

## ASPECTS THAT NEED TO BE CONSIDERED WHEN LEARNING THE ART OF MAQOM AND TEACHING IT TO YOUNG PEOPLE

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**Abstract:** *This article provides useful advice on the art of maqom and its current development, issues related to its study and training of young performers. This article provides general information for young people interested in the art of maqom and enriches their understanding of maqom.*

**Keywords:** *Status, national art, music, Shashmaqom, methods, prose, weight, melody, polish.*

"The art of Maqom exists in the musical heritage of many Eastern peoples and forms the foundation of national music. Maqoms are a series of musical complexes created in a specific order and represent a refined form of compositional creativity. In a broad sense, Maqoms are an encyclopedia of folk music. This is because they fully embody various aspects typical of Uzbek and Tajik music, such as rhythmic characteristics, melodic intonations, doira (tambourine) rhythms, and the rules governing the connection between poetry and folk singing styles.

Ghiyosuddin, the author of the 'Ghiyos-ul-lughat' encyclopedia, defines it as follows: 'Maqom is the fret (mode) of melody and song.' It is known from ancient sources on music that Maqoms have historical, theoretical, and practical dimensions. Their theoretical issues are profoundly explained on a scientific basis in the treatises of great scholars who lived and worked between the 9th and 15th centuries, such as Al-Kindi, Al-Farabi, Al-Khwarizmi, Ibn Sina, Safi al-Din al-Urmawi, Qutb al-Din al-Shirazi, Abd al-Qadir Maraghi, Jami, and Husayni."

"Uzbek Maqom art has a thousand-year history. The profound meaning embedded in the lyrics of Uzbek Maqom has been recognized throughout all eras. In our country, the 'Shashmaqom', 'Khorezm', and 'Fergana-Tashkent' maqoms are distinguished by their unique musical status and performance styles. Time, era, and social reality have served as crucial elements influencing its development and refinement over the centuries.

Just as every field of knowledge has its own history and stages of formation, the art of Maqom also possesses a rich history spanning several centuries. Maqom is a mature and distinctive genre of oral professional music cycles, created by composers during the Middle Ages. Maqom is a melody that flows from the very soul of our people; therefore, it has endured through the ages. Unfortunately, in recent years, attention to this sacred and

enchanting art form seemed to have diminished. However, our President's decree on the development of national Maqom art was a timely and vital step. As the Head of State noted during a meeting with representatives of Uzbekistan's creative intellectuals: 'We must work to widely promote the Maqom art—a unique heritage of our people—not only in our country but across the entire world, and if necessary, organize international Maqom competitions.' Under the initiative of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, these noble efforts to preserve our national heritage like the apple of our eye and pass it on intact to the youth are a clear expression of the immense attention and care being shown toward the development of the national art of Maqom."

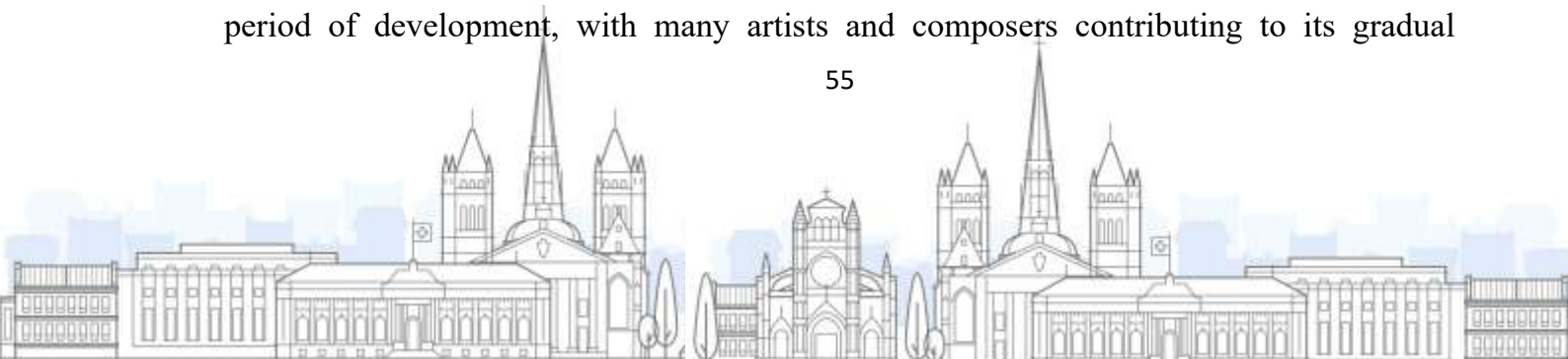
"The decree 'On measures to further develop the Uzbek national Maqom art' dated November 17, 2017, became an unforgettable milestone in the history of our arts. This document played a vital role in the deep study of Uzbek Maqom, advancing its unique performance schools and traditions to a new level, creating and enriching its 'Golden Fund,' and enhancing its international prestige through wide promotion. The boundless attention shown toward the development of national Maqom art provides all creators with inspiration and creative joy.

The Uzbek people possess a vast and incomparable musical heritage. 'Shashmaqom,' considered the crown jewel of Uzbek national music, has formed an exquisite example of art in harmony with our classical poetry, leaving the global community in awe of this sublime music. It has become a fine tradition in our country to hold the 'Sharq Taronalari' International Music Festival every two years, alongside competitions and creative projects promoting this unique musical legacy.

