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REPORT ON DOUBLE REED INSTRUMENTS OF NEPAL

Abstract

Nepal, with its extreme topography, is home to a great variety of castes and ethnicities each with their own language and distinct music culture. Insect sounds, and bird songs have influenced folk music composers, musicians and musical instrument makers throughout time and double reed instruments, in particular, tend to mimic natural sounds. More than a score of distinct double reed instruments has been described by Music Museum of Nepal some with straight bodies and others curved like the crescent moon.

Keywords

Nepal, musical instruments, double reeds, castes, descriptive methods

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Ram Prasad Kadel, PhD, has spent more than a decade in researching and preserving the musical instruments of Nepal. He has also established the Nepali Folk Musical Instrument Museum (NFMIM) in 1997 after starting collecting orally transmitted musical pieces since 1995. His research shows that there are 59 different ethnic groups and more than 100 castes which have separately developed their own instruments and evolved their own music styles.

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