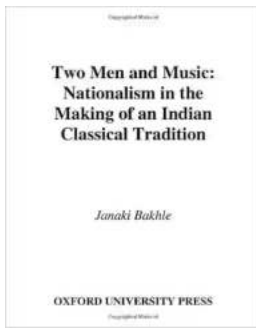


# Nationalism And The Making Of An Indian Classical Tradition



When we think of Indian classical music, images of enchanting ragas and virtuoso performers often come to mind. This rich musical tradition has captivated audiences for centuries, but what many might not realize is how nationalism played a pivotal role in shaping and preserving this ancient art form.

The emergence of Indian classical music as a symbol of national identity can be traced back to the Indian independence movement of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. As the freedom struggle gained momentum, nationalists sought to revive and promote indigenous cultural practices as a way to assert their distinct Indian identity.



## Two Men and Music: Nationalism in the Making of an Indian Classical Tradition: Nationalism and the Making of an Indian Classical Tradition

by Janaki Bakhle(1st Edition, Kindle Edition)

★ ★ ★ ★ ☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 3530 KB

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Word Wise : Enabled

Print length : 355 pages

Lending : Enabled



During this period, Indian classical music experienced a resurgence in popularity and gained recognition as an integral part of Indian culture. Prominent leaders like Rabindranath Tagore, Sarojini Naidu, and Mahatma Gandhi recognized the power of music in mobilizing the masses and creating a sense of unity among diverse communities.

They understood that music transcends language and cultural barriers, and it has the ability to evoke deep emotions and foster a sense of belonging. As Indians yearned for freedom, the melodious strains of classical ragas became a powerful tool for expressing their longing for independence and unity.

One of the key figures in the nationalist movement was Pandit Vishnu Narayan Bhatkhande. He dedicated his life to reviving and organizing Indian classical music, documenting its various forms, and developing a standardized music education system. Through his efforts, Bhatkhande paved the way for the

recognition and preservation of Indian classical music as a distinct and cherished tradition.

Bhatkhande's contributions were instrumental in shaping the Indian Music Academy, which became a foundation for the development and promotion of Indian classical music. This institution played a significant role in nurturing talented musicians and providing them with a platform to showcase their skills.

Another pivotal figure in the nationalist movement was Ustad Allauddin Khan, one of the greatest musicians of his time. Khan believed that Indian classical music had the power to unite people and transcend religious and social divisions. He dedicated his life to teaching and mentoring aspiring musicians, regardless of their background.

Through their collective efforts, Bhatkhande, Khan, and many others paved the way for the creation of a distinct Indian classical tradition that is steeped in nationalistic fervor. Today, this tradition continues to flourish and evolve, captivating audiences both in India and across the globe.

Indian classical music is not just a collection of melodic and rhythmic patterns. It is a reflection of the Indian ethos, a testament to the country's rich cultural heritage. It encompasses a deep spiritual connection and serves as a bridge between the past and the present.

Whether it's through the soul-stirring sounds of the sitar, the meditative melodies of the flute, or the intricate rhythms of the tabla, Indian classical music has the ability to transport listeners to a realm of pure bliss and transcendence.

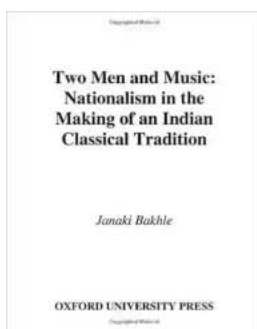
Indian classical music is also characterized by its improvisational nature, allowing performers to showcase their individual artistry and creativity. This aspect of the

tradition encourages musicians to explore and experiment, keeping the tradition alive and relevant in a rapidly changing world.

While the nationalist movement provided the impetus for the revitalization of Indian classical music, the tradition has continued to evolve and adapt with the times. Today, young musicians are embracing new technologies and experimental genres, while still staying true to the core principles and essence of the classical tradition.

As we celebrate the rich legacy of Indian classical music, it is essential to recognize the role nationalism played in its preservation and promotion. The deep-rooted connection between music and national identity has ensured that this ancient tradition remains an integral part of the Indian cultural fabric.

So, the next time you listen to the enchanting strains of an Indian classical raga, remember the rich history and significance it holds. It is not just music; it is a testament to the resilience and collective spirit of a nation that fought for its freedom and preserved its cultural heritage.



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A provocative account of the development of modern national culture in India using classical music as a case study. Janaki Bakhle demonstrates how the emergence of an "Indian" cultural tradition reflected colonial and exclusionary practices, particularly the exclusion of Muslims by the Brahmanic elite, which occurred despite the fact that Muslims were the major practitioners of the Indian music that was installed as a "Hindu" national tradition. This book lays bare how a nation's imaginings--from politics to culture--reflect rather than transform societal divisions.



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