

Folk Arts Associated with Agro Life Style and Performing Arts in Sri Lanka

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Ancient folk community who spent a mobile life had no necessity for permanent dwelling places. In contrary, once the man started animal domestication and lead a family life, the need of the land became one of the basic needs that resulted in producing harvest and building an agro based socio-economic culture. The necessity for producing yams and grains, leaves and fruits found on the earth was the base for such a society. Owing to the said industry discovered by man about 10,000 years ago, people's life style began to change. Consequently, the community based activities; festivities, norms and customs and means of communication became an integral part of human life. This was specifically connected with the origin of the aesthetic activities such as dancing, music, art and architecture consolidating a cultured society within which specific traditions of art was found. Though it has been named as *Folk art* by the present day social scientists, the "folk" enumerates the authentic artistic elements of every single culture. Thus far, several studies have been undertaken to identify the authentic elements of Sri Lankan culture, yet, the identity of Sri Lankan music needs to have an in-depth investigation. Therefore, the present paper aims at identifying the native Sri Lankan elements in folk music connected with folk community in Sri Lanka. The study will envisage a literature survey to illustrate the true characteristics of folk music and a field study to examine the application of such characteristics in Sri Lankan folk music. It was revealed that Sri Lankan folk music has its own system of scales, notes, and tones, and melodic and rhetoric enchantments as well. It also revealed that all or many of the folk songs and recitals necessarily are connected to folk dance and the community enjoyed and expected harmony, prosperity and social wellbeing which the benefits they earned through such cultural activities.

Key words: *Folk song, Method of singing, performing folk arts, Rhythm, Singing styles*