

Features of Odishan Tribal String Musical Instruments

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Abstract

According to Sangeet Ratnakar's 6th chapter, the musical instruments are divided into four parts, such as *Tat* (string), *Abanadha* (covered with leather), *Ghana* (Metal) and *Shusir* (Wind). In the history of Indian music and culture, there are many string instruments name found from the *Shastras and Puraans*. Odisha is known as the heart of the Indian tribal and folk culture. There are around 62 various tribal communities living in Odisha. Odishan tribal culture is prevalent among the tribal people of Odisha; majority of which is to be found in the tribal villages. The most important aspect of Odishan tribal culture is their music and dance. Each tribe has its own pattern of dance and music. They use different kinds of costumes and musical instruments to make their performance beautiful. Dance and music is an important part of tribal culture which being continued from the ancient times. The tribal music expressed the primal emotions of human being with simple words and simple tunes. Odishan tribal music as a whole reflects the rich cultural diversity. Although the pattern of music prevalent among them varies from tribe to tribe yet there are certain features common to all. Tribal music has even become more significant since it is an indispensable part of instrumental music especially in the context of blowing musical instruments. Odishan tribal string instruments are playing in perfect symphony.

Keywords: Odishan tribal, String Instrument, Violin, Tribal Music, Folk Music

Introduction

Music is the combination of three fine arts namely: singing (vocal), playing instruments (instrumental) and dance. Like song and dance, the Instrumental music is an equal contributor to the fame of the whole tribal music. The tribes of Odisha have retained the rich and varied heritage of colorful dance and music forming integral part of their festivals and rituals. Music is developed and maintained by themselves in a tradition without aid and intervention of any professional teacher. The prevalence of various types of tribal songs along with the tribal musical instruments are found, especially in the districts of Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Koraput, Sundergarh, Malkangiri, Rayagada, Sambalpur, Kalahandi etc.. The traditions of tribal music in Odisha, is as rich as the cultural traditions of Odisha. Normally these tribal people use very simple musical instruments. Tribal music of Odisha is meant for the recreation and entertainment of tribal people. Tribal music of Odisha is a companion in one's daily routine. At times we come across some tribal people who sing out of joy or spontaneously for example, a tribal farmer while ploughing his field use to sing a song. Learning music in a typical tribal society forms a cardinal part of the entire process of association of its members. It is learnt together with the unspoken customs and practices conforming to the standards reckoned apt by the society. Any given tribal

community as a whole initiated its children in learning music, i.e., singing, drumming or dancing, from an early age. The tribal culture of Odisha offers a participatory model of creativity or of communication between the gifted artist and his community. Tribal music, defined as the traditional music passed from one generation to the next. Tribal music as a popular tribal recreation has recently expressed the spirit and character of the people of the Odisha. Most of the Odishan tribes are predominantly have a rich tradition of tribal music that encompasses wide themes surrounding their social and cultural lives. In the simplest sense, these musical instruments are meant not just to generate sound but to produce and modify the character of tribal music altogether. It is therefore useful to look at a classification of musical instruments that accompany tribal music and songs based on the way in which the sounds are generated and produced.

Dhanrutgara: The Kondh tribe is known for their traditional string instrument. Typically, it has one or two strings and is made from locally available materials like bamboo and strings made from the intestines of animals.

Duduk: The Dongria Kondh tribe utilizes this instrument, which is a simple string instrument made of bamboo and has one or two strings. By plucking the strings, the sound is produced.

Tingia: A musical instrument that is used by the Kutia Kondh tribe. The material used is bamboo and there are multiple strings. The strings are played by musicians by plucking or strumming them.

Sarinda: The Sarinda, which is a bowed string instrument played by certain tribal communities, is not restricted to Odisha. A distinctive sound is produced by the combination of a wooden body and horsehair strings.

Banam: The Santal tribe in Odisha is often associated with this instrument. The instrument is played with a bow made of horsehair and has a single string. Carving the body from a single piece of wood is common.

Tingia There is another instrument that shares its name but is not the same as the Kondh version. The Santal Tingia is a string instrument that doesn't have frets and has multiple strings, which resembles a rustic slide guitar.

Not only do these instruments serve as musical instruments, but they also have cultural significance, often playing a role in tribal rituals, celebrations, and storytelling. The craftsmanship that goes into making these instruments is a reflection of the rich cultural heritage of the tribal communities in Odisha.

Conclusion

Odishan tribal music has many distinctive regional styles and requires many years of training. Odishan tribal music with its closed-group form of ethnicity is remarkable in the sense that it can never be studied in isolation from the social and ritual contexts of the people concerned. Tribal music possesses a well-built community basis. The fact can be comprehended in the domains of musical-socialization, kinds of ownership, levels of participation and nature of specialization. Learning music in a typical tribal society forms a cardinal part of the entire process of association of its members. It is learnt together with the umpteen customs and practices conforming to the standards reckoned apt by the society. Odisha is home

to various tribal communities, each with its unique cultural and musical traditions. Some features of Odishan tribal string musical instruments include:

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