



## THE DEVELOPMENT OF VARIETY ART IN UZBEKISTAN: HISTORICAL PATH AND MODERN STATE

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**Abstract:** *This article presents scientific insights into the introduction of variety art into Uzbek musical culture, the development of Uzbek national variety art, and the contribution of Uzbek composers and their creative styles in the advancement of this art form.*

**Keywords:** *variety art, education, upbringing, spirituality, art, knowledge, skill, melody, song.*

The formation of Uzbek art has gone through long historical and cultural stages, enriched in every era with unique directions and styles of expression. Today, one of the most popular and widespread directions in art is variety (estrada) art. Variety art began to develop rapidly especially from the second half of the 20th century.

Variety art is a form of stage creativity designed for a wide audience, encompassing music, vocals, dance, satire, and other entertaining genres. In Uzbekistan, variety art formed on the basis of a synthesis of folk music and classical traditions. This harmony gave rise to new stage expressions combining national and modern elements.

According to the National Encyclopedia of Uzbekistan, the term "estrada" has Spanish roots and broadly refers to stage-based entertainment forms, while in a narrower sense, it denotes professional stage art. Internationally, this field is



known by different names such as "music-hall" (UK), "variete" and "cabaret" (France), and "show" (USA).

The development of Uzbek variety art followed two main directions. On the one hand, folk oral creativity and traditional music were adapted to stage requirements (e.g., the lapars of Tamaraxonim and M. Qori-Yoqubov, performances inspired by the comic works of Yusufjon Qiziq). On the other hand, the influence of foreign genres and styles led to the emergence of new stage forms.

In the 1960s–70s, the development of radio and television significantly contributed to the spread of variety art to a wider public. During this period, the first variety groups, solo performers, and composers began to appear on stage. Soon, this art form became widely popular and began to attract large audiences. After Uzbekistan gained independence in 1991, variety art entered a new stage. Works based on national pride, historical memory, and cultural heritage gained great demand. Government support for variety art became evident through awards, festivals, and creative institutions. In particular, the Presidential Decree (PQ–4908) on December 2, 2020, established the National Institute of Variety Art named after Botir Zokirov. The main tasks of this institute include training qualified specialists, conducting research, preserving national variety works in musical notation, and developing creative schools.

Modern Uzbek variety art is distinguished by its diversity of genres, harmony of national and world musical traditions, youth involvement, and social significance. Variety art plays a major role not only as entertainment but also as a means of aesthetic education and instilling patriotism. The development of variety art since the 1940s is closely tied to the activities of vocal-instrumental ensembles and symphonic-jazz orchestras. Groups such as the "Music Hall" founded by M. Zholkov, the sympho-jazz orchestra founded by N. Zinin, and the "Yoshlar" (Youth) ensemble established in 1957 laid the foundations of this field.



Performers such as Botir Zokirov, Lola and Nozima Zokirova, Farmon Sodiqova, and Rustam Nomozov are regarded as pioneers of Uzbek variety art. Their creativity became a model of the fusion between folk traditions and modern stage art. Composers such as M. Mirzayev, Sh. Ramazonov, S. Yudakov, and M. Burhonov enriched the modern variety repertoire. Their works shaped a distinctive direction in national variety art and gained widespread popularity among the public.

**In conclusion,** Uzbek variety art has traveled a long historical path and today has become a branch rich in national identity, open to innovation, and possessing artistic value. This art continues to play a significant role in the spiritual life of the people.

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