

IMPACT OF INDIAN CLASSICAL MUSIC ON DIASPORA COMMUNITIES AND ITS RESPONSE ABROAD

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ABSTRACT

The study of the role of Indian Classical Music in diaspora communities and its reception abroad is a fascinating and complex subject that has received significant attention in recent years. Indian Classical Music has a rich and diverse history, dating back over two thousand years, and has evolved over time to become one of the world's most distinctive and influential musical traditions. In recent decades, Indian Classical Music has spread beyond the borders of India and has become an important part of the cultural fabric of many diaspora communities around the world. The role of Indian Classical Music in diaspora communities is multifaceted and has evolved over time. For many people, it is a way to connect with their cultural heritage and to feel a sense of belonging to their ancestral home. For others, it is a means of expressing their identity and creativity, and of connecting with like-minded individuals. In many diaspora communities, Indian Classical Music is also used as a tool for cultural education, helping to pass down traditions and knowledge to the next generation. The reception of Indian Classical Music abroad has been mixed. In some countries, it has been embraced and celebrated as an important part of the cultural landscape, while in others; it has faced resistance and challenges. Some of the factors that have influenced the reception of Indian Classical Music abroad include cultural differences, prejudice and misconceptions, and limited understanding of the music itself. Despite these challenges, the study of the role of Indian Classical Music in diaspora communities and its reception abroad is a critical area of research that has important implications for the future of Indian Classical Music. As the world becomes more interconnected, and as diaspora communities continues to grow and evolve, it is essential that we understand the role that Indian Classical Music plays in these communities and how it is being received and perceived abroad. The study of the role of Indian Classical Music in diaspora communities and its reception abroad is a complex and dynamic field that continues to evolve and grow. Whether as a means of cultural expression, education, or connection, Indian Classical Music has a vital and lasting impact on the lives of millions of people around the world, and will continue to play a critical role in the future of our global musical heritage.

Keywords: Indian Classical Music; Diaspora Communities; Globalization; Nationalization; Culture; Heritage

INTRODUCTION

Indian Classical Music has a rich and diverse history, and its influence can be seen in many parts of the world, including in diaspora communities (Subramaniam, 2008). The study of the role of Indian Classical Music in diaspora communities and its reception abroad is an important area of research, as it sheds light on the ways in which Indian musical traditions are being adapted and transformed in new cultural contexts. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Indian Classical Music began to gain popularity outside of India, as musicians and scholars travelled abroad to perform and teach. This process was accelerated by the growth of international cultural exchange programs and the increasing availability of recordings and other media. Indian Classical Music has since become a staple of world music scenes, with performances and festivals taking place in many countries around the world (Rao, n.d.).

One of the most significant impacts of the growth of Indian Classical Music abroad has been the creation of new musical communities and the development of new styles and traditions. In many countries, including the United Kingdom, the United States, and Canada, Indian Classical Music has been embraced by both immigrant communities and local musicians, who have incorporated it into their own musical practices and created new musical fusions. One of the most notable examples of this process can be seen in the UK, where Indian Classical Music has been a central part of the cultural life of South Asian immigrant communities for many decades. In recent years, there has been a growing interest in Indian Classical Music among non-South Asian musicians, who have taken up the study of the genre and collaborated with Indian musicians to create new musical hybrids.

In the United States, Indian Classical Music has been embraced by a number of communities, including South Asian immigrants, classical music enthusiasts, and world music fans. In recent years, there has been a growing number of festivals and concerts dedicated to Indian Classical Music, as well as a growing number of institutions offering courses and programs in the genre (Manuel, 1997). In Canada, Indian Classical Music has been a part of the cultural landscape for many years, and it has been embraced by both South Asian immigrants and non-South Asian musicians. In recent years, there has been a growing interest in Indian Classical Music among young musicians, who have taken up the study of the genre and created new musical fusions. In many countries, Indian Classical Music has become an important part of the music education system, with many universities and conservatories offering courses and programs in the genre. This has been a key factor in the growth of Indian Classical Music, as it has allowed new generations of musicians to gain access to the genre and to develop their skills.

Despite the growth of Indian Classical Music abroad, there have been some challenges and obstacles to its development. One of the most significant challenges has been the lack of recognition and support from the music industry and the media. In many cases, Indian Classical Music has been relegated to niche status, with limited opportunities for musicians to perform and reach new audiences. In addition, the process of adaptation and transformation that Indian Classical Music has undergone in diaspora communities has sometimes resulted in the loss of important musical traditions and practices. In some cases, the genre has been commercialized and diluted, with traditional elements being replaced by popular or Western musical styles. Despite these challenges, Indian Classical Music continues to thrive in diaspora communities, and it continues to inspire new generations of musicians and fans. As a result, the study of the role of Indian Classical Music in diaspora communities and its reception abroad is an important and ongoing area of research, which has the potential to shed light on the ways in which musical traditions are transformed and adapted in new cultural contexts.

NATIONALIZATION OF INDIAN CLASSICAL MUSIC

Indian Classical Music has a deep connection with the cultural identity and heritage of India, and its nationalist roots can be traced back to the Indian independence movement (Rr, n.d.). During this time, Indian Classical Music was used as a means of expressing and preserving Indian cultural identity, and as a symbol of resistance against British colonial rule. One of the key figures in the nationalist movement and Indian Classical Music was Pandit Vishnu Narayan Bhatkhande, who is considered the father of modern Hindustani classical music. Bhatkhande believed that Indian Classical Music was an essential part of Indian culture and that it was important to preserve and promote it as a national heritage. He travelled extensively throughout India to study and document different styles of Indian Classical Music and created a system of music education that is still used today.

