

# Western Influence on Bollywood Music

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Research Practice – C33496166

Submitted in partial fulfilment of  
the requirements of Leeds Beckett University  
for the MA Music for The Moving Images

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## 1 Introduction:

Out of many several motives to choose 'Bollywood Film music' as my project, the major aim was to serve and learn from the ethnicity of my own country. From the beginning of my music career, I was highly influenced by the versatility of musicality in the Hindi music industry. From dance music to orchestrated musicals, the industry serves you the multiple genre music at its epitome. After working in the live performing industry in India, the realization and urge of gaining more knowledge pushed me to acquire this opportunity. Understanding the anecdotal and precise fundamentals of Hindi film music and how it came under the influence of western culture. The reason of critically reviewing this topic is to dive into the knowledge about how western music influenced various genres in Hindi film industry, as well as to study the books related to that topic. This review will also revolve around the adaptation of western music in hindi film industry to solidify the reasons and how it changed the perspective of audience in terms of changing their music taste. It also explains how the artist/ bands from the hindi music industry, took an opportunity to create their strong vision about the western music culture. All the data and analysing of the books, helped me gaining some in-depth acknowledgment about the **Western Musical Influence on Bollywood Music**. Bollywood as term is used to explain the whole Film fraternity, which can include all the actors/directors/composers etc. Hindi Music Industry or Bollywood Music industry will be used as explaining about only the music industry rather than the whole film industry. We will also be considering the facts of reviewing such topics to understand the correlation between two totally different worlds of music. In this review, I have also explained couple of genres which are highly influenced by western music industry, the genres which never used to be the part of the mainstream Bollywood music. Simple adaptation of such genres made huge differences in changing the ideologies, audience took their own time to perceive the change in musicality. A few creative artists of our classical heritage, such as Hindustani musicians Brijbhushan Kabra and Vishwamohan Bhatt (guitar), and Carnatic musicians U. Shrinivas (C-mandolin) and Kadri Gopalnath (saxophone) have skillfully Indianized instruments of their adoption wedding band in some small Indian region is very interesting. Genres explained below represent the change in musicality happened after the western musical influence, as these genres have no roots related to Bollywood music. Described genres can be the

perfect example to justify the statement of accepting the western music culture, several bands and artists who pioneered this acceptance are also briefly explained. Names of given genres are classified in relation to Indian music by using abbreviation like Indo/Indie (India/Indian), many people also prefer to use the term 'fusion' music as well (Kaushik Bhaumik, 2004). This understanding of genres made me realise the impact of western influence on Hindi mainstream music. Western music in India is also considered as under-researched, lack of influence explanation is provided. Audience has less knowledge about the facts and roots of genres, explanation of labelled genres below fills these gaps (Clayton 2009).

### **1.1 Indian POP music:**

Indi pop, most synonymous with Bollywood movies, is a term used to describe danceable Indian pop music. With Hindi lyrics, huge orchestra film music, overdubbed with dance beats, it was described as "sugar-coated dance melodies" Indians seem to be more loyal to songs than singers. Most of the music is now in the form of cassettes that people listen to. They also pirate cassettes and CDs. With the playback singer Ahmed Rushdi's song 'Ko Ko Korina' in 1966, pop music got its start in the South Asia region. It is based on an amalgamation of folk and classical music from various parts of the world with contemporary beats. Globally, Indian pop music is on the rise. All India Radio is helping to promote Indian music worldwide. Initially, Bollywood music was not included, and audiences did not watch it. The rate rose by 70 percent when Bollywood music was launched (Hays, 2015).

### **1.2 Indo Rock and Heavy Metal:**

Euphoria: This band took the culture of Western rock to India for the first time, but they combine electric guitar with traditional Indian instruments such as tabla, sitar, and dholak. The lead vocalist is a qualified doctor and they have now inducted female members into the band. Their music was called Hindi rock by reviewers. The group's fame is more than a decade old (Hays, 2015).

Indian Ocean: Founded by a group of friends in 1990, Indian Ocean is a contemporary band for fusion music. One reviewer described their style as "Indo-rock fusion with jazz spiced rhythms that combine Sanskrit prayers, Sufism, environmentalism, mythology, and revolution." Indian Ocean went on to make music for the award-

winning film Black Friday based on the Mumbai bombings of 1993 with their first album, named Kolkata (Hays, 2015).

Demonic Resurrection: They describe their style as Demonic Metal, perceived to be one of India's strongest heavy metal bands. In November 2000, their first album, Demonstealer, was a flop. A relaunch was much better appreciated a year later. Most of the original demons have left the band today, but the Scandinavian-style black metal influence is still visible. Their most ardent fans call them "Gods of Metal." (Hays, 2015).

