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Folk, Jazz & Beyond

A Case Study of Tigran Hamasyan

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Aim

Tigran Hamasyan is a renowned jazz-meets-rock pianist/composer known for his unique blend of music styles. The modern music scene is characterized by stylistic diversity and greater representation of previously underexposed cultures, while Tigran Hamasyan's music serves as a case study of how cultural heritage defines artist's vision. His fusion of styles is enriched primarily by Armenian folk, jazz and metal, making his compositions worthy of deeper academic investigation.

Methods

Qualitative research, score discussion, transcription.

Results

The melodic and rhythmic features of Hamasyan's tracks are distinctly Armenian in character.

No direct quotation of folk

· Ostinatos as the core of one of the *Manifeste* (2026) compositions, *War Time Poem* (2025)
· Armenian and progressive metal inspired rhythmic interplay
· Independent melodic lines
· Approach to embellishments that clearly borrows from the Armenian folk musical language (Injejikian, 1990)

Direct quotation of folk

· *Kakavik* – an Armenian folk song
· *Kakavik* in the Tigran's rendition – enriching the original melody
· Modal approach to the harmony reflects the modal thinking typical of folk melodies (Stefana, 2025)
· Changes of rhythmic values while preserving the original melodic contour

Conclusion

· Complexity & simplicity intertwined
· Innovative and distinctive artistic expression via combination of one's cultural background with modern styles

References

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