

Al-Farabi National university

Theme: Music of Kazakhstan

Prepared by: Amal Zh.E.
Group AiU-14-01
Checked by : Omarova Sh.

Almaty 2016

Plan

- ❖ **Traditional music**
- ❖ **Russian and Soviet-era music**
- ❖ **Musical institutions**
- ❖ **Musical traditional instruments**
- ❖ **The contemporary situation: Revival**
- ❖ **References**
- ❖ **External links**

Traditional music

When referring to traditional Kazakh music, authentic folklore must be separated from "folklorism". As far as can be reconstructed, the music of Kazakhstan from the period before a strong Russian influence consists of following genres:



Instrumental music, with the pieces ("Küy") being performed by soloists. Text is often seen in the background (or "program") for the music, as a lot of Küy titles refer to stories.

Vocal music, either as part of a ceremony such as a wedding (mainly performed by women), or as part of a feast.

□ Russian and Soviet-era music

- Postage stamp depicting a *dombra*, the most popular traditional musical instrument of Kazakhstan
- The Russian influence on the music life in Kazakhstan can be seen in two spheres: First, the introduction of musical academic institutions such as concert houses with opera stages, conservatories, where the European music was performed and taught, second, by trying to incorporate Kazakh traditional music into these academic structures. Controlled by the [Russian Empire](#) and then the [Soviet Union](#), Kazakhstan's folk and classical traditions became connected with [ethnic Russian music](#) and Western European music. In the first part of the 19th century, Kazakh music was transcribed in linear [notation](#). Some composers of this era set Kazakh folk songs to Russian-style [European classical music](#).
- The Kazakhs themselves, however, did not write their own music in notation until 1931. Later, as part of the Soviet Union, Kazakh folk culture was encouraged in a sanitized manner designed to avoid political and social unrest. The result was a bland derivative of real Kazakh folk music. In 1920, [Aleksandr Zatayevich](#), a Russian official, created major works of art music with melodies and other elements of Kazakh folk music. Beginning in 1928 and accelerating in the 1930s, he also adapted traditional Kazakh instruments for use in Russian-style ensembles, such as by increasing the number of [frets](#) and [strings](#). Soon, these styles of modern orchestral playing became the only way for musicians to officially play; Kazakh folk was turned into patriotic, professional and socialist endeavors .

Postage stamp depicting a *dombra*, the most popular traditional musical instrument of Kazakhstan



There are various types of *kazakh dombra* allowing performers great variety of sound.

Musical institutions

- The Musical-Dramatic Training College, founded in 1931, was the first institute of higher education for music. Two years later, the Orchestra of Kazakh Folk Musical Instruments was formed. The Foundation Asyl Mura is archiving and publishing historical recordings of great samples of Kazakh music both traditional and classical. The leading Conservatoire is in Almaty, the Qurmanghazy Conservatoire. It currently competes with the national conservatoire in Astana, Kazakhstan's capital.

- The most popular traditional instruments are string instruments. First of them is the dombra (домбыра), the most popular and the oldest Kazakh music instrument. Some argue that nomads have used similar two-string instruments more than two thousand years ago.
- The other instrument playing an important role is the Qobyz, which is a bowed instrument held between the legs. It is made of carved wood for the body, animal skin for the resonator, and horse hair for the strings, and the bow. The Qobyz is said to have been invented by the legendary shaman Qorqyt, long before the medieval ages. The "Zhetigen" ("Seven strings") could be seen as a member of the cither family, finding equivalents in China, with the strings being divided each in two parts of different lengths, the bridge being movable and consisting of small bone. There is also a plucked lute called sherter (шептер).

Traditional instruments of Kazakhstan



Dombra

- The **dombra** (домбыра or **dombyra** in Kazakh, **dambura**, **dambura**, in Uzbekistan, **dumbyra** in Volga Tatar and Bashkir, **tumpyra** or **tumra** in Siberian Tatar, **danbura** in Hazaragi) is a long-necked lute and a musical string instrument.
- The instrument shares some of its characteristics with the komuz and dutar.

Kazakh dombra



Range and tablature



D4 \flat E4 F4 \flat G4 \flat A4 B4 H4 C5 \flat D5 \flat E5 F5 \flat G5 \flat A5 B5 H5 C6 \flat D6 \flat E6

					0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21					

Many folk and regional tunings have been existing though below there is the most accepted academic DG tuning for standard concert dombra prima of Kazakhstan.

Kobyz

- The Kobyz (Kazakh: қобыз) or kyl-kobyz is an ancient Kazakh string instrument. It has two strings made of horsehair. The resonating cavity is usually covered with goat leather.
- Traditionally kobyzes were sacred instruments, owned by shamans and bakses (traditional spiritual medics). According to legends, the kobyz and its music could banish evil spirits, sicknesses and death.

Kazakhstan postage stamp depicting a kobyz



□ The contemporary situation: Revival

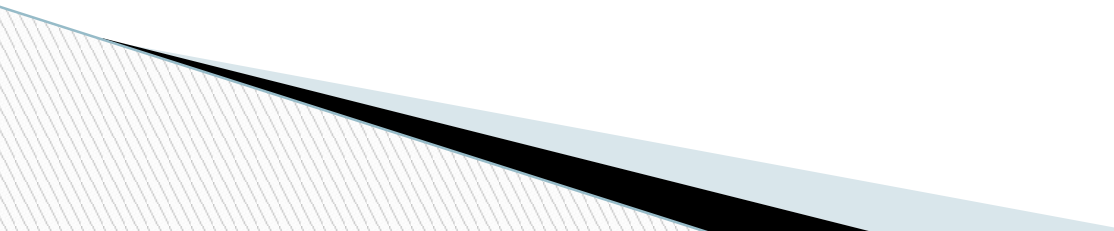
- The current situation could be described as the effort to rediscover the traditional music as it had been practised before the heavy influence of European musical styles. Although the quality of the performances and the striving for authenticity cannot be ignored, it is for methodological reasons important to remember that the contemporary musicians performing among traditional folk music are all well trained professionals (Rauchan Orazbaeva, Ramazan Stamgazi).
- Another very challenging aspect arises from the young composers generation, and the rock and jazz musicians, as they aim to incorporate their traditional heritage into the music they learned from the western cultures, thus forming a new stage of "ethnic contemporary classics", respectively ethnic rock or jazz music that sounds distinctly Kazakh. For the classical sector outstanding: Aqtoty Raimkulova, [Turan ensemble](#); for jazz: "Magic of Nomads"; for Rock: Roksonaki, [Urker](#), [Ulytau](#), Aldaspan.



References

- ▣ **Jump up** *"Музыкальное наследие Казахстана / Musical Heritage of Kazakhstan". web.archive.org. Retrieved 2015-11-29.*

External links

- [From Folklore to Soviet National Culture - The Process of Formation of "Kazak National Music" \(1920-1942\)](#) (Slavic Research Center, Hokkaido University.)
 - [National Geographic World Music: Kazakhstan](#)
 - [Introduction to the Music of Kazakhstan](#)
- 

Thanks For Your
Attention

