

The Other Classical Musics: Fifteen Great Traditions Beyond the Western Canon

For centuries, Western classical music has dominated the global music scene. However, there are many other classical music traditions from around the world that are equally rich and sophisticated.

In this article, we will explore fifteen of these "other" classical music traditions. We will learn about their unique characteristics, instruments, and cultural significance.



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by Amber Harper

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

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Chinese Music

Chinese classical music has a history of over 3,000 years. It is based on a pentatonic scale and is often characterized by its use of melodic ornamentation and complex rhythms.

Some of the most popular instruments in Chinese classical music include the *guqin* (a seven-stringed zither), the *pipa* (a four-stringed lute), and the *erhu* (a two-stringed fiddle).



Indian Music

Indian classical music is one of the most complex and sophisticated musical traditions in the world. It is based on a system of *ragas* (melodic scales) and *talas* (rhythmic cycles).

Some of the most popular instruments in Indian classical music include the *sitar* (a plucked string instrument), the *tabla* (a pair of drums), and the *sarangi* (a bowed string instrument).



Indian classical musicians playing the sitar, tabla, and sarangi.

Japanese Music

Japanese classical music is a diverse tradition that includes a wide range of genres, from traditional court music to modern experimental music.

Some of the most popular instruments in Japanese classical music include the *koto* (a 13-stringed zither), the *shamisen* (a three-stringed lute), and the *taiko* (a large drum).



Arabic Music

Arabic classical music is a rich and diverse tradition that spans many centuries. It is based on a system of *maqamat* (melodic modes) and is often characterized by its use of improvisation and ornamentation.

Some of the most popular instruments in Arabic classical music include the *oud* (a fretless lute), the *qanun* (a trapezoidal zither), and the *ney* (a reed flute).



Arabic classical musicians playing the oud, qanun, and ney.

Persian Music

Persian classical music is a refined and elegant tradition that has been influenced by many different cultures over the centuries.

Some of the most popular instruments in Persian classical music include the *santur* (a hammered dulcimer), the *tar* (a plucked string instrument), and the *daf* (a frame drum).



Balinese Music

Balinese music is a vibrant and complex tradition that is closely tied to the island's Hindu culture.

Some of the most popular instruments in Balinese music include the *gamelan* (a set of metallophones, gongs, and drums), the *angklung* (a bamboo rattle), and the *sul*

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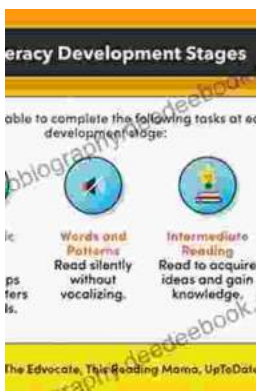


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