

## INTERPRETATION OF THE QOSHNAY INSTRUMENT IN CONTEMPORARY STAGE WORKS

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**Abstract:** This scholarly article provides an in-depth analysis of the artistic interpretation of the qoshnay in contemporary stage music, examining its timbral identity, technical capabilities, expressive potential, and evolving role in modern compositional thought. The integration of the qoshnay from its folkloric context into professional performance platforms such as theatre, cinema, symphonic music, pop, fusion, and world music is explored. Particular attention is paid to its dramaturgical function, contribution to national musical identity, and adaptability to modern technological environments. The study argues that the qoshnay has transformed from a traditional folk instrument into a professional artistic medium with significant expressive and cultural value.

**Keywords:** qoshnay, traditional instruments, contemporary stage music, timbre, dramaturgy, national identity, performance techniques, audio technology, creative interpretation.

The qoshnay is one of the oldest and most culturally significant Uzbek wind instruments. Historically, it has been central to folk ensembles, ceremonial music, pastoral traditions, and the ancient heritage of bakhshi storytelling. Its double-pipe construction allows for simultaneous drone and melody production, creating a distinctive timbral texture. This unique physical and acoustic structure has enabled the instrument to maintain relevance across centuries.

In contemporary music, the qoshnay is undergoing a significant renaissance, gradually transitioning from its traditional context into an essential expressive element in modern stage art. This revival is influenced by the global trend of integrating national instruments into contemporary genres, multimedia performances, and hybrid artistic forms. As a result, the qoshnay now embodies both historical memory and contemporary expressiveness, serving as a bridge between tradition and modernity.

Modern composers increasingly treat the qoshnay as a versatile timbral resource capable of conveying emotional, dramatic, and conceptual content. The instrument’s capacity for microtonal inflections, subtle vibrato, glissando, and ornamental techniques enables the expression of lyrical, epic, dramatic, or ceremonial moods in newly composed works. Contemporary composers have explored the integration of the qoshnay into symphonic suites, chamber music, theatrical scores, and solo compositions, thereby expanding its technical and artistic vocabulary.

The inclusion of the qoshnay in symphonic orchestras has enriched the timbral palette with national color, creating a unique atmosphere in modern compositions. In historical and patriotic works, the instrument functions as a dramaturgical marker, embodying national identity, cultural continuity, and historical memory. In theatre, it serves as a symbolic voice capable of expressing psychological tension, emotional depth, or period authenticity, enhancing the dramatic impact of performances.

In cinema, the qoshnay has become an important tool for conveying cultural identity and emotional nuance. In historical dramas, epic narratives, and films with national themes, the instrument enhances psychological depth and reinforces narrative imagery. Advances in studio recording techniques, including multi-layered tracking, reverb, spatial effects, and electronic processing, have allowed composers to explore innovative timbral possibilities that blend traditional sound with cinematic aesthetics.

In popular, fusion, and world music genres, the qoshnay’s role has expanded remarkably. Uzbek pop, jazz, and fusion composers increasingly incorporate the instrument for its energetic and culturally resonant timbre. Its improvisational flexibility allows performers to explore modal

transitions, rhythmic variation, extended techniques, and expressive ornamentation, creating new dimensions in stage performance. These innovations have broadened the qoshnay's reach, making it a vital component of contemporary musical expression.

Modern performance practice has advanced the technical, pedagogical, and artistic dimensions of qoshnay playing. Contemporary performers develop extended breath control, refined articulation, enhanced dynamic range, and stage-adapted performance techniques. Specially composed solo works, concertos, and orchestral parts have reinforced the instrument's academic and professional status. Conservatories and music institutes now emphasize cross-genre competence, improvisation, and integration with electronic music technologies, further enhancing the artistic potential of the qoshnay.

The qoshnay has thus evolved into a dynamic and versatile instrument, no longer merely a relic of traditional culture, but a modern artistic medium capable of significant expressive, dramaturgical, and cultural contribution. Its integration into symphonic, theatrical, cinematic, and popular music demonstrates its adaptability, vitality, and central role in conveying Uzbek musical identity within a global context. Continued research, creative experimentation, and international collaboration will ensure the instrument's enduring relevance and growing influence in contemporary music.

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