



Various Financial Dimensions of Indian Music

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Abstract – Music is the best gifted art of nature. The character of music is pervasive in every particle of nature, which is experienced continuously through life. It is an integral part of human life. Even, every person in the society is associated with music in some way or the other. In ancient times, the main purpose of performing music was to worship God and to entertain the general public. In the present time, many changes are seen in the field of music, as a result of which music has emerged as a major role in various other financial dimensions, not being limited to entertainment and God worship. Since, the scope of our Indian Music is very wide, it also creates different dimensions of employment. In this article, we will discuss how many such dimensions of music are there, which help an artist to earn money.

Index Terms – Stage Performance, Playback Singing, Drama, Music Therapist

Introduction – Music is considered the best art of all the art forms of the world, because it easily attracts and influences the public as compared to other art forms. Indian Music has a very special place in our Indian culture. Music has a special role in keeping our ancient cultures and basic ideologies connected. Owing to India's vastness and diversity, Indian Music encompass numerous genres, multiple varieties and forms which include Classical Music, Semi-classical Music, Folk Music, Light Music (include Bhajan, Gazal, Geet, etc.) and others. Many big stalwarts and great artists of the Indian Music World have made very important contributions in the development and progress of music.

In present times, normal life has become complicated to such an extent that every person living in the society has to adopt some occupation to fulfill the needs of his/her daily life. Therefore, even a person, absorbed in music practice, cannot keep a step outside the diameter of these material rigidities, that is, for that also it is very necessary to earn a living in more or less form. For this reason, fine arts, like music, which provide sacred, sensory and supernatural pleasure, have also had to be included in the chain of professions.

Undoubtedly, it is a harsh truth that a music seeker has to keep in mind the question of earning money, while facing the harshness of the society, but in this process, that is, while commercializing your art skills, the ideals of art and the level of dignity should always be kept in mind. So, there is an urgent need for a musician to establish such a balance between realism and idealism, so that the glory of musical art is not damaged even by a single particle. Hence, if a musician uses his/her art for the purpose of earning a living, then keeping the level of moral values, dignity, honor, prestige and pride.

The modern age is an era of specialization. In present time, by making innumerable divisions and subdivisions in each field, there is a provision to determine their experts and to give education-initiation according to that particular division-subdivision. The idea of specialization is also being adopted with enthusiasm in the musical arts, as a result of which many musical professions come before us. Here we discussed some Musical Professions, which are –

1. Music Teacher
2. Stage Performance
3. Playback Singing/ Background Music
4. Music in Drama (plays)
5. Lyricist
6. Music Producer
7. Music Director
8. Music Composer
9. Music Editor
10. Sound Designer
11. Recording Engineer
12. Cassettes, CDs, Album, etc. Manufacturer

13. Music Journalist, Critic and Editor
14. Instrument Makers
15. Music Therapist, etc.

Music Teacher

At present, many teachers are working in schools, educational institutions, universities, etc. and are earning a living by being absorbed in the service of music and teaching. Apart from this, now-a-days, personal education i.e. private tuition is also seen in the field of music like other subjects. In this method of teaching, the teacher provides personal education to the student at a specified place.

Stage Performance

The business of performing on stage in the field of music is very dazzling and fascinating business. From time to time, musicians keep introducing their talents, skills, etc. to the public directly and indirectly, which are being described below –

(a) Direct Stage Performance:

In direct stage performance, an artist performs his/her art directly in front of the public. Every stage performance is viewed in two ways i.e. through individual performance and through sponsors.

- In individual direct stage performance, performers personally display their artistic skill in front of the general public. The form of music, which is presented, is different according to public, i.e. either in the form of classical music or the light music. The audience enjoys and like these performances by paying a fee, in the terms of ticket booking or through passes.
- Stage performance through Sponsors: ‘Sponsor’ literally means ‘To Join’. But, in practice, the one who bears the managerial and financial burden for any program is known as “Sponsor”. Among the musical sponsoring organizations, SPICMACAY (Society for Promotion of Indian Classical Music and Culture Amongst Youth), Sangeet Natak Academy, Sahitya Kala Parishad, etc. names are particularly noteworthy. Apart from these, organizations like India Today – Musical Group, NDMC, Sangeet Sankalp, etc. also organize their programs to encourage the artists of Classical Music from time to time and also provide them with appropriate rewards/awards etc. Through these sponsorships, many musicians have been able to perform their art at the International level as well.

(b) Indirect Stage Performance:

The performance, which is presented by various media rather than sitting in front of the public is considered as Indirect Stage Performance. All India Radio (AIR), Doordarshan, Audio-Video cassettes, CDs, etc. come under this.

Playback Singing/ Background Music

Playback musicians do the singing and playing to help the stage programs by staying in the cover, not on the amphitheater, that is, on the stage. Film Music and Doordarshan are the most promoted among the places using background music or playback singing.

