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Armenian Folk Music

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Armenian Folk Music

Folk music is one of Armenian genres, considered one of the great music traditions with different melodies and genres. Since the 1800s, people interested in cultures such as ethnographers have explored Anatolia and Caucasus to collect these songs together with dances. Today, there exist more than 30 000 folk music in the different archives accompanied with their rhythms as well as modes. Folk music is based on people's language and rituals passed from one generation to the other. Some of the aspects noted in these songs are family celebrations, sowing fields, funerals, and day-to-day activities. For example, the circle-dance is influenced by the prehistoric and Zoroastrian backgrounds who lived in Near East. Even though the culture influences the music, the West's instruments are different from those used in the east.

In the West, oud instruments are used, while in the east, duduk is prevalent. The differences was caused by the 1915 genocide, where more than a million Armenians died, and the survivors ran to either West or east (Rogers, 2015). Those who fled to the east became the Soviet Republic of Armenian, an independent country today. Therefore, the event separated the people leading to the formation of subcultures making the people use different instruments. The oud is a short lute placed around the neck used in playing the bass line together with melodic woodwinds. On the other hand, duduk is a two-reed pipe manufactured from apricot wood mostly found in Turkey and Georgia. Most musicians use lip at the same time finger ideas in extending the tonal range. They also add another duduk, which produces an unbroken drone attained by circular breathing accompanied by melodies and other improvisations.

Therefore, the Armenian folk music describes the culture and beliefs of the people. Instruments are vital in this genre, where the eastern singers use the oud tool while those in the West use the duduk. Notably, both use the drone that holds the tonic note.

Reference

Rogers, C. (2015). Armenian Folk Music. <https://www.maramarietta.com/the-arts/music/armenian-folk-music/>

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