

Appreciating Hindustani Music
Dr.Lakshmi Sreeram
Department of Humanities and Social Sciences
Indian Institute of Technology, Madras

Lecture 45
Sadra-A Compositional Form

Sadra - A Compositional Form of the Dhrupad style [Music].

The song form Sadra is connected with the Dhrupad genre most of the time and it is believed that these are songs in Jhaptal. There is also a belief that any Jhaptal song whether in the Dhrupad genre or the Khayal genre, sung in Jhaptal is supposed to be Sadra [Music].

But, we have different interpretations of the Sadra. In the Dagar tradition it is believed that when Sadra emerged as an independent song form, most of the repertoire of Sadra were Sufi songs [Music]. And, we do have several Sufi songs sung in the Dhrupad style and they are in Jhaptal and in the Sadra form.

What is interesting about Sadra is that it combines both the Dhrupad and the Khayal elements. So, there is classicism and gravity of Dhrupad and at the same time the romanticism and flexibility of Khayal is found in this genre. It is also believed that this song form emerged after Baiju and one of the disciples of Nayak Baiju popularized the Sadra and the name Sadra comes from a village near Delhi called Shahdara. So, that is how the name Sadra came in the musical parlance [Music].

So, let us go into some illustrations. Sadra is in 10 beats, not the Jhaptal beat that we all know

Dhi na dhi dhi na ti na dhi dhi na
Sadra is played in the pakhawaj and it is

Dha ge dha ge dhin ta ge dha ge ge

So a small example of a Sufi song in the Sadra mould. Raag Madhmad Sarang [Music]

Deen aur duniya ko dekha palaka maahi
Aise rache pira moinuddin khwaja

is a song of Khwaja Moinuddin, one of the Sufi saints, [Music].

An interesting song [Music], you see you also get Sadras with different other themes. This is Surdasi Malhar, song of rain [Music]. One more Sadra with a [Music] lighter mood in Saraswati, Raag Saraswati [Music].