Indian Classical Music has been used as a tool for promoting Indian nationalism in many ways (Valla et al., 2017). For example, it is often performed at national events such as Independence Day and Republic Day celebrations, and has been used in the soundtrack of patriotic movies. It has also been used to create awareness of social and political issues, such as the fight against corruption and the promotion of communal harmony. However, it is important to note that Indian Classical Music is not limited to a particular culture or nationality. It has a universal appeal and can be appreciated by people from all walks of life, regardless of their background or identity. While the nationalist roots of Indian Classical Music are significant, its true value lies in its ability to connect people across different cultures and promote a sense of unity and understanding.

THE BENEFITS OF GLOBALIZATION OF INDIAN CLASSICAL MUSIC

Globalization has brought about numerous benefits to Indian Classical Music (Vedabala, 2016). It has provided Indian Classical Musicians with new opportunities to perform, share their music, and reach a wider audience. In this way, Indian Classical Music has become a global phenomenon and has gained recognition and respect on a worldwide scale. One of the main benefits of globalization to Indian Classical Music is increased exposure. With the rise of technology and the internet, it has become easier for Indian Classical Musicians to share their music with a global audience. This has helped to increase awareness and appreciation for Indian Classical Music among people from different cultures and backgrounds. Through live concerts, online streaming, and music festivals, Indian Classical Music has been able to reach a wider audience and become a more significant part of the global music scene.

Another benefit of globalization to Indian Classical Music is increased collaboration (Balkwill et al., 2004). Indian Classical Musicians are now able to collaborate with musicians from different cultures and backgrounds, resulting in new and exciting musical experiences. These collaborations allow musicians to explore new musical styles, instruments, and techniques, leading to the creation of new and innovative musical works. This cultural

exchange has also helped to break down cultural barriers and has allowed Indian Classical Music to gain a more diverse following. Globalization has also opened up new markets for Indian Classical Musicians. With the growth of international music festivals and concerts, Indian Classical Musicians are now able to perform and share their music with audiences across the world. This has helped to increase the visibility of Indian Classical Music and has resulted in increased demand for performances and recordings. This, in turn, has helped to provide Indian Classical Musicians with new and more secure income sources, allowing them to continue to create and perform their music (Balonek, 2019).

Globalization has helped to preserve and promote Indian Classical Music. With the growth of international recognition, Indian Classical Music is now seen as a significant cultural and musical legacy that is worth preserving and promoting. This has resulted in increased investment in Indian Classical Music education, research, and performance, ensuring that this musical genre will continue to thrive and evolve. Globalization has brought about numerous benefits to Indian Classical Music, including increased exposure, collaboration, new markets, and preservation and promotion. Through the sharing of music and culture, Indian Classical Music has become a significant part of the global music scene, and its legacy and tradition have been strengthened and sustained.

FUTURE OF INDIAN CLASSICAL MUSIC IN DIASPORA COMMUNITIES ABROAD

Indian Classical Music has a rich history and tradition, and its influence can be seen across the globe and vivid diaspora communities (Katz, 2012). In recent years, there has been a growing interest in Indian Classical Music among music enthusiasts outside of India. The future of Indian Classical Music abroad is bright, and here are some of the reasons why:

Cultural Exchange: The popularity of Indian Classical Music abroad is largely due to the growing interest in cultural exchange. As people become more interested in other cultures, music becomes an integral part of that exchange. Indian Classical Music is known for its unique sound and rhythms, which can be traced back thousands of years. This makes it an attractive and fascinating art form for people all over the world (Balkwill & Thompson, 1999).

Availability: With the advent of technology, it has become easier for people to access Indian Classical Music from anywhere in the world (Vedabala, 2020). Music streaming services, online courses, and video tutorials have made it possible for anyone to learn and enjoy Indian Classical Music, regardless of their location.

Increasing number of Indian Classical Musicians: Over the past few decades, there has been an increasing number of Indian Classical Musicians who have been performing and teaching abroad. Many of these musicians have established themselves as renowned performers and

teachers in their respective countries, and have helped to popularize Indian Classical Music abroad.

Collaborations: Indian Classical Music has been successfully blended with other genres of music, such as jazz, pop, and rock. This has helped to create a unique fusion of music that appeals to a wider audience. Collaborations between Indian Classical Musicians and western musicians have become increasingly common, and have led to the creation of new and exciting forms of music.

Thus, the future of Indian Classical Music abroad looks promising. As the world becomes more connected, the appreciation for cultural diversity will only continue to grow. With the increasing popularity of Indian Classical Music, it is likely that more people will become interested in learning and performing this beautiful art form.

CONCLUSIONS

The study of the role of Indian Classical Music in diaspora communities and its reception abroad has shed light on the importance of music in preserving cultural heritage and identity. The rich tradition and history of Indian Classical Music has been passed down from generation to generation and has been adapted to fit the changing times. Through the diaspora communities, Indian Classical Music has gained recognition and popularity in other parts of the world. This has allowed for the preservation of the musical genre and has paved the way for its growth and evolution.

However, it is important to note that the reception of Indian Classical Music abroad has not always been positive. There are cultural biases and prejudices that have hindered the full appreciation of the genre. Despite these challenges, Indian Classical Music continues to thrive and be embraced by new audiences. The fusion of Indian Classical Music with other musical styles has also allowed for the genre to reach new heights and reach even more people.

Thus, the study of the role of Indian Classical Music in diaspora communities and its reception abroad has shown that despite cultural biases and prejudices, music has the power to bring people together and preserve cultural heritage. The rich tradition of Indian Classical Music continues to evolve and thrive in new communities, and its popularity continues to grow, proving its timelessness and universal appeal. The importance of preserving cultural heritage through music cannot be overstated and the study of the role of Indian Classical Music in diaspora communities serves as a reminder of this.

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