

## "UZBEK CULTURAL HERITAGE: PRESERVING TRADITIONAL SONGS IMPORTANCE AND METHODS"

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### ABSTRACT

This article discusses the richness and importance of Uzbek cultural heritage, in particular, the importance and methods of preserving traditional songs. Uzbek cultural heritage has a centuries-old history and is reflected in the people's lifestyle, traditions, art and music. The article examines the role of traditional songs in the preservation of cultural heritage, their history, themes, and various ways of passing them on to future generations. Also, the role of modern technologies and the measures taken by the state in this direction will be covered.

**Keywords:** Uzbek cultural heritage, Traditional songs, Culture preservation, National musical heritage, Modern technologies, Digital archives, National identity, Social integration, Historical memory.

### INTRODUCTION

Uzbek cultural heritage has a centuries-old history, and its development is closely related to the rich cultural and historical traditions of the East. Uzbekistan is located in the center of Central Asia, and in the process of historical development, it has become a crossroads of many civilizations. Different peoples and nationalities that lived in this area formed their own cultures and left a rich and colorful heritage for Uzbek culture.

Uzbek cultural heritage is manifested in the people's lifestyle, customs, traditions, art, music, literature, architecture and applied art. The Uzbek people respect their ancient history, customs and traditions. The Great Silk Road played an important role in the formation and development of this culture.<sup>1</sup> Various peoples, religions and cultures entered the territory of Uzbekistan through the Silk Road and merged with the local culture. Among the rich cultural heritage of the Uzbek people, ancient cities, monuments, mausoleums, madrassas and mosques occupy a special place. Cities such as Bukhara, Samarkand, Khiva are world famous for their unique architectural monuments. These monuments reflect the great architectural achievements of their time and amaze people with their beauty and uniqueness to this day. Uzbek cultural heritage is also rich in folklore, national songs, dances and traditional folk crafts.<sup>2</sup> This heritage is reflected in the people's lifestyle, customs and traditions and has been passed down from generation to generation for centuries. Uzbek cultural heritage is important in strengthening national identity, historical memory and national unity. At the same time, it

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<sup>1</sup> <https://uzbekistan.travel/uz/>

<sup>2</sup> Utanova, daughter of Vazira Khan Makhmudjon (2021). THE SIGNIFICANCE OF ORAL CREATION OF THE PEOPLE IN UZBEKISTAN. SCIENTIFIC PROGRESS. VOLUME 2 | ISSUE 7 | 2021 ISSN: 2181-1601. B-1.

plays an important role in strengthening ties with world culture and international cultural dialogue. The Uzbek cultural heritage is recognized as the wealth of not only the people of Uzbekistan, but also the entire humanity.

Traditional songs of the Uzbek people are an integral part of the national culture. They were formed over centuries, passed down from generation to generation, and reflected the people's lifestyle, feelings, and philosophy of life.<sup>3</sup> Traditional songs are important in preserving the historical memory, traditions and values of the Uzbek people. The themes of traditional songs are very wide and varied. They include love, friendship, love for motherland, work, natural beauty, historical events and heroism of the people. Every song reflects people's feelings and outlook. For example, people praised their heroes and remembered their bravery through epics and songs.<sup>4</sup> Also, songs sung at weddings and celebrations played an important role in strengthening family and community unity.

### **-Historical Basis:**

"Culture" comes from the Arabic word madina (city). Arabs divide people's lives into two types: Bedouin or desert life; the second is called cultural life. Bedouin is used for the nomadic peoples living in the steppe deserts, culture is used for the peoples who live in the city and have their own way of life.<sup>5</sup> The rich literary and cultural heritage of the Uzbek people, after the beginning of written history, the Achaemenids (558-330 BC), the Seleucids (312-64 BC), the Orkhun-Yenisei stone inscriptions, Turkic (Uyghur) handwritten monuments, the Turkic Khanate (552 -745), the Arab caliphate (632-1258) and the following periods, in particular, the oral, written and material records created during the periods of Amir Temur and the Timurids, the Shaibanis, the Ashtarkhanis, the Three Khans, the Russian occupation, the Soviet system, and finally, the years of independence - monuments.<sup>6</sup> These include Uzbek people's traditions, paintings, holidays, examples of folk creativity, sources created in the field of literature and science, visual and practical art and music, ancient inscriptions and archaeological finds, colorful architectural monuments.

Basically, in the beginning of the 9th-13th centuries, the art of music is highly developed. Holidays, weddings, public gatherings and other ceremonies, without a doubt, could not pass without tunes and songs. During this period, musicians widely used a wide variety of stringed, percussion and wind instruments, such as oud, tanbur, kobiz, rubob, flute, trumpet, trumpet, koshnay and ganon.<sup>7</sup> "Rost", "Khusravoniy", "Boda", "Ushshaq", "Zerafkanda", "Buzruk", "Si po hon", which became the foundation for "Shashmaqom", a classic tune of the Tajik and Uzbek peoples. New songs such as "Navo", "Basta", "Taronas" were created.<sup>8</sup> The art of music develops in an integral connection with the science of poetry and musicology. Literally, the art of music

<sup>3</sup> Abdullayev S. EDUCATIONAL AND MEDICAL EFFECT OF TRADITIONAL UZBEK SONGS. "Economics and society" №6(85) ch.1 2021. C-8.

