

# Influence of British Taste on Indian Music

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What is North Indian art (Hindustani) music?

Cultural synthesis from several musical streams

- Vedic chanting (1000 BCE)
- Persian music (14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> centuries)
- Folk music
- Devotional temple chanting
- Sufi devotional song

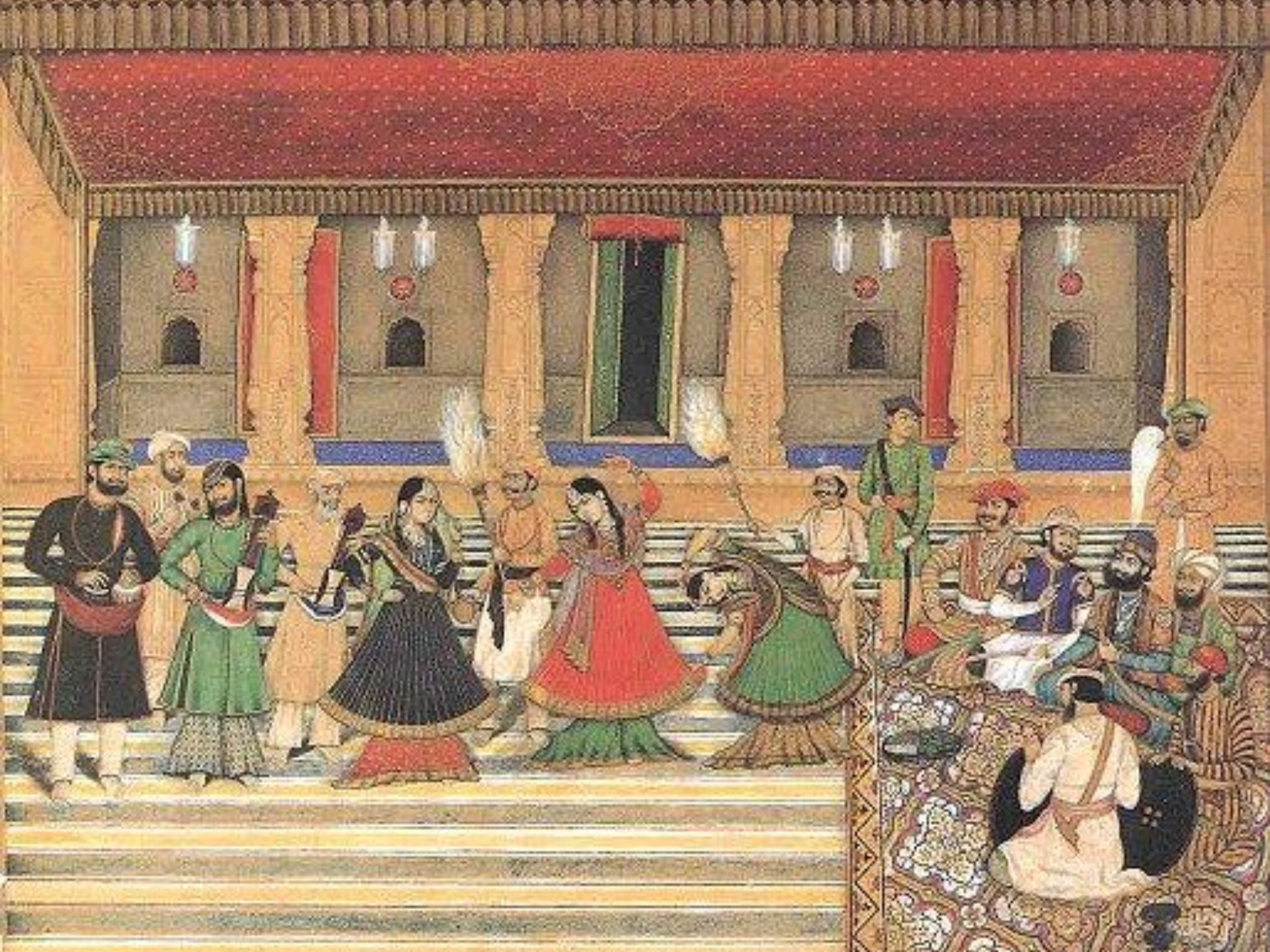
3 main genres of North Indian  
art (Hindustani) music:

