

**THE ROLE OF COMPETITIONS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF MAQOM ART**

Pirmatova Nodira Yigitaliyevna,  
Honored Artist of Uzbekistan,  
Uzbek National Music Art Institute Named After Yunus Rajabi  
Head of the Department of “Maqom Singing”, Associate Professor.  
Tel.: +998 90 975 78 70  
E-mail: [pirmatovanodira952@gmail.com](mailto:pirmatovanodira952@gmail.com)

Burieva Komilakhon Rasulovna,  
Honored Artist of Uzbekistan,  
Uzbek National Music Art Institute Named After Yunus Rajabi  
Associate Professor of the Department of “Maqom Singing”.  
Tel.: +998 94 620 26 27

Shamurotova Mohichehra Abdinabiyevna,  
Honored Artist of Uzbekistan,  
Uzbek National Music Art Institute Named After Yunus Rajabi  
Associate Professor of the Department of “Maqom Singing”.  
Tel.: +998 91 406 17 17  
E-mail: [asal88-84@mail.ru](mailto:asal88-84@mail.ru)

**Abstract**

This article is a summary of the brief history, current status and development of the contests in Uzbekistan, which are considered important for the development of the art of maqom music, which has gained incomparable importance in the art of Uzbek classical music. It mainly talks about the competition of Maqom performers named after Yunus Rajabi in detail.

**Introduction**

It is known to everyone that the history of the art of classical maqom music goes back to the distant past. It is no coincidence that this art form has been passed down from generation to generation, from teacher to student (ustoz-shogird), and has reached our time. Its arrival, execution, study and teaching, development in general is undoubtedly the result of the incomparable services of the performers of the maqom. It can be said that the maqom performers played a decisive role in the formation and development of this classical art form. In fact, there are many historical examples of the most skilled performers being creative at the same time.

Let's not go too far, there is information that even in the recent past, skilled musicians and singers were also engaged in composing. We can cite dozens of master artists such as Ota Jalal Nasirov, Haji Abdulaziz Abdurasulov, Mulla Toychi Tashmammedov, Imamjon Ikramov, Tokhtasin Jalilov, Yunus Rajabi as examples. Along with performance, they have selflessly served for the further development of the industry through the creation of maqom.

Thanks to the hard creative work of master artists, the art of classical maqom has developed further. It has been 21 years since the perfection of the Shashmaqom series, which is the main

part of the Uzbek maqoms, was recognized by the world community as a masterpiece of the intangible cultural heritage of humanity. Therefore, learning and mastering, developing and properly promoting this magnificent musical series in the international sphere has always been an urgent issue. If the services of skilled performers are of decisive importance for this noble goal, it is a more responsible task to select the most skilled ones and introduce them to the world music society as representatives of our art. One of the main goals in fulfilling this task should be to conduct fair and high-level auditions among performers.

In order to develop the traditions of the classical maqom art at the next stage in new Uzbekistan, to discover young and new maqom performers, and to encourage them, the President and the government are doing a lot of work. It is certainly gratifying that many competitions with high prizes are regularly held among musicians and singers, bastakors and composers, musicologists, and their number is increasing year by year. It should be noted that the due attention paid to the art of classical maqom music has gradually begun to show results. Just one example, in 2023 in Baku, Azerbaijan, at the prestigious audition held as part of the VI International mugom festival called "World of Mughom", associate professor of the department of "Maqom singing" of the Uzbek National Music Art Institute named after Yunus Rajabi Mohichekhra Shomurotova won the Grand Prix award.

In February 1983, in order to further develop the traditions of classical maqom art, to discover young and new maqom performers, and to give them proper encouragement, it was a big and important event in the musical life of our country. A total of 38 young maqom performers from all over the Republic demonstrated their art in this first competition, which was organized under the initiative and leadership of the organizer, musicologist Faizulla Karomatov, who has great scientific potential, and is scheduled to be held once every 4 years. A total of 9 of them were winners and prize-winners. As one of the greatest achievements of this competition, it should be recognized that the future creative activities of the artists who won and received prizes were successful and beneficial for the musical life of our country. For example, the future creative activities of Abduhoshim Ismailov, Olmas Rasulov and Rahmatjon Kurbanov, who won the first place in the first competition, are well known to the representatives of our musical society. In addition, Rifatilla Kasimov, Abdurahim Hamidov, Yoldosh Tajiyev, who won the 2nd place; Hurriyat Israilova, Mehri Hojimatova (Bekjonova) and especially Mahmudjon Tojiboyev, who are the 3rd place winners, have made and are making significant contributions to the development of the art of classical maqom. It can be said that the great success of the competition of maqom performers, the unselfish and noble purpose, and the worthy future activities of the winners and prize-winners have made this historical competition highly prestigious.

Yunus Rajabi, the People's Artist of Uzbekistan, the holder of the Order of Merit, a true member of the UzFA - still the only academician in the field of music, is a great person who has written golden letters in the history of Uzbek music as a result of his active and productive creative activity.

Yunus Rajabi is remembered during many events related to classical music in Uzbekistan. Because he is a great scholar who served immensely for the development of Uzbek classical music, especially the art of maqom.

Yunus Rajabi was born on 1897 - January 5, in Chakar neighborhood of Tashkent city. Throughout his life, the musicians artist searched for, studied, researched, recorded on magnetic

tapes, taught and promoted the masterpieces of our national music. He did unprecedented historical works for the development of Uzbek national music art. That's why this competition is named after Yunus Rajabi.