<sup>4</sup> <https://gov.uz/>

<sup>5</sup> Dusenbayeva Gulbanu. CONCEPT OF CULTURE AND ITS CONTENT ESSENCE. Proceedings of International Conference on Educational Discoveries and Humanities. 2023 ISSN: 2835-3196.B-1.

<sup>6</sup> Azamat Ziya. HISTORY OF THE UZBEK STATE. FROM THE MOST ANCIENT PERIOD TO THE RUSSIAN CONQUEST. T., <<SHARK>>, 2001. B-364

<sup>7</sup> A. Mavlanov, & S. Mirzohidov (2024). THE CULT OF WATER IN THE ANCIENT BELIEFS OF THE UZBEKS OF THE FERGANA VALLEY. Science and innovation, 3 (C1), 5-7. doi: 10.5281/zenodo.10471818

<sup>8</sup> A. MUHAMMADJANOV. HISTORY OF UZBEKISTAN (FROM THE IV CENTURY TO THE BEGINNING OF THE XV CENTURY). Vol., "SHARQ", 2017. B-108

developed in Movarounnahr in the Middle Ages. As a clear proof of this, we can understand that Abu Nasr Farabi's "Big book about music" made a great contribution to the music art of that time.<sup>9</sup> He not only gives a natural-scientific definition of the appearance of sounds, which is a property of substance, but also reveals the mathematical principles of the creation of the harmony of musical tunes. This work describes not only the theory of music, but also its history, the musical instruments known in the Middle Ages in the Near and Middle East, and the rules for playing them. Ibn Sina, a contemporary of Farabi, devoted a certain part of his scientific works to the science of music. For example: "Musical Collection in Science" in "Book of Medicine"; "A Brief Account of Music" in "The Book of Salvation"; In the "Book of Knowledge" he devoted a large section to music.<sup>10</sup> From a theoretical point of view, according to the medieval tradition, Ibn Sina included music in the category of mathematical knowledge. He considered music as a science that studies sounds and creates a melody as a result of their harmonious accompaniment. Based on the teachings of Pythagoras, he knew that music belongs to numbers and is inextricably linked with them. Ibn Sina was the first in history to look at music not only as a mathematical science, but also from the point of view of sociology, psychology, poetics, ethics and physiology, and founded a thorough scientific basis for the history of music. Together with Farabi, he founded the science of musical instruments, which later, albeit later, found its development in Europe. It gives a detailed classification of the types of musical instruments and explains their structure. In the sixth section of the Book of Knowledge, almost all musical instruments are described.<sup>11</sup> As a result of the works of Al Farabi and Ibn Sina on the study of musical instruments, the science of musical instruments, which remains a special science of music, was founded. In the next period, many works dedicated to Uzbek music were created. Kamil Khorezmi is one of them. Kamil Khoramiy sponsored the development of Eastern classical music, in particular, the traditions of makomlik, and introduced a notation system called "Tanbur line" for recording Uzbek tunes.<sup>12</sup> On this special note, he wrote the beginning of the status "True". His son Mirza Muhammadrasul continued the work started by his father and recorded the rest of the songs and instrumental tracks of Khorezm "Shashmaqom" in full notation.<sup>13</sup> The notes of "Murabbai Kamil" and "Peshravi Feroz" tunes, which are connected to the "Rost" status, have reached us. The cultural and social significance of preserving Uzbek traditional songs is very great. This importance can be seen through the following aspects:

### **Preservation of cultural heritage:**

Traditional songs express the life, customs, values and outlook of our ancestors. Their preservation plays an important role in the transmission of cultural heritage to generations.

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<sup>9</sup> Abu Nasr Farabi, "City of Virtuous People". "New century descendant", T., 2016. B-6

<sup>10</sup> M. Mamatov. THE INFLUENCE OF MUSIC ON MENTAL DEVELOPMENT: PAST AND PRESENT. Uchenyy XXI veka • 2022 • No. 2 (83).B-28.

<sup>11</sup> Aripov Z. The formation and development of the system of Arabic musical terms (based on the works of Central Asian scientists of the 10th-15th centuries on musicology). DSc., 2019. – B. 23

<sup>12</sup> Devon. T., 1975.

<sup>13</sup> Kamil Khorezmi, Selected works. Tashkent, Ozadabiynashar, 1961.

**Awareness of national identity:**

Traditional music is an important tool in the formation of national identity and national pride. Through them, the young generation becomes interested in their national music and culture.

**Social integration:**

Songs help unite and bond people. Performing traditional songs at festivals, weddings and other social events brings people together and strengthens social bonds.

**Historical memory:**

Traditional songs reflect the history and experience of the Uzbek people. Through them, there is an opportunity to remember and learn about past events, characters and ways of life.

