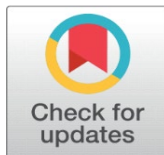
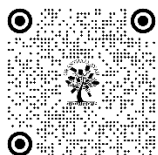


KINSHIP OF WESTERN MUSIC BETWEEN DIFFERENT GENRES OF INDIAN MUSIC

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ABSTRACT

The research paper shares the kinship between Indian music system and Western music system. Indian music has many different genres. Some famous genres are Ghazal, Bhajan, Thumri, Film music, Qawwali, Indian Pop and Folk music. All these genres are directly associated with western music system. Renowned Ghazal singer Jagjit Singh used to perform Ghazals with western instruments such as Guitar, Piano and Violin. The basic idea of presenting music to the audiences was never limited to Indian music. Western music system uses harmony to make music more exquisite. All the ghazals by Jagjit Singh are played with the arrangement of chords associated to the particular harmony needed for the Ghazal. Every piece of music that is composed has a particular chord combination attached to it to create a harmony. Therefore, Indian Ghazals composed in a Raga is also performed with a set of particular chords associated to it. Hence, we can say that western music system has a direct kinship with Indian music as it involves chords to create harmony.

Keywords: Indian Music, Western Music Theory, Harmony, Chords, Contemporary, Erstwhile Music

1. INTRODUCTION

Since the film industry of India has evolved all the music that has been composed are recorded on western instruments such as Guitar and Piano. Many of the music directors like R.D. Burman were greatly influenced by western music artists and western music system which further impacted their music direction to be based on western music and instruments. Indian music was primarily vocal centric and never used harmony. It was always accompanied by monophonic instruments such as Sarangi, Flute and Tanpura. Western music system has been the backbone for recording music in the world. Music would never have been so comprehensive without western system of chords for creating harmony. Western music system further impacted Indian music directors to base their direction on western music and instruments. Indian classical music was primarily vocal centric and never used harmony. It was always accompanied by monophonic instruments

such as Sarangi, Flute and Tanpura. In the modern times all the songs in Indian music are being performed on the basis of western harmony. Keyboard is a very important instrument that is being used by Indian musicians for the performance of Ghazals, Bhajans and Film songs. Even classical Thumri genre is being reproduced by modern musicians with the concept of harmony. A best example would be the Bandish in Bhoopali 'Lagey Re Nain Tumse' which has been performed with western instruments and is showcased on a program named Coke Studio. So, it is very clear that Indian music is sharing a relationship with western music. Learning western music one can justify to accompany Indian music. One should possess thorough knowledge of the western music otherwise one would not be able to perform Indian music correctly. All these years of Indian music that has been performed with the western instruments is a clear result of the kinship between them, if not so it would not have been possible to perform and evoke human emotions. Therefore, the fundamental laws of music are the same, it's just the nature of the notes how they carry a relationship with each other and how perfectly one can understand the comprehensive aspect of music.

2. CONTEMPORARY AND ERSTWHILE MUSIC OF INDIA

In the modern times the contemporary music has evolved a lot. In the 1980's or the erstwhile music of India there was use of instruments like Sarangi, Tabla, Harmonium and Sitar which was used to perform music for the recording of Film songs and also for the live performances of the artist. But the present times these instruments are being used very less and the modern instruments like Piano, Guitar and Drums have taken their place. The erstwhile music of India was mainly classical music. The vocalist used to sing Ragas with the accompanying instruments like Tabla, Pakhawaj, Sitar and Sarangi etc. After this era in 1950's the music of India started westernising Indian music. A best example would be the song in movie Shri 420 (Pyar Hua Ikrar Hua), the song starts off with the western instrument and one can clearly listen to the harmonising western parts in it. The starting piece can be seen as an influence of the western classical symphonies the way they were composed. Western instruments like Violin can be seen used in Film music in India. All these transformations lead to the acceptance of Indian musicians to adopt western instruments and the harmony concept of western music. Therefore, Indian music evolved every decade and followed western system of music to compose songs and music for even theatrics performances. The use of instruments like Guitar, Keyboard, Violin and western percussion like Drums came into existence.

The contemporary music has evolved to its extents now as one can see the modern music that is being produced now works on the western concept of harmony but at the same time technology has taken its course. All the music that is being produced today is with the help of modern technology. Modern software has taken its place in the music industry of India. Today all the harmonising aspect of a melody is done by software. One does not need different musicians in a recording room to record a song. The software has everything it needs and one can produce any sound of an instrument. This however has reduced the stress of a recording engineer as he can get the musical piece to the perfection and without the respective artist of that particular instrument. But the essence of live recording has vanished. Anyone who does not play the instrument can record the music by just applying some western theory.

This has greatly affected the instrumentalists who don't get the chance to record live music in recording studio. Therefore, Indian music has been

transforming greatly since the 1950's and western concepts of music have evolved in Indian music.

3. WESTERN MUSIC MELODIES INCORPORATED IN INDIAN MUSIC

Following are the melodies incorporated in Indian films:

1) Akele Hain To Kya Gum Hai (Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak)

Music copied from Return to the Alamo (Shadows). © 1977 Parlophone Records Ltd, a Warner Music Group Company.

2) Pyaar Tune Kya Kiya (Title)

Inspired by Regan's Theme (Finale) from the Exorcist II: The Heretic (Soundtrack) by Ennio Morricone © 1977 Warner Records Inc.

3) Dil Na Diya (Krrish)

Inspired from the song by the Turkish Military March Track Ceddin Deden.

4) Mehbooba Mehbooba (Sholay)

Inspired from the Arabic song Ta Rialia by Mihalios Violaris.

5) Kya Kehna (Kya Kehna)

The song is copied from Oh Carol by the legendary Neil Sedaka. © 1959 RCA.

6) Theme (Kaho Naa Pyaar Hai)

Inspired from Voices (The Music of Vangelis) by L'Orchestra Electronique. (P) 2009 Smith & Co.

7) Aate Jaate Hanste Gaate (Maine Pyaar Kiya)

Inspired from the popular Stevie Wonder song I just called to say I love you.

8) Gela Gela (Aitraaz)

Inspired by Thoina Thoina by R. Kelly. (P) 2003 RCA Records, a division of Sony Music Entertainment.²

9) Babuji Dheere Chalna (Aar Paar)

One would think old classics were original. This beautiful song is inspired from the Spanish song Quizás, Quizás, Quizás by Cuban which was released in 1947.

10) Pretty Woman (Kal Ho Naa Ho)

Inspired by Oh Pretty Woman (Roy Orbison) © Originally released 1964. All rights reserved by Sony Music Entertainment.

11) Itna Na Mujhse Tu Pyar Badha is a classic song from 1961 film Chhaya. This is the best example of kinship of a Western Classical piece, Mozart's 40th Symphony in G Minor and incorporating in Indian music.¹

4. CONCLUSION

Therefore, one can come to the conclusion that western music has been incorporated in Indian music way back in 1950's and hence shares a direct kinship with Indian music. Not only harmonising aspects of western music was in practice but exactly the same melodies were incorporated in Indian music.

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

None.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

None.

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