

Performing arts of zhyrau – centuries-old companions of the karakalpak people

S.Saytbekova

Associate Professor of the Department of Pedagogy of the Nukus State Pedagogical Institute named after Ajiniyaz

Abstract: The article talks about the performing art of zhyrau, which is distinguished by its high artistry, patriotism, ideological perfection, laid down in ancient times and remaining relevant to this day as a national tradition of the Karakalpak people.

Keywords: origins, dastans, melodies, zhyrau, kobyz, art, performance, patriotism, traditions, storytellers, epic, education.



This is an open-access article under the [CC-BY 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/) license

Introduction

Karakalpaks, like other Turkic-speaking peoples, have a rich epic and musical tradition. Large-scale dastans and melodies to them, distinguished by deep content, are rich sources in the spiritual development of the individual.

The origins of the performing art of storytellers - zhyrau, distinguished by high artistry and ideological perfection, were laid in ancient times.

The famous scientist, candidate of art history T. Adambaeva writes in her book "Karakalpak music before the 20th century": "The kobyz is a two-stringed musical instrument. Like the violin and girzhak, it is played with a bow. It is often made of apricot or mulberry wood, its neck is rounded towards the end. The lower body of the kobyz is covered with camel skin. Strings made from a camel's tail are stretched onto its neck. They are often tuned to a fourth. The total length of the kobyz does not exceed 75-80 centimeters. Like the girzhak, when playing, its lower edge rests on the performer's knee, but his fingers do not touch the fingerboard, but slide along it. The word "zhyrau" is one of the most ancient words of the Turkic-speaking peoples. It can be found in the works of Lutfiy "Gul and Navruz" (1411), as well as Navoi. In the 19th century, famous scientists N.I. Ilyinsky, V.V. Radlov, I.M. Budakov, Ch.Ch. Valikhanov wrote about the origin of the art of zhyrau, their popularity among the Turkic peoples. In their studies, they convincingly proved that the word "zhyrau" ("epic", "epic poem"), and the word "zhyrlau" means "to perform an epic poem to the accompaniment of the kobyz." The performers are mainly zhyrau, bakhshy, kyssakhans, melodists, singers, dancers, who are classified into a number of groups. As noted above, the most ancient masters of them were zhyrau, who belong to the ancient Massaget period of Karakalpak history. It is also known that among other peoples of Central Asia and Kazakhstan, the art of zhyrau, performers of dastans to the accompaniment of kobyz, existed from early times.

One of the unique characteristic features of the zhyrau melodies is that they are not couplet forms performed in a high voice, they are shorter, represent one or two motives that are repeated many times.

Literature review

Zhyrau storytellers were the main performers of heroic epics, they made people forget their sorrows and hardships, brought peace to the souls of an audience of many thousands. Famous scientists N. Davkaraev, K. Ayyymbetov and others associate the emergence of the Karakalpak school of storytelling with the names of Korkut ata, Soppasly Sypyra zhyrau, storytellers of the Khan's palace of Tokhtamysh Kamilzada, Shakhnamirza, as well as famous zhyrau Khalmurat, Kazakhbay, Shankot, Kurban, Erbay, Zhiemurat, Duisenbay, Aituar, Audan, Nurabulla, Bekmurat, Kabyt, Kurbanbay, Erpolat, Abdirasuli, Ogiz, Yesemurat, Atamurat, Kiyas, Paleke, Oteniyaz, Kulambet, Arzymbet, Zhumabay, Shamurat, Zhaksylyk and others, who glorified folk poetry and art, brought to our days the centuries-old tradition of performing arts. The dastans they performed, "Alpamys", "Koblan", "Kyryk kyz", "Er Kosay", "Er Shora", "Edige", "Er Sayym", "Sharyar" had a wide audience and were dearly loved by the people. Melody and word are twins and brothers. In order for the word to reach the hearts of listeners, there is a need for musical accompaniment, therefore words and melody always walk together, shoulder to shoulder, as they say. In the blood arteries of melody

are our history, our pedagogy, our moral principle, our character, our worldview, our innermost feelings, our national qualities, our power. Therefore, the performing art with its musical depth, technical perfection of forms, dynamic power is an art that has no equal. Along with cheerful music, the zhyrau also performs a sad melody about social inequality, which at all times has called on people to fight against inequality and injustice. Therefore, the artistic images of dastans when performed by the zhyrau awaken great emotional strength in listeners - feelings of resistance to cruelty, love for life, they naturally manifest the actions of heroes who are ready to burn in fire for a just cause, to resist cruel fate.

Storytellers live with the feelings of the heroes of dastans, therefore they reflect the unique power of struggle, exciting and upwardly directed passion, angry revenge or icy sadness. During the performance, the faces of the zhyrau radiate light, their eyes glow with flame, giving amazing stage pictures. Rich and varied lyrical methods used by storytellers, psychological substitutions, rich emotional colors, other artistic and visual means give the heroes individuality. The ability to characterize the images of Gulaim, Nuratdin, Alpamys, Anzhim, Sharyar, Koblan, Aypارشy in an acting manner speaks of the multifaceted talent of the performers. In this regard, storytellers, like actors, live in the inner spiritual world of each image, experience the same torments and struggles as their heroes. Since the storytellers are the bearers of the art of acting on the real stage of life of their time, they give each character a special meaning with their actions, facial expressions, vocal recitative patterns, prose text transmitted by a guttural voice. The creative skill of the zhyrau makes the word in the melody sound like a trill of a bell. By means of ordinary lines of dastans they achieve unexpected, it would seem, results: with the help of logical stress rather complex images of heroes, their characters are fully revealed, last of all, by vocal capabilities, with the help of which the character of the heroes, their inner world, the range of their worldview, their purposefulness in the process of formation appear in a more convex volume. The multicolored melody of the kobyz, the simplicity of the musical language, energy bring true pleasure to the admirers of this art form, which is widely represented in music and general education schools, and its precious components of folk wisdom - the word and music serve the cause of education and training.

Conclusion

Every child who has ever heard such melodies as "Ayga shap", "Shol askan", "Sherbeyit", "Tolkyn", "Uily ziiban", "Kelte ziiban", "Zhan-zhan", "Kheuzar", "Koz aydin", "Zhigirma bes", "Tan atar", "Kun shygar", "Ylgal", "Kheyar", "Yagly beher", etc., will undoubtedly develop an interest in the history of their people, a love for beauty, for life. These melodies attract attention with their unique style, sound coloring, timbre, intricate patterns, repetitions, etc. All these melodies performed by the zhyrau are a means of educating the younger generation, which give them aesthetic pleasure and instill love for the homeland, are spiritual food that passes from generation to generation. A child who is brought up from childhood on such social relations, examples of stormy and open martial arts, will undoubtedly develop a sense of gratitude to great ancestors, respect for universal values and norms. Brought up on such examples, the youth will always glorify their people, their native land, from a young age, as the apple of their eye, will preserve and increase the customs and traditions of their people, will make them a shield of their people, and finally, will grow up to be a highly intellectual citizen.

References:

1. Adambayeva T. History of Karakalpak music in the 20th century. – Nukis: Karakalpakstan Publishing House, 1985.
2. Aimbetov K. Karakalpak folk wisdom. – Nukis: Karakalpakstan Publishing House, 1982.
3. Daukaraev N. Complete collection of poems. 2 volumes. "The work of two peoples". – Nukis: Karakalpakstan Publishing House, 1977.