

Introducing Professor Otanazar Matyakubov

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Professor Matyakubov is a musicologist of the Republic of Uzbekistan— among the Central Asian republics Uzbekistan is the largest by population. Dr. Matyakubov specializes in theory and history of the traditional music of Uzbekistan, and he is domestically and internationally known as an expert of historical study of the Central Asian music and musical instruments.

He is fluent in Russian, the common language of the Soviet years, and thus he has a number of publications in Russian. On the other hand, he has published many articles and books in Uzbek, a turkic language and his mother tongue. He can read a paper in Turkish and functions as a chairperson properly at such an international conference as “Music of the Turkic-speaking World” held in Turkey. Therefore, Dr. Matyakubov can be regarded not only as a leading musicologist in Central Asia of the former Soviet bloc, but also in the Turkic-speaking world. In addition, he has command of Tajik, the language of Tajikistan, which is in reality Persian.

Among his numerous publications, *An Introduction to the Oral Tradition of Professional Musicians* (*Оззакани ананадаги профессионал музыка асосларига кириши*, Tashkent 1983) written in Uzbek, is worth mentioning as a starting point of his musicological research. He examined original notations of the *maqām* found in the musical treatises of Oriental scholars, and summarized their theories illustrating with Western notations.

Another work which marks the turning point of Dr. Matyakubov's career, is *Fārābī: the Founder of Oriental Music* (*Фараби об основах музыки Востока*, Tashkent 1986). He discussed in Russian the contributions of musical treatises of Abū Naṣr Fārābī (d.950). In 2004, Dr. Matyakubov published a book entitled *Maqāmat* (*Мақомат*) in Uzbek. This book is a comprehensive volume of his studies concerning the *Shashmaqām* of Uzbekistan.

Last year (2015), Dr. Matyakubov published a voluminous book in Russian entitled *Узбекская классическая музыка* (Classical Uzbek Music) , (1) *Истоки и* (2) *Теоретические основы*, Ташкент, 2015. Dr. Matyakubov's strength is his mastery of various languages of Central Asia, not to mention Uzbek. He is able to read old manuscripts written in Persian, Arabic and Chagatai. His arguments concerning classical Uzbek music are based on valid research in original texts.

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