





Darbar Sangeet and
Moghul/ Empire:
1500- 1857

- Man Tomar Singh:
Dhrupad
- Darbar Sangeet
 - Tansen
- Birth of new
musical genres
Khyal & Thumri
& instruments
- New instruments

The British rule:
1857-1947

- From Court to Concert:
- Gharanas vocal
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From Court to Concert: Development of Khyal

The 18th century saw the birth of many of the musical forms that are dominant today, like Khyal and thumri. With the central Mughal power in Delhi weakening after Aurangzeb's death, there was a quick succession of emperors. One of them was the legendary Muhammadshah Rangile (1716-1748 AD) in Gwalior. He was a loving and generous patron to many musicians. It was in his court that Nyamatkhan, invented a new genre, the Khyal. He became so popular that he received the title Sadarang. His students were Hassu and Hadu Khan continued the tradition in Gwalior. This style of music became so popular, that it was adapted by many artists who in turn created their own style.

With the decline of the Toyal courts, the Darbars that were the patrons of music, and the rise of less educated patrons of music, the need for easier and more lyrical musical styles arose. The Dhrupad style was serious and only performed by men. The later styles were more lyrical and performed by men and women. Khyal was a combination of local and folk styles with the Dhrupad style of singing. The Khyal was sung by men and women and had a more lyrical character than the Dhrupad, yet was more serious than the local and folk styles so that it could entertain audiences for a longer time.



Sadarang with disciples

Origin of Bhajan

In the South of India, the Bhakti movement was a reaction in the 8th century to the rigorous Vedic and later Hindu traditions that restricted who could worship God through music, movement or song. Music as a means to connect with God is the main purpose of music in the Bhakti movement and everyone is allowed to sing the praise and devotion to God.

Music was sung by Bhakts. This was the origin of Devotional songs in India, the Bhajans. . The early Bhakts sang their praise of God in South India and travelled throughout the country. Later, this movement came to North India as well and poets such as Mira and Kabir wrote their Bhakt poetry that is still famous today.



Kabir