

Musical Melting Pot

The Influence of World Music on Other Musical Styles

What is "world music?"

- Problematic term
- Folk music
 - Not quite accurate, as some world music is quite sophisticated and consider "elite" in country of origin
- Not western
 - Wouldn't include Celtic musical styles, for example
- Ethnic
 - Blues and jazz can be considered "ethnic," but aren't usually considered as world music

World Music

- For our purposes, let's consider "world" music to be any non-western musical style that isn't connected to mainstream western musical styles:
 - Jazz
 - Rock
 - Classical
 - Etc.

A quick word about jazz

- Jazz evolved after a musical "melting pot" in New Orleans around the turn of the last century
 - N.O. was very ethnically diverse
 - Freed African slaves
 - Creoles of Color
 - Europeans
 - Caribbean
 - All mixed together to produce a musical style uniquely American

Musical Melting Pot



- Musicians have always been influenced by music not from their own cultural tradition
 - The use of cymbals in Europe was influenced by Middle Eastern music

Music from India

India has a very highly sophisticated classical music tradition

Sitar

- A type of string instrument
- Some strings are not meant to be played, but resonate sympathetically
- Ravi Shankar is one of the best known sitar performers outside of India



George Harrison (1943-2001)



- Played guitar with a rock band
- In 1965 David Crosby of the Byrds introduced Harrison to Indian music
- Enthralled, he bought a sitar and began learning the music



Javanese Gamelan



- The best known of Indonesian styles
- Ensemble of mostly percussion instruments
 - Metallophones
 - Hand drums
 - Gongs
- Each gamelan is tuned only to itself, so you can't mix instruments
 - Gamelan uses it's own tuning systems that are out of tune with western music
- Music is cyclical, patterns within patterns

Claude Debussy (1862-1918)

- French Impressionist composer
- In 1889 he heard a Javanese gamelan at the World Fair
- The sounds of the Javanese scales inspired Debussy to use an approximate sound in his music



Tuva



- A remote area in central Asia
- The relative isolation allowed their musical traditions to evolve in a unique way
- Their singing styles are known as throat singing or harmonic singing

Tuva

QuickTime™ and a H.264 decompressor are needed to see this picture.

Richard Feynman

- Nobel Prize winning physicist
 - A stamp collector as a boy, he wondered what happened to the country he had some rare stamps from
- He never made it to Tuva, but he helped found the Friends of Tuva which has been partially responsible for introducing Americans to Tuva's culture



Kargyraa Rap (Durgan Chugaa)



- David Hoffman produced an album (Back Tuva Future) that in part would explore what might have happened had Feynman gotten the chance to visit Tuva
- Tuvan singer Kongar-ol Ondar is considered a cultural treasure in Tuva

What instrument does this singing remind you of?

Didgeridoo

- Australian Aboriginal instrument made of a hollowed eucalyptus branch
- The oldest known brasswind instrument
- Musical interest is created by setting up rhythmic grooves and changing the timbre



Charlie MacMahon



- He lost his right arm playing with homemade fireworks
- Partially as therapy, he took up playing the didgeridoo
- Inventer of the "didgeribone"

Cuba/Puerto Rico

- ▶ Music from Cuba and Puerto Rico has been strongly influenced by the African musical styles brought over by the slave trade
- ▶ Percussion and polyrhythms
- ▶ Cuban Arsenio Rodriguez is said to have invented the musical style known as "mambo"



Chano Pozo (1915-1948) and Dizzy Gillespie (1917-1993)



- ▶ In 1940s jazz trumpet player Gillespie met Cuban conga player Pozo
- ▶ Their musical collaborations helped popularize Latin American grooves in American jazz
- ▶ *Manteca* was one composition they collaborated on

Influence is a two way street

- ▶ So far we have listened to how rock, jazz, or classical musicians have been influenced by world music styles
- ▶ World musicians are just as often influenced by western musical styles
- ▶ *Carmen*, by Georges Bizet was an opera premiered in 1875
- ▶ A collaboration by German classical musicians and Cuban percussionists resulted in an album called "Classic Meets Cuba"

Bagpipes

- Wind instrument
- Air bag is squeezed under one arm
 - A blowpipe and one or more sounding pipes are attached to the bag
- Associated with Scotland and Ireland
- Bon Scott, singer from AC/DC, played in Scottish pipe band in 1960s



Native American Music



- Pow wows often feature grass dance contests to see who dances and performs music the best
 - Much Native American music utilizes "vocables" or "pathogenic" text
 - Words derive from emotions, and don't literally translate

Blackfire

- Navajo musicians
 - Two brothers and a sister
- Combines traditional music with punk-rock and "Alter-native"
- They sometimes perform with a Native American dance troupe
- Listen to *One Nation Under*



Balkan Beat Box



- A band of diverse musicians from a variety of traditions, currently based in NYC
- Jewish, Gypsy, Arabic, American, and other styles blended with electronica and hip hop