In 2003, the recognition of 'Shashmaqom' by UNESCO as a 'Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity' served as a practical expression of the global attention and acclaim given to Maqom art. The establishment and successful operation of the Center of Uzbek National Maqom Art in our capital is a continuation of these significant events. For centuries, Maqom art—a priceless artistic encyclopedia for us—has expressed the human soul, its sorrows, dreams, and noble aspirations through high musical notes.

Maqom bestows tranquility and peace upon the heart, and purity and balance to the spirit. Its miraculous nature is evident in how foreigners, who do not understand the Uzbek language at all, listen to this ancient heritage with enchantment and deep emotion. We must mobilize all our resources to ensure that the melodies, spirit, and philosophy of Maqom take a deep place in every person's heart, and above all, in the minds and hearts of our growing younger generation.

Maqom is the invaluable spiritual heritage of our people. This art has undergone a long period of development, with many artists and composers contributing to its gradual

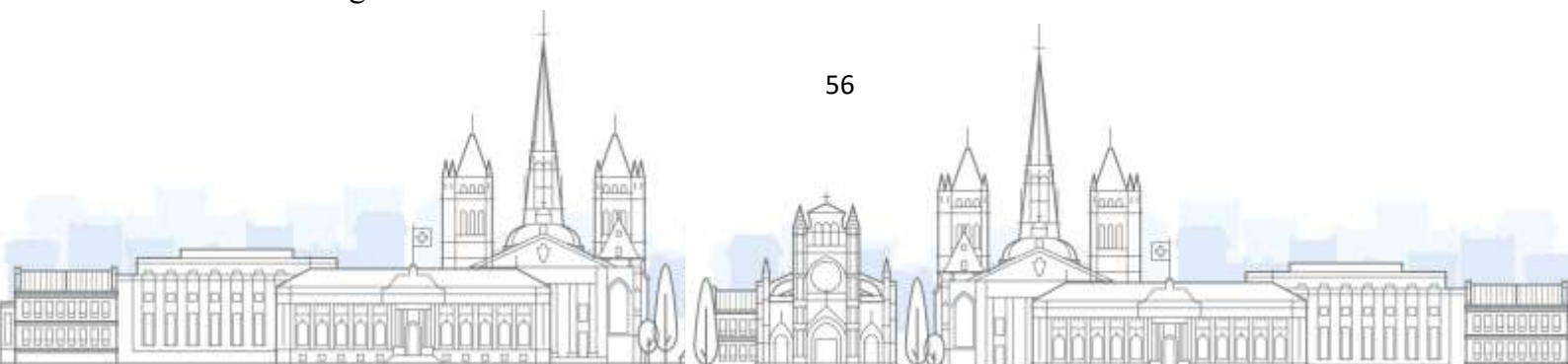


evolution. It encapsulates the most delicate nuances of human emotions. Therefore, a certain level of preparation is necessary to feel and understand Maqom. To achieve this, an individual must cultivate a love for music from a young age and link their spiritual perfection to this art. Simply hearing Maqom does not mean fully understanding it; as for the performance style, it is a distinct art and a unique culture in itself."

"A common feature in the Maqom of Turkic peoples is the special emphasis placed on the climax (avj) and the conclusion. The climax notes are higher, while the final part is performed with a delicate and pleasing touch. Maqom is a very large cycle; it differs from other musical works through its perfection and structured systems of melody and form. Therefore, when performing Maqom, one must first be knowledgeable about classical literature. If a performer does not understand the meaning of even a single word while working on a Maqom, they will not be able to sing that ghazal to perfection—in other words, a wall arises between the poet and the singer.

Maqom is a vast science. The art of Maqom must be free from the superficial words and actions of amateur singers. Maqom is a rich treasure passed down to us from our ancestors. It is our duty to preserve it and pass it on to today's young creators in its original form without any loss. To achieve this, we must first understand the deep essence of this 'golden art' ourselves, grasping and performing its magical glimmers and heart-stirring notes exactly as they are. Otherwise, if we pass on concepts that we haven't fully understood, it may result in our own incompetence and a lack of respect toward this masterpiece. When studying the art of Maqom, it is advisable to follow these tips:" The art of Maqom is not merely a collection of musical notes but a living heritage passed down through generations via the "oral tradition" (ear-to-ear learning). The "Ustoz-Shogird" (Master-Apprentice) tradition serves as the primary bridge in preserving not only the technique of Maqom but also its philosophical and spiritual essence. Today, this tradition is continued within higher education institutions, harmonizing with modern musical pedagogy.

Simultaneously, 21st-century technologies are opening new horizons for the promotion of Maqom. The digitalization of Maqom works (audio and video archives) and the creation of virtual laboratories provide convenience for the younger generation in learning this complex art. However, technological progress must not alter the authentic charm of Maqom—its "live" performance characteristic. A Maqom performer must not only play an instrument skillfully but also feel the inner emotional weight of the ghazal they are singing. This requires both theoretical knowledge and high artistic taste from young creators. Maqom is the mirror of Uzbek national identity, and preserving it is our most sacred duty to future generations.



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