Published: December 15, 1988
Last Updated: November 2, 2016

BAYĀT(MUSIC)

BAYĀT or BAYĀTĪ, one of the old modes of the Irano-Arabic musical tradition, mentioned for the first time by Šayḵ Ṣafadī (9th/15th century; Shiloah, p. 304) and by ʿAbd-al-Qāder b. Ḡaybī Marāḡī (d. 1435; pp. 64, 72) as one of the twenty-four *šoʿba*s sometimes called Nowrūz-e bayātī. According to the old sources quoted by Forṣat-e Šīrāzī (p. 20) it started on Ḥosaynī, then Ḥejāz and Rakab, then ended in Segāh and Neyrīz. In *Bahjat al-rūḥ* it appears as one of the twenty-four *šoʿba*s derived from the *maqām* Kūček; its old name was Nowrūz-e Aṣl (ibid., p. 80), a definition that is still quite relevant to the Arabic contemporary form.

Bayātī is a very important *maqām* of Arabic and Turkish classical music as well as popular traditions; it seems to have preserved its original form with the characteristic tetrachord (*jens*): *D E*p *F G* (p = *koron* or half-flat), also called Ḥosaynī, and extended in *G A B*b *C*.

As a distinct mode, its name has disappeared from Persian music, but it survives in the taxonomy of the *āvāz*, Bayāt-e Eṣfahān, Bayāt-e Tork (Zand), Bayāt-e Kord, and of the important *gūša*s of Bayāt-e Šīrāz, Bayāt-e ʿAjam, and Bayāt-e Rājeʿ. In this terminology, Bayāt refers to the modal context in which these modes are performed, i.e., their lower tetrachord characterized by the notes *C D E*p with the finalis on *D*. This interpretation, although ignored by Persian theoreticians, relies on comparative and historical musical analyses. In Azarbaijan, too, it is found only in that context and in a rare *maqām* called Čobān Bayātī, close to Bayāt-e Kord.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bahjat al-rūḥ (an apocryph of ʿAbd-al-Moʾmen b. Ṣafī-al-Dīn), ed. H. L. Rabino de Borgomale, Tehran, 1346 Š./1967.

ʿAbd-al-Qāder b. Ġaybī Marāġī, *Maqāṣed al-alḥān*, ed. T. Bīneš, Tehran, 2536 = 1356 Š./1977.

A. Shiloah, *The Theory of Music in Arabic Writings (c. 900-1900): Descriptive Catalogue of Manuscripts in Libraries of Europe and the U.S.A.*, Munich, 1979.

Forṣat-e Šīrāzī, *Boḥūr al-alḥān*, Bombay, 1332/1914; ed. ʿA. Zarrīnqalam, Tehran, 1345 Š./1966.

Search terms:

□□□□□ bayati bayaati bayaty bayaaty