## 2 Western influence on Bollywood Music:

From the very beginning, Western influence on Indian film music was present. A decent combination of Indian and Western instruments was used in the live orchestras that followed silent films. Later, with the advent of sound, this orchestral template was repeated as some of these musicians transformed into music directors. In the 1940s, the film song started to make leaps in complexity, both in terms of its composition and orchestration, under music directors such as Ghulam Haider [Khazanchi, 1941], Anil Biswas [Kismet, 1943], and Naushad Ali [Anmol Ghadi, 1946] (Bhattacharjee, 2019).

(Parnerkar M., August 2019, Point of View: Western Influence on Indian Music):

This article comprises of the contributions of various Indian musicians who encouraged utilisation of western music instruments in the Indian music. As Manohar Parnekar states Indian music culture has been inspired by the classical music of the West, but it may not have done so in a manner and on a scale that we can readily understand. (1) The two systems of classical music, namely Hindustani and Carnatic (regional state music), (2) film and light music (sugam sangeet), (3) commercial television advertising and (4) music education, are the four large areas in which Western influence exhibits itself. In Carnatic music, Western instrumentation has been adapted. Long after, the violin emerged as the most common instrument for both accompaniment and solo recitals. One of the first Indian musicians to play the violin was Baluswami Dikshitar (1786- 1858), brother of Muthuswami Dikshitar, taught by a foreign teacher. It is impossible today to picture a recital of Carnatic music without violin. Most notably, Lalgud G. Jayaraman and L. Shankar for their style and technique of innovative southern violin talents, received glowing testimonials from Yehudi Menuhin, one of the finest violinists of the last century. A few creative artists of our classical heritage, such as Hindustani musicians Brijbhushan Kabra and Vishwamohan Bhatt (guitar), and Carnatic musicians U. Shrinivas (C-mandolin) and Kadri Gopalnath (saxophone) have their adoption tools so skilfully Indianized that often we may wonder about their true roots. The clarinet is one of Mozart's favourite Western instruments, on which he composed one of his renowned concertos. Via the bands, this instrument reached Indian music and then became iconic later in the folk theatre

of the northern states and Bengal. The recognition for the inclusion of Western orchestration in the song and background score of Indian film music goes mainly to the highly innovative pair of Timir Baran and Pankaj Mullick. Rising stars including Anil Biswas, Naushad, the duo of Shankar-Jaikishan, and Salil Chowdhury supported the process started by these pioneers; it was later brought to new heights by R.D. Burman, Ilayaraja and A.R. Rahman.

Sharma, S., 2018. Mixing of Western Music Concept into Indian Music:

Because of the beginning of globalization and modern popular music forms, it has become difficult and almost impossible for classical musicians to compose and perform only classical Hindustani music. Since this spot was taken over by pop culture, hip hop and rap, classical Hindustani music is no longer the ideal or chosen alternative among most of the young people. A global obstacle for classical musicians has been generated by the infectious and unforgettable rhythms and lyrics of contemporary popular music. There is difficulty in classical Hindustani music, and it needs a thorough knowledge of the Raag and Taal, making it less attractive to the younger generation. A gulf is therefore developed between the older individuals who enjoy classical music and the younger generation. Composers in this country are now preferring to combine various elements and instruments of the classical Hindustani type with elements and styles of Western or other musical systems to solve this issue and restore and preserve this musical culture. Hindustani classical music is currently testing with several different musical concepts to create a combination of music popularly known as fusion, while many classically trained musicians still continue to flourish. Due to its vibrant and catchy rhythms, modern fusion music styles have proven more desirable and appreciated by the youth of today.

Ingle, D., 2015. World music and its influence on Bollywood over the years.

This article revolves around the pioneers who started bringing up the influences into the Indian cinema from the west culture. 1950-1960 This decade was considered the most innovative and curtail years for Bollywood Music Industry. This decade was held by some legendary film music composers and singers, which we know them as the pioneer of introducing the western music culture in Bollywood. According to sources the 1952 film 'Aan' was the first film to grasp the position of being the first Hindi film introducing the western musical culture, music director of the film Naushad was the first person in India to use the 100-piece orchestra and captured the nuances of western music. After this film several newcomers introduced many different western cultural musical activities in Hindi film music industry, genres like Jazz and Rock n Roll were also introduced in the similar way to the audience in mid-50's (Ingle, 2015). This article also explores the acceptance of the western influence over the time, to build an audience for such genres took a long time before it became mainstream Bollywood music. Early 1960's the music composer known as Rahul Dev Burman and also he took his steps in the Hindi Film Industry as the composer who was about change the dance music in India for good. At the same time 'The Beatles' were touching the great heights in western world, after seeking this opportunity of using some of the Beatles song and translate them in Hindi also helped him gaining a lot of popularity. 'Dekho Ab Toh' from the film 'Jaanwar' in 1965 is the replica of the song 'I want to hold your hands' by 'The Beatles' even the video of the song replicates the style and expressions of the band members. After this the cycle of many new artists began to get involved in the similar genre of Rock n Roll and impressed the Indian audience by their creativity. Later on, RD Burman also introduced the disco music with the infusion of Latin and Arabic infusion in his music. However, the obsession of disco music faded away in late 80's.



