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**TRACES OF HEATHENISM IN THE GEORGIAN
PERFORMING ART**

Since times immemorial Georgian people have had high musical culture, rich choreographic repertoire, and well-advanced musical instruments. Even in the heathen period secular music and songs that accompanied dances were spread among the Georgian tribes. It is noteworthy that the heathen time Georgian Folk songs survived to the present, however, its natural development had been terminated by the advent of Christianity. New faith and the new world vision brought new tunes of divine service. As different from the eastern Christian churches Georgian musical culture favored polyphonic canticles. It is also admissible that at the beginning even the Georgian canticles were monophonic.

Heathen trace in the Georgian performing art is noticeable in the ancient ethnic celebrations such as “lamproba” and “rvali”, where *perkhuli* dance, and songs and poetry competition were one of the main ideas and expectations of the day.