

**Intro to World Music**

- Elements of Central Asia Music
  - portable instruments (Mongolia)
  - epic songs
  - multiphonic singing
  - tone-contour melodies
- The Tibetan Monastery
  - religious community of Buddhist monks
  - spiritualism expressed through and aided by...
    - mandalas
    - mantras
    - music
- Tibetan Music Religious Music
  - for Tibetan monks, music is comprised of two components:
    - external music which we hear
    - internal music of the musician's soul
  - conceptually related to the book of *tantras*
  - ritual music precisely prescribed; improvisation is limited
  - *Dbyangs* - chant style where the "melodies" consist of subtle changes in timbre, loudness, and sliding multiphonic frequencies
- The Instruments of *Rul-Mo* (Tibetan Ritual Music)
  - *dung-chen* - long metal aerophone (large buzzed-lip trumpet)
  - *rgya-gling* - double-reed aerophone; played with circular breathing technique
  - *nga chin* - cylindrical membranophone with a head on either side of the cylinder
  - *kungling* - small trumpet made from a human thigh bone
  - *rul-mo* - also the name of large metal cymbals played in pairs
- A Tibetan *Rul-Mo* Performance
  - audio: an invocation of Mahakala, protector deity of Tibetan Buddhism
  - excerpt from a *puja* - an extended ritual of chant, instrumental music and offerings
  - *rul-mo* cymbals played with a *brdung* (series of accelerating strikes)
  - form of *Mahakala Puja* (excerpt)
    - First Section: *dung-chen* are sounded; *rul-mo* play several *brdung*
    - Second Section: new pattern of *brdung*; *kungling* are sounded
    - Third Section: *dung-chen* and *nga chin* join in; *Dbyangs* chant begins, featuring multiphonic singing
- Tibetan Folk & Art Music
  - General:
    - rich body of songs on a variety of topics: love, pastoralism, agricultural work songs
    - prevalence of pentatonic modes...much more "tuneful" in the Western sense than *rul-mo*
    - accompanied by *sgra-snyan* - fretless lute with 3 to 7 strings
  - Genres
    - *Lhamo* - folk theatre specializing in epic historical or mythological topics (opera)
    - *Nangma* - Tibetan art music featuring singers/ dancers accompanied by *yangqin* ensemble