

MUSIC

Hinduism

They believe music is a gift to the gods

<http://sacredmusicradio.org/hindu-sacred-music/>

The origins of Indian classical music can be traced to the Vedas, the oldest scriptures in the Hindu tradition. The genre is also closely associated with and influenced by Indian folk music and Persian traditions. In general, it is based on ragas and tala (rhythmic beat patterns) played on the Veena (or Been), Sarangi Venu (flute), Mridanga(or Tabla) (traditional Indian instruments). The Sikh Scripture, for example, contains 31 ragas and 17 talas which form the basis for kirtan music compositions.



This image shows a deity, Saraswati, playing an instrument. She is the Goddess of knowledge, **music**, arts, wisdom and nature. She is almost always pictured with an instrument.

It is believed by some that music in India is of divine origin and that the gods gifted it to man for his enlightenment. It's indicative of the renaissance Indian music has enjoyed in recent years that it is no longer considered 'degrading' to be a musician.

LISTEN TO:

1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pnoVeh2hcVA> - Who is Shiva? Which Deity is he? Why are there so many songs about him?
2. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CRjs2RtrFgM>
3. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8wtLiBZs87Y>- Meditation

Christianity

Music plays has evolved in Christianity from being just in the church setting to being in pop culture settings such as Christmas music. It ranges from gospel music to Christmas music.

LISTEN TO:

1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wU3qgPn3bGA>
2. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8SCorW9r_Is&index=4&list=PLxnbiaE1-4tNZNfEB-jvv8hfY27Zu7OOY
3. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mawwURNqPC0> - "King of Israel"

Buddhism

Buddhists view music as a luxury and think it should be listened to with caution. There is not much music found in the culture. Most of it is very soothing and used for meditation.

The Buddha himself is said to have avoided attending musical performances, and cautions his disciples about musical chant: "O monks, there are five disadvantages for one singing the teaching in an extended sung intonation.

- (1) He is attached to himself regarding that sound;
- (2) and others are attached to that sound;
- (3) and even householders are irritated.
- (4) There is dissolution of concentration on the part of one straining to lock in on the sound; and
- (5) people who follow after [this procedure] undergo an adherence to opinions."

LISTEN TO:

1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FZeIQV9V2vU>

Judaism

Song is very important to the Jewish culture. It is used in prayer, all the holidays, and celebration such as wedding and bar/bat mitzvahs. It is even adapted into popular culture. For more information and many examples of songs go to:

<https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/an-overview-of-jewish-music>

LISTEN TO:

1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-BMtlNLnXxI> - The Horah
2. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qSJCSR4MuhU> - While this isn't a "typical" Jewish song it is an acapella group of Jewish men who take popular music and put stories of Judaism into them

Islam:

A number of Islamic rituals have some musical relevance. The first of these is the call of prayer by the *mu'ethín*, the caller to prayer. Scholars stress that the choice of the right *mu'ethín* is to be based on his musical voice and its emotional impact. The second musical act is in reading the Quran where the musical voice gained popularity, especially with the development of *'ilm al-qiráa* , "science of the recitation". The prevalence of readers such as Abdel Bassit Abdel Samad, Khalil Al-Hussary, and Al-Manshawí, are good examples of the perfection of voice, pronunciation, and tune. The chanting is evident in acts such as *Talbiya* in pilgrimage "*Hajj*" and *Tasbeeh* of Eid prayers. The religious use of music including chanting among the Sufis is also well established and documented.

However, Al-Albani accepts the authenticity of at least one hadeeth which forbids music. This was narrated by Al-Boukhari who states that the Prophet (pbuh) having said:

There will be (at some future time) people from my Ummah (community of Muslims) who will seek to make lawful: fornication, the wearing of silk, wine-drinking and the use of musical instruments (ma'azif). Some people will stay at the side of the mountain and when their shepherd comes in the evening to ask them for his needs, they will say, 'Return to us tomorrow' Then Allah will destroy them during the night by causing the mountain to fall upon them, while He changes others into apes and swine. They will remain in such a state until the Day of Resurrection.

LISTEN TO:

1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Got2tQ04qw> - Includes many different Muslim countries/ cultures
2. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r71mYyn6P4U> - Prayer with English translation