

«Falak»

Falak is a traditional folklore music genre of the Tajik people. *Falak* means «heaven, fortune or universe». *Falak* primarily draws its verses from the oral tradition of folk poetry and stories, and secondarily from classic Tajik-Persian general classical poetry. The structure of *falak* is most often in one section and can form an interlude within a performance. The quatrains or couplet sung by the falak-singers are emotionally expressive and are rich with the philosophical and expressions of destitution of human life.

When used with the word *dashti*, as in *falaki dashti*, it refers to a performance by the voice alone with no instrumental accompaniment. Thus *falak* is distinguished by its mode of performance.

Instrumental *falak*, without voice, also exists, which is often performed on the *nay*, in Badakhshan in funnel-shaped flute *nayi Pomiri*; or the *ghizhak*. It can also be performed on one of the lutes of the region - the *Pamiri rubab* (falaki Badakhshoni is performed with this instrument), or *dotar*.

Falak is most often performed in Tajik with its dialectological varieties, i.e. dialect is expressed through the quatrains of different regions such as Kulob, Rasht or Badakhshan. In Badakhshan *falak* singers are often *maddahs* who incorporate in their singing themes of mystical/Divine love, separation, and reunion. However, *falak* themes most often relate specifically to human love, pain, suffering, familial separa-





tion and hope of reunion - between a parent and child, or a lover and beloved.

Falak as a unique traditional music genre in Tajikistan in the last century has seen significant development. The development of this due to the great contribution of the many professional falak-singers such as Bobokhalili Odina, Rajabmadi Vali, Madali Barot, Karimi Shish, Akasharif Juraev, Hoshimi Qosim, Odina Hoshim, Gulchehra Sodiqova, Abdulo Nazri, Ibrohim Kobuliev, Musavvar Minakov, Mamedato Tavalloev, Navruzshoh Qurbonhusenov, Mohjon Nazardodova, Nusayri Odinaev, Hakim Mahmudov, Fayzali Hasanov, Davlatmand Kholov, Safarmuhammad Murodov, Dona Bahromov, Asliya Iskanadarova and Panjshanbe Jo-

rubov. These maestros of flak music have also established their own singing schools and have trained many disciples who continue the work of their teachers.

The first professional “Falak” ensemble was established in 1989 under the guidance of Davlatmand Kholov. In 2001 by the decree of the President of Tajikistan the “Falak” ensemble was given state institutional status and since 2007 every year 10th of October is celebrated as Falak Day.

Falak genre is taught formally in the music colleges, including in National Conservatory of Tajikistan named after T. Sattorov and Tajik State Institute of Art and Culture named after M. Tursunzoda.