Evans, A., 2016. Music in India: An Overview

This article covers an in-depth explanation about relationship between the people and the film/music industry in India. It discusses the philosophical and the musical knowledge simultaneously, describing the differentiation between techniques and the musical approaches among the Indian and Western music industry. How slowly and gradually the influence took a different shape to be precise and acceptable in the society, nuances of the music history in the article made me understand the different approaches to bring something new to the audience. It all began with introducing instruments like Harmonium and Violin to the Hindi Music Industry. As the technology became the big part of the music industry, the vast change was seen in the influence coming from the western world as well. Using of 100-piece orchestra suddenly changed into using the high-technology MIDI keyboards and other electronic equipment's which disturbed the life of lot instrument players. This transformation also affected the music industry and the audience to accept genres like EDM in mainstream Bollywood films, over the time this revolution became the essential part of the Hindi Music Industry. At present, the party music is all about the electronic music composed and played by western DJ's such opportunity gave a chance to Indian DJ's to step inside this industry and make a difference (Evans, 2016).

AMEC. 2016. Influence of Western Music in Indian Music Industries – AMEC.

Music theory somewhere plays an essential role in finding the roots of the music and how it gets evolved within the time frame. This article explains how the western ideologies of musical theory influenced Indian classical theory to articulate the fundamentals of the music. In many cases the name of the particular technique or scales vary for instance *natural* note in western world is known as *sudh* (means pure) in Indian classical music. The blending of some major musical ideas from the west into the traditional Indian music opened many new doors to the composer to create wide variety of symphonies and orchestrations, the language became universal between both the worlds. The major influence from the west was the '*staff notation*' the musical language which helps performers to understand the composer's vision and essence of masterworks, after this adaptation many great musical pieces by Mozart, Beethoven were used in various films and background scores by the composers.

Bose, F., 1959. Western Influence in Asian Music.

This article talks about the history of influences from the western world to the eastern world, involving the terms like international trade and colonisation refers to the platform of how music would have travelled between these two different realms. Preserving ancient form of arts and music in Europe and America during the twentieth century overwhelmed the Asian community to understand the merge with international music. This article also discussed the possibilities of the adaption in Asia, the dimensions of art in the form of poetry music. As describing poetry became the form of music as many composers around the world used this ideology of using the poetry as the narrative of the musical composition in the west. The poet and the composer Rabindranath Tagore used this amalgamation of poetry and music which gave a very different style and elements to the Indian classical music, his ideologies worked in the favour of understanding the art of musical construction to the Indian audience.

### 3 Conclusion:

After gathering the abundance of knowledge related to the Bollywood, my point of views related to the Indian Music industry changed in a very positive way. To discover the right path in the industry it was necessary to dive into the precise knowledge of the field, such modules give an opportunity to acknowledge the creativity of the research area. After understanding the literature and timeline reviews of the past in the Bollywood industry, it will be adequate to mention the abundance of opportunity and desire to explore the creative areas in this field. Interjection of westernization in Bollywood opening up many new and experimental music, as per the time is changing the industry of Hindi Film Music is prepared to evaluate the involvement of young and experimental artists. After reviewing all the mentioned data, I am positively convinced about the influential knowledge of Western music on Bollywood music. This knowledge will lead to the other part of my most desirable question that how I can be the music composer in Bollywood industry, provided sources will also be helping hand in understanding the other vision of Hindi Music Industry. To understand the influence, it was necessary to enhance my musical vocabulary about the genres and the artists. Such information opens the door to invite more experimental and influential music. Studying about classical Indian artists and how they took a step forward to introduce so many western elements in the classical music was very commendable. As far as my opinion is considered, I am very much fascinated with fact of getting western influence in Hindi music industry, as it is not about the competition it is about the adaptation and to be updated with new styles of music and genres. The classical artists in India might have struggled a lot with such vast impact of western music, being modernized is not something which everyone can relate with. My ideology about western influence will always be welcoming, it might take me some time to dive into the roots and understand all the fundamentals as a composer. Studying abroad also made a big difference on my musical behavior of accepting new type of music genres - *fusion*, this experimental combination of mixing the ideas and instrumentations and desire to create something new will be helpful in music composer's field. I am convinced to accept this relationship of western music and Indian music, upheld with my traditional values in the form of art will be something different experience to me. In my upcoming research, I will also be looking in depth of how to compose Bollywood

music with the trend, before starting to work for the Hindi music industry, I want to broad my thoughts and acknowledgments of the culture and the audience first. This influence opened so many doors for many young musicians and composers to adapt the new ideas with big ambitions and experiments.

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