**Aesthetic education:**

Traditional music is also important as a means of aesthetic education. They help the young generation to develop a love for beauty, art and music.

**Development of language and literature:**

The language of the songs reflects the richness of the Uzbek literary language and dialects. Learning and performing them contributes to the development of language and literature.

Transmitting cultural heritage to future generations is a very important task, and this process is of great importance in preserving culture, history, and identity. Cultural heritage can be passed on to future generations through the following measures:

**Education and training:****School and university programs:**

Inclusion of special courses and programs for the study and understanding of cultural heritage. These programs should cover history, literature, art and music.

**Museums and cultural centers:**

Introducing the younger generations to cultural heritage by visiting museums, cultural centers and historical places.

**Technology and digital tools:****Digital Archives:**

Creating a digital form of cultural heritage and making it available to the general public via the Internet.

**Mobile Apps and Websites:**

Creating apps and websites that provide interactive and engaging information about cultural heritage.

**Creative activity:****Music and Theater:**

Staging traditional songs, dances and folk games and encouraging young performers.

**Literature:** Publication and distribution of traditional tales, epics and poetry.

**Community involvement:****Festivals and holidays:**

Organization of traditional cultural events, festivals and holidays. Through these activities, young people get to know the cultural heritage.

**Volunteering:**

Organization and involvement of volunteer groups in the preservation and promotion of cultural heritage.

**State support:****Legislation and Policy:**

Enact laws and implement policies for the protection and development of cultural heritage.

**Grants and scholarships:**

Providing grants and scholarships to support research and creative projects.

Family and neighborhood education:

**Family traditions:**

Continuing traditional holidays, rituals and games in families.

**Neighborhood activities:**

Organizing cultural events and sharing traditional knowledge in neighborhoods. A multifaceted and systematic approach is needed to pass on cultural heritage to future generations. This allows us not only to preserve our national identity, but also to pass on our rich and diverse culture to the younger generations.

Also, the President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev adopted a number of decrees on the preservation and development of the cultural and musical heritage. These decrees are aimed at preserving and promoting national culture, including musical heritage, to the general public. According to the decisions of the President, special attention is being paid to the study and development of status and the art of giving on a scientific basis. For this purpose, 120 statuses, epics of giving, folk songs were recorded in the "golden fund". In addition, it is planned to establish the Institute of Cultural Studies and Intangible Cultural Heritage, which will be engaged in the research and conversion of ancient musical works into a modern format.<sup>14</sup> In cooperation with UNESCO, a great contribution is being made to the development of Uzbek musical culture.<sup>15</sup> In Samarkand every two years the International Festival "Sharq

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<sup>14</sup> <https://president.uz/oz>

<sup>15</sup> <https://president.uz/oz>

Taronalari" is held, and in Shahrizabz the International Status Art Forum is held. In addition, the government is carrying out extensive work on the establishment and development of cultural centers. All this is aimed at conveying and preserving the national culture, including the musical heritage, to the youth and the general public.<sup>16</sup> Measures for the preservation of cultural heritage are being carried out in practice.

The above-mentioned events are important in promoting our national musical heritage at the international level. Modern technologies are important in the preservation and promotion of cultural heritage. These processes are carried out through digital platforms and the Internet:

Preserving and distributing traditional songs through digital platforms and the Internet:  
Digital archives: National libraries and cultural centers are digitizing traditional songs and creating online archives.<sup>17</sup> Through these archives, users will have the opportunity to get acquainted with and study Uzbek traditional music.

Streaming services: platforms such as Spotify, Apple Music, Yandex Music are very convenient for listening and distributing Uzbek traditional songs.<sup>18</sup> Through these services, it is possible to distribute music to the whole world.

Creating virtual museums and audio archives:  
Virtual museums: Virtual museums where users can get acquainted with traditional Uzbek music and culture without leaving home are being created using multimedia technologies.<sup>19</sup>  
Audio Archives: Digital audio archives allow you to professionally record and store traditional songs.<sup>20</sup> These archives will then be open to researchers and music lovers.

With the help of these modern technologies, the Uzbek cultural musical heritage is not only preserved, but also distributed to the general public and made more popular for the younger generations. These processes are of great importance in strengthening the national identity and introducing our culture to the whole world.

Conclusion: Uzbek cultural heritage, in particular, traditional songs, are an integral part of national culture, and it is important to preserve them and pass them on to future generations. Traditional songs reflect people's historical memory, customs and values, play a major role in national identity and social integration. In order to preserve them, it is necessary to introduce special programs in the educational system, establish museums and cultural centers, use digital platforms and the Internet widely. Modern technologies play an important role in the digitization, preservation and distribution of traditional music. Measures taken by the state, including international events held in cooperation with UNESCO, are of great importance in this direction and serve to promote national culture at the international level.

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<sup>16</sup> <https://president.uz/oz>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.natlib.uz/>

<sup>18</sup> <https://music.yandex.ru/>

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