The 2nd republican competition of maqom performers held in 1987 is also significant with the discovery of 15 unique musical talents out of a total of 63 young singers and musicians who have the potential to adequately continue the traditions of classical maqom. Akhmadjon Dadayev, Matrasul Matyokubov, Abdurahmon Kholtojiyev, Mahmudjon Tojiboyev and Mashrab Ermatov (1st place winners), Murodjon Norkoziyev, Matluba Dadaboyeva, Erkin Rozimatov (2nd place) were the winners and prize winners of this competition. The worthy and objective recognition of a number of potential singers and musicians, such as Rahmatilla Samadov (3rd place), increased the prestige of the competition.

The scope of the competition of maqom executors held on the eve of Uzbekistan's independence (1991) has expanded even more. Now, the contest has been named "regional" and has given the opportunity to participate to young maqom performers from neighboring Tajikistan. It should be recognized as one of the important aspects of this competition that it was given the blessed name of the great teacher Yunus Rajabi from the III Maqom performers competition. The jury headed by F. Karomatov presented the winners and prizes to skilled hafiz and musicians such as Tahir Kakhorov, Azamat Otajonov, Olmas Olloberganov, Abduvali Abdurashidov.

The most prestigious and unique competition of the IV maqom performers named after Yunus Rajabi continued its development, and in this same competition he was awarded the maqom of "International". Until this issue of the competition, general places were reserved for all instrumental voices and singers, but from this competition separate places were allocated for singers and instrumentalists. Also for musicians by 6 groups of instruments (gizjak; flute, koshnay, trumpet; tanbur, dutor, sato; kashkar rubobi, oud; chang, ganon; doyra, drum), singers' voice separate places were introduced in 2 directions (male, female). In addition, from this competition, the ensemble of musicians also had the opportunity to participate. In this competition held in April-May 1995, the Grand Prix level was also introduced, and the first owner of it was the well-known and skilled juggler Utkir Kadyrov. Among the 30 winners and prize-winners are R. Haydarova, S. Jurayev, M. Karimova, O. Olloberganov, S. Niyozov, T. Koziyev, Sh. Murodov, N. Pirmatova, S. Azizboyev and there are hafiz and musicians like S. Usmanov who continue their creative activities today. In addition, a new nomination - the "Hope" prize - was introduced in the competition, and it was presented as a symbol of confidence and encouragement to talented and promising young performers who did not win or receive a prize.

In 1999, this competition was transformed into a republic-wide competition. The jury led by Abduhoshim Ismailov found M. Rakhmatova, Sh. Matyokubov, H. Oripov, U. Rasulov, G. Mamazoitova, A. Jalilov as winners and prize-winners.

In 2003, the 6th Yunus Rajabi contest of performers of status of the Republic was again organized under the leadership of teacher F. Karomatov. After O. Matchonov, N. Kadirov, M. Voisov, I. Arabov, B. Kenjayev, E. Ahmedov and other hafiz-musicians became winners and prize-winners, this competition was unfortunately not held for 18 years.

As a result of the attention paid by the Honorable President Shavkat Mirziyoyev to culture and art in all spheres, in particular to the art of classical maqom art, the Law "On further development

of Uzbek national maqom art” adopted on November 17, 2017. It is no exaggeration to say that the art of maqom has reached a new stage in its historical development on the basis of PQ-3391 on development measures. On the basis of Resolution 237 of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated March 20, 2019, the “Young Maqom Performers” contest named after Yunus Rajabi was revived. Based on this decision, the Regulations of the contest were approved and it was decided that it will be held in Tashkent once every 2 years (in April) from 2020. The main goal of the contest is to “... raise the culture of maqom performance to a higher level, bring national maqom art to the world stage, discover talented young people, encourage and promote their creativity, promote maqom art among young people”. It was justified that increasing the interest of Performers between the ages of 17 and 35 compete in 9 categories.

More than 100 young maqom performers competed in this prestigious competition, which was supposed to be held in 2020, but was delayed by 1 year due to the pandemic, and 41 of them were selected by the judges headed by People’s Artist of Uzbekistan A. Ismailov the jury found him the winner and the prize winner. Among them, the 2 most talented singers who won the absolute victory in the category of “Maqom singing” (male voice) left a special impression on the listeners-spectators. In fact, in this competition, which consisted of 3 stages (rounds), they successfully performed masterpieces of our national music, from complex maqom samples to classic folk songs and masterpieces of mature composers.

The fact that young maqam performers show great interest in the competition is the result of the personal attention of our honorable President to the field and the first steps in the direction of “increasing interest in maqom art among young people” defined in the relevant decision of the government on organizing this competition. It should be recognized that one of the main goals of the competition, which is “to discover and encourage talented young people”, has been adequately fulfilled. Because all the winners of this competition have unique performance skills, they are new and young performers who are not yet familiar to the general public. However, there is a lot of work to be done in terms of the implementation of the priority tasks, such as bringing the art of national maqom to the world stage and properly promoting the creativity of the winners and prize-winners of the competition.

In conclusion, it should be said that the role and importance of pageants in the development of any art form is very high. In particular, it is necessary to widely use the practice of organizing and holding contests in order to further develop and flourish the art of classical music of maqom. Therefore, the work being done in this regard is commendable and important. The continuation and regular implementation of such works will serve the development of the field.

## References

1. Rifatilla Kasimov. An’anaviy ijrochilik. Tashkent, “Fan” publishing house, 2007.
2. R. Kasimov. Iste’dodning yangi qirralari. “Guliston” magazine. 1996.
3. “Maqom” scientific and methodical magazine. Tashkent, 2022, issue 1.
4. Lex.uz website.