

The Melancholic Modalities That Affect Islam And Turkish Classical Musicians

Music has always played an important role in human societies, serving both functional and aesthetic purposes. When it comes to religious music, the relationship between music and spirituality becomes even more intricate. In the Islamic world, music has a long and rich history, and it has been used for centuries to express religious devotion, accompany rituals, and provide entertainment.

One of the most characteristic features of Islamic music is its use of melodic modes, or *maqams*. Maqams are scales that are based on specific intervals, and they each have their own unique emotional character. Some maqams are considered to be more appropriate for certain occasions than others, and they can be used to create a wide range of musical effects.



Melancholic Modalities: Affect, Islam, and Turkish

Classical Musicians by Christine Bemko Kril

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Among the different maqams, there are a number that are known for their melancholic qualities. These maqams are often used to express feelings of sadness, longing, and loss. They can be found in a wide range of Islamic musical traditions, from the devotional music of the Middle East to the classical music of Turkey.

In Turkish classical music, the melancholic modes are known as *diras*. Dires are characterized by their use of flatted seconds and sevenths, which give them a distinctive sound that is both haunting and beautiful. Dires are often used in instrumental pieces, such as the *taksim*, and they can also be found in vocal music, such as the *saz semaisi*.

The use of melancholic modalities in Islamic and Turkish classical music is not simply a matter of musical aesthetics. These melodies also reflect the deep spiritual beliefs of the cultures that created them. In Islam, the concept of *huzn*, or sadness, is considered to be an important part of the religious experience. Huzn is seen as a way of connecting with the divine, and it is often expressed through music.

In Turkish culture, the melancholic modes are also associated with the concept of *ozlem*, or longing. Ozlem is a feeling of longing for something that is lost or unattainable, and it is often expressed through music. The melancholic modes of Turkish classical music can evoke feelings of nostalgia, regret, and even despair.

The melancholic modalities of Islamic and Turkish classical music are a powerful tool for expressing a wide range of emotions. They can be used to create music that is both beautiful and deeply moving. These melodies

offer a glimpse into the spiritual beliefs of the cultures that created them, and they continue to inspire musicians and listeners alike.

Examples of Melancholic Maqams and Dires

Here are a few examples of melancholic maqams and dires:

- **Maqam Saba:** A maqam that is often used to express feelings of sadness and longing. It is characterized by its use of a flatted second and a minor third.
- **Maqam Rast:** A maqam that is known for its plaintive and melancholic sound. It is characterized by its use of a flatted seventh.
- **Dire Hicaz:** A dire that is often used to express feelings of nostalgia and regret. It is characterized by its use of a flatted second and a flatted seventh.
- **Dire Uzzal:** A dire that is known for its haunting and beautiful sound. It is characterized by its use of a flatted second and a minor seventh.

These are just a few examples of the many melancholic maqams and dires that exist in Islamic and Turkish classical music. These melodies offer a powerful way to express a wide range of emotions, and they continue to inspire musicians and listeners alike.



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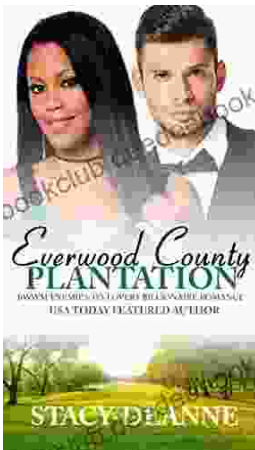
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