

Non-Western Music

A. Taught orally

1. rote
2. Imitation
3. No notation exists

B. Improvisation

1. based upon traditional melodic phrases
2. based upon traditional rhythmic patterns
3. African cultures uses much improvisation
4. Japanese culture uses almost no improvisation

C. Vocal music is more important

1. Middle Eastern and North African voices usually use a nasal and strained tone.
2. South African voices are more relaxed and open.
3. Vocal techniques utilized are:
 - a. shouting
 - b. crying
 - c. whispering
 - d. sighing
 - e. humming
 - f. yodeling
 - g. singing through their teeth

D. Instruments

1. membranophones=basically drums with skin heads or membranes
2. chordophones=sound generated by stretched string (harp)
3. aerophones=wind instruments
4. idiophones=percussion instruments where no tension is applied (bells, gongs, scrapers, rattles, xylophones)
5. choice of instruments dependent upon style of music
 - a. chordophones for ighly ornamented melodies (Islamic and Indian classical music)
 - b. idiophones and membranophones for strongly rhythmic influenced music (sub-Saharan Africa)
6. Geography of music determines use of available raw materials
 - a. idiophones for bronze material (Asia)
 - b. membranophones for animal skins (sub-Africa)
7. Religion affects choice of instruments through symbolism

E. Melody, Rhythm & Texture

1. Asia, Eastern and Northern African music based upon melody and rhythm and has a monophonic texture.
2. Scales containing 5, 6 or 7 tones, often with microtones
3. Microtones used in India and near East with very complex rhythms

F. Sub-Saharan Africa general music information

1. purpose of music reflects aspects of daily life

2. closely associated with dance
3. tone languages where one word has many meanings dependent upon relative pitch it is spoken with
4. performed usually outdoors by everyone in the culture
5. no musical notation-transmitted orally
6. elements of sub-saharan African music
 - a. melody=short musical phrases
 - b. rhythm=complex polyrhythms
 - c. harmony=homophonic or polyphonic
 - d. timbre=vocal music is nasal or open; percussion instruments, drums, rattles, xylophones, talking drums and body percussion
 - e. form=call and response
7. Timbres in sub-saharan African music
 - a. pitched
 - b. unpitched
 - c. idiophones are the most common
 - d. membranophones are often property of group; symbolizing power and royalty
 - e. chordophones-music bow

G. Classical Music of India

1. Two distinct traditions based as a spiritual discipline
 - a. Karnatak (South India)
 - b. Hindustani (North India)
2. Performers
 - a. master (gurus) and their students (disciples)
 - b. traditions translated orally to disciples
 - c. basic notation system contain melodic and rhythmic elements
 - d. essential ornaments & musical elaborations must be learned from a teacher through imitation
3. Improvisation is highly developed and sophisticated.
 - a. improvisation by soloist and drummer
 - b. both vocalists and instrumentalists improvise
 - c. uses a choice of complex tones, ornaments & rhythms
4. Elements of Indian Classical Music
 - a. sound=range of no more than 4 octaves; instruments imitate vocal style of performance
 - b. melody=highly embellished melodic; uses microtones; slides of pitch provide transitions of a single melody
 - c. rhythm=is complex and sophisticated; improvisation of rhythm, tala (repeated cycle of beats); most common tala is 6-16 beats; variety of tempi used
 - d. harmony=accompanied by drone playing tonic & dominant
 - e. timbre=vocal and instrumental; tambura provides the drone; drums; sitar; vina; sarod; mridangam; tabla