Shashmaqam is a Central Asian musical genre, (typical of Tajikistan and Uzbekistan). Shashmaqam means the six *maqams* (modes) in the Persian language, *dastgah* being the name for Persian modes, and *maqams* being the name for modes more generally. The six *maqams* include Buzruk, Rost, Navo, Dugoh, Segoh and Iroq.

It is a refined sort of music, with lyrics derived from classical lyrical poems starting from Rudaki to the poets of medieval and late medieval period.

Shashmaqom includes more than 250 sung pieces from two categories that is instrumental and voiced singing. These further can be classified as the music pieces with cheerful melodies (Tarona and Ufar) as and the long complex «devotional» pieces (Sarakhbor, Savt and Talqin).

Starting from the XX century Shashmaqom was recorded and published in the form of separate collections, was scientifically studied and integrated in the new system of music education, and was actively used in composers’ activities in Tajikistan.

The instruments of Shashmaqam provide an austere accompaniment to the voices. They consist, at most concerts, of a pair of long-necked
lutes, *doira* – frame drum, and the *tanbour*.

A number of people’s singers of Tajikistan such as Boboqul Fayzulloev, Shohnazar Sohbov and Fazliddin Shahobov had made huge contribution in development, preservation and popularization of the Tajik Shashmaqom music. One of the greatest undertakings by these singers was establishing an academic Shashmaqom group in 1946. Between 1950 and 1967 under the guidance of the Sadriddin Ayni and Bobojon Ghafurov many Shashmaqom pieces were published in music note-sheet in 5 volumes. The endeavor of these scholars was also great in training the younger and next generation of Shashmaqom performers such as N. Aminov, B. Niyozov, B. Ishokova, L. Barakaeva, A. Soliev and many others.

Shashmaqom singing is taught and transmitted in «ustod-shogird» (tutor and disciple) style and each maestro who has his unique singing school or style teaches his own disciples who will continue his teacher’s school.

On the 12th of May in 2000 his Excellency President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon signed decree to re-structure the Shashmaqom ensemble function at the state Radio and
Television Committee and named it after one of the distinguished Shashmaqom maestro Fazliddin Shahobov. Now on every year on the 12th of May Shashmaqom Day is celebrated across the country. In the following up of this decree in various regions of the country new Shashmaqom groups have been organized, including the National Conservatory of the Tajikistan, «Nuri Khujand», State ensemble of Shashmaqom, “Shashmaqom Academy” and etc.

In 2003 “Shashmaqom” was recognized by UNESCO as the “Masterpiece of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity” and in 2008 was included in the Representative List of ICH of UNESCO (joint nomination by Uzbekistan and Tajikistan).
Performance art