

## THE PROBLEM OF PRESERVATION OF THE INTERVAL SYSTEM OF AZERBAIJANI TRADITIONAL MUSIC

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Introduction of 12-tone equal temperament and contemporary spread of key musical instruments led to a lack of demand and even loss of the fundamental relationships which are dictated by the nature of musical sound and its perception by human hearing – relationships, which are reflected from the ancient times in the musical tuning systems (pentatonic scales, the Pythagorean, natural, oriental and other scales). Meanwhile the fine nuances distinguishable by keen hearing which was educated on a national modal basis are lost. Equal temperament smooths these minor differences and may cause roughening of hearing.

In this connection the question arises: how to keep clean and not to lose ethnic hearing, i.e. traditions of modal intonation - intangible, orally transmitted cultural heritage of the nation?..

This raises the problem of preservation of the pitch authenticity of Azerbaijani modes in traditional music.



At the initial planning stage it is intended to compare the earliest recording examples of traditional music (19th - early 20th century) with the modern performing of the same music and to analyze the results. Thus, the first task is to digitize music samples. Old recordings were made and exist in analog form. The problem is to convert them into digital form without loss of pitch authenticity.

Taking into account global processes that are common to all cultures, the problem of preservation of the pitch authenticity in traditional music as a cultural heritage seems important also for other traditional modal tuning systems.