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THE GENESIS OF GEORGIAN CITY ROMANCE

The article is dealing with two root branches of the Georgian city son which combine both eastern and western intonations. The arrival of Persian culture in Georgia and its influence on melodies of Georgian songs are also described. The paper provides historical fact about Rostom, the king of Kartli who first introduced the Persian customs, including the Persian music, in Georgia.

Two following groups of intonations are identified in the repertoire of ashughs: Persian-Azerbaijani and local Georgian song intonations. The methods of expression of human lyrical emotions in ashugh melodies are of special interest. The ashughs' manner of performance is quite important: the songs were characterized by melodiousness in along breath. According to the ashughs' terminology, such songs were called "mukhambazi", i.e. a poem of rhyming quintuplets of five feet, and "baiati", i.e. oriental monophonic melody.

Such songs, in terms of their function and emotional purpose, are similar to urban romance which was mostly spread among the nobility and the rich.