

## **Intro to World Music**

- Indian Classical Vocal Music
  - Less well-known to Westerners than its instrumental counterpart
  - Vocal music important in India
    - connection to mantra chants/Vedic hymns
    - voice can convey text
  - Vocalists, however, are more limited in improvisational opportunities
- North Indian Vocal Music
  - *Qawwali*
    - Devotional Islamic song originally sung by Sufi mystics (the *Qawal*)
    - Fusion of Indian concepts of raga and tala with melismatic Middle Eastern vocal music
    - Accompanied by small instrumental ensemble Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan (1948-1997)
  - *Dhrupad*
    - Classical vocal music genre of the Mughal period (16th-19th centuries)
    - Long and sophisticated forms and text settings
    - Secular or sacred, but always serious/profound
    - Limited improvisation
    - Gundecha Brothers
  - *Khyal*
    - Most prominent vocal genre in contemporary Hindustani concert scene
    - More melismatic/ ornamented than *dhrupad*
    - Texts lighter and of a more romantic nature
    - Unlike other classical genres, the tempo changes abruptly, rather than gradually
- South Indian Vocal Music
  - *Kriti*
  - Vocalist accompanied by violin, *tambura*, and *mrdangam*
  - Form: verse (*caranam*) and refrain (*pallavi*)
  - Improvisation
    - vocal—repeated phrases, elaboration on text, melodic ornamentation, and use of solfege syllables
    - drum solos by *mrdangam* player
  - Example: “Ninnada Nela” (“Why Should I Blame You?”)
    - Form: *pallavi* (refrain) • *anupallavi* (verse 1) • *p* • *caranam* (verse 2) • *p*
    - Composed in raga *Kannada*
    - Listen for vocal improvisation: extemporaneous repeated phrases w/ florid, ornate variations on each repeat; note the violinist carefully following the singer, anticipating the improvisation
- Folk Music in India
  - Folk music tradition, although functionally replaced by recorded music and film, continues to thrive via...
    - festivals
    - weddings
    - performance for tourists
  - Examples
    - *Langa*
    - *cinna melm*
- *Baul* Music
  - Distinct cultural/religious sect of Bengal (East India)
  - Emphasis on simplicity and social equality
  - Traits
    - colorful clothing
    - expressive, open-throated singing
    - allegorical texts
    - may be accompanied by various small instruments including the *khmak* drum