(a) Film Music:

In speech films, initially only instrumental instruments were included in the background music, but the work of singing was performed by the hero-heroine themselves directly on the screen. Among these artists, the names of Ashok Kumar, Suraiyaa, K L Sehgal, etc. are particularly notable. After the sound track was attached to the films, the singing work was done by excellent singers rather than the actors/actress. Due to this, those singers, who are not suited for acting and actors/actress, who were not capable of singing, they got an opportunity to take up this profession. Zohrabai, Lata Mangeshkar, K L Sehgal, Mohd. Rafi, etc. are some notable playback singers in the primary films. At present, innumerable singers and instrumentalists are earning a living by rendering their service in film background music or in playback singing.

(b) Doordarshan & Other Private Channels:

Today, in the programs broadcast on various Doordarshan Centers and Private Channels, in the melodies used at the beginning and end of the news, background music of many entertaining programs, the title songs of the serials, and some places, the use of background music for expression, music business is encouraged. Apart from this, the background music is used to make the advertisements more attractive which are shown on national and private channels.

Music in Dramas (Plays)

The play/drama uses both direct stage performance and playback of music. Before the advent of the film industry, the Drama System was heavily promoted. There was a provision for the performance of plays mainly in Uttar Pradesh, Bengal, Gujarat and all other places. But in the present time, the promotion of Drama is very less and it is very complicated to adopt it as a business. Because, today, the Film Industry has taken the place of Drama (Plays) and the trend of common people is also increasing towards films. That’s why it is difficult in today’s time to do business or earn money in this field i.e. through Drama/plays. Nevertheless, in some cities, still we do get to see the performance of religious plays, but there is no certainty of earning money of the artists.

Lyricist

A lyricist or lyrist is someone who is involved in writing creative words that are used in songs. In the present time, lyricist earn money by composing songs for the promotion of many ideas in Films, Doordarshan, Serials, Religious, National, Cultural festivals, and also personally.

Music Producer

A Music Producer or Record Producer is a recording project's creative and technical leader, commanding studio time and coaching artists, and in popular genres typically creates the song's very sound and structure. This profession is also a good way to earn money.

Music Director

A Music Director is the person responsible for the musical aspects of a performance, production, or organization. This would include the artistic director and usually chief conductor of an orchestra or concert band, the director of music of a film, the director of music at Radio Station or Doordarshan, the person in-charge of musical activities or the head of the Music Department in a school or college or institution, the head bandmaster of a band, etc. In these areas, they have earned money by showcasing their art skills.

Music Composer

Music composers work to arrange technical aspects of each recording like harmony, melody and tone, rhythm, and then perfect them with highly technical recording equipment and software packages. In simple words, composer is a person who sets a song to music. Through this profession, musicians can also earn money.

Music Editor

Music editors intensify the emotional impact of a movie or serial by creating the soundtrack. They contribute mood, atmosphere and the occasional catchy theme tunes. They usually start work while the film or serial is being edited. They work with the director to decide on the purpose of the music, find a style to suit the story and mark the points in the film/serial where music is required. Music editors attend all recording sessions, helping with any revisions and design a 'click track' which is used to help the musicians achieve synchronization with the movie/serials. This is also a demanding profession and a good way to earn money.

Sound Designer

A sound designer is responsible for an audience's audio journey through a production. The sound designer works with the director and the rest of the creative team to make decisions about what an audience hears when they watch a piece of theatre. They have also earned money by showing their designer skills.

Recording Engineer

The recording engineer oversees many technical and aesthetic aspects of a recording session and is responsible for the overall sound of all recorded tracks, ensuring that the mixing engineer has good material to work with and that the final product satisfies the artists and producers.

Cassettes/ CDs/ Album - Manufacturer

In modern times, as we know, through Cassettes, CDs, Album, etc. the singers, instrumentalists, music directors earn money. But, addition to this, manufacturers can also earn money by working in these albums, cassettes, CDs, etc.

Music Journalist, Critic & Editor

The work of observing concerts, happening from place to place and critically interpreting all kinds of news related to the Music world, can be earned by doing the work of Music Journalists, Critic and Editors.

Instrument Makers

Musical Instruments are very important tools for producing musical sounds. Musical instruments are constructed in a broad array of styles and shapes, using many different materials. Innumerable instrument makers are earning money by producing/ making musical instruments. Today, apart from traditional musical instruments, the promotion of electronic instruments (like electronic Taanpura, Swarmandal, Tabla, etc.) is in abundance, due to which their manufacturers and distributors have also got the means of good income.

Music Therapist

Music Therapy is about manipulating how music affects a person into something innately positive for a variety of different types of patients. The possibilities of curing various diseases through music are emerging strongly. Therefore, if proper research work is done in this area by integrating music and medicine, then it can be adopted by the society as a strong profession. This is also a good way to earn money. This therapy is beneficial for mental health, communication, neurology, physical therapy, etc. whether a patient is playing music or listening to it. Music therapy works by tapping into a patient's emotions, biology and brain function.

Conclusion: All the above stipulated points allude to the various financial dimensions of Indian Music which shows that Indian Music embraces itself by time to time. The ramification of financial dimensions helps the musicians and performers to take the advantage of the opportunities available in the current market.

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