musical influences and the shift from oral tradition to written music. This makes it important to create solutions that maintain maqom's core identity and adapt to modern opportunities amidst these transformations. Sessions at the conference will examine how formal institutions and educational programs contribute to promoting maqom creativity. Despite all these challenges, perseverance and adjustment in the maqom tradition is still evident.

In present scenario, UNESCO that music schools and conservatories remain crucial in passing down maqom knowledge through traditional mentorship methods. This contributes to guaranteeing the art form's survival and continuity. Moreover, composers are increasingly using digital technology for creating, notating, and performing music. By utilizing online platforms, maqom recordings and instructional resources can be easily accessed by a larger audience, making adaptation and accessibility simpler (Zolfagharzadeh, 2022). However, the rapid tempo of contemporary music and the pressures from the business world present significant challenges. to the topic, there are different perspectives to consider.

Importance of Bastakor Masters in Regional Maqom Art.

Bastakor masters are the guardians of Uzbekistan's rich maqom heritage that plays an important role in preserving and transmitting regional traditions across the nation's diverse landscape. As custodians of oral tradition, bastakors possess a solid

understanding of regional maqom styles and repertoire that safeguards these unique musical expressions for future generations. Their exceptional memory and musical expertise enable them to impart this knowledge to aspiring musicians which eventually ensures the continuity of Uzbekistan's maqom legacy. At the heart of maqom lies improvisation which is a dynamic aspect that bastakors master through years of training and practice (Klenke, 2019). Their deep familiarity with maqom structures, melodic intricacies, and rhythmic patterns specific to each region empowers them to guide students in mastering these nuances. Through mentorship and instruction, bastakors cultivate the authenticity and expressiveness of regional maqom performances, preserving the integrity of the art form (Madrimov, 2021).

Moreover, bastakors contribute to the evolution of maqom by blending tradition with innovation. Drawing upon their extensive knowledge, some bastakors engage in composition, creating new pieces within established frameworks. By infusing regional repertoire with fresh compositions, bastakors ensure the continued vitality and relevance of maqom/mugam in contemporary contexts. This dynamic interplay between tradition and innovation sustains the art form's resonance with audiences, reflecting its enduring cultural significance (Madrimov, 2021).

Promotion of Maqom Art Through Modern Music

It is important to introduce strategic changes in order to ensure Maqom's tradition to resonate with modern audiences. One of the most influential approach is collobration and partnering with modern creators. Partnerships between musicians in the maqom genres and contemporary artists could attract a fresh audience to the distinctive melodies and rhythms of maqom (Elsner, 2021). Incorporating electronic elements, popular music structures, and diverse regional music traditions into fusion projects can create a unique and captivating soundscape. Furthermore, artists have the opportunity to promote maqom by utilizing the technology that is currently accessible (Makam, 2023).

Enhancing global access to music can be achieved by utilizing online platforms for performances, educational materials, and interactive experiences. Improving the accessibility and enjoyment of learning maqom for younger generations can be achieved by creating mobile apps or online tutorials. Composers have the opportunity to create innovative compositions drawing on maqom elements, while exploring current themes that connect with present-day listeners. This method, also known as contemporary repertoire and storytelling, is an additional option to consider. These new compositions not only maintain the importance of tradition but also have the capability to introduce the essence of maqom to a larger audience (Turan and Oğul, 2023).

Conclusion.

The conference on contemporary challenges in Maqom creativity offers hope for the preservation and promotion of Uzbekistan's beloved maqom traditions. By working together and using new methods, participants have examined the fine line between tradition and innovation in maqom composition. While bastakor masters preserve traditional regional practices, composers are constantly pushing creative boundaries, ensuring that maqom stays lively and significant in today's society. Through the use of technology and forming strategic partnerships, maqom's traditional tunes attract new listeners, guaranteeing a lasting impact for future generations. The conference highlights the shared dedication to supporting and honoring the diverse range of maqom artistic talents, safeguarding its ongoing importance in the worldwide music scene.

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