Dhrupad

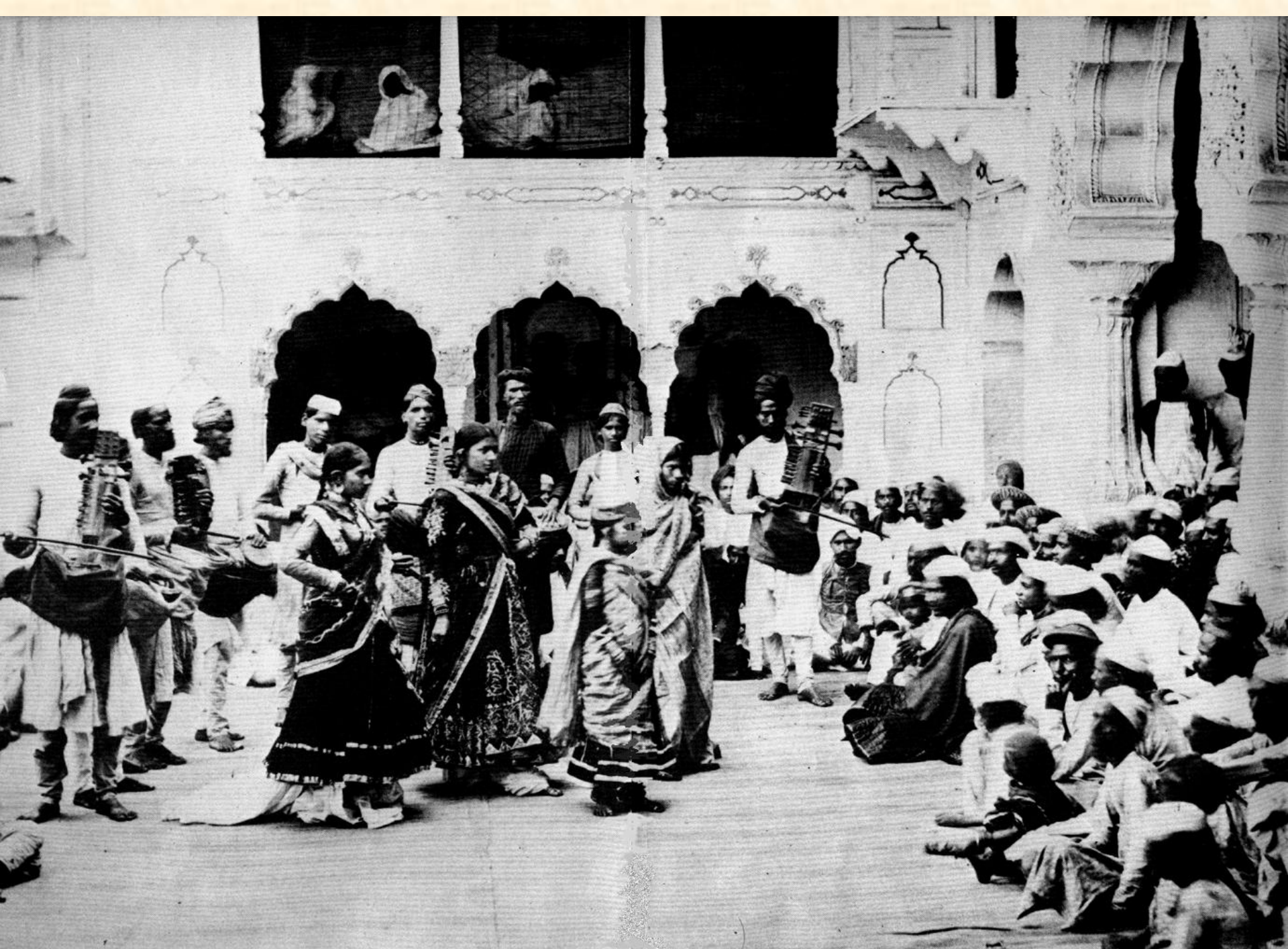
Khayal

Thumri

‘nautch’ < Hindi *nācnā*, ‘to dance’







1857: Revolt/Mutiny

1862: British India Steam Company  
registered in Scotland

1869: Suez Canal opens

Twofold response:

1. “Our music is ancient, religious and pure”
2. Aspects of the musical milieu that do not fit this perception need to be cleaned up

## 1882: Anti-Nautch Campaign

# Nation, notation and religion

(Janaki Bakhle)





## Strategies employed by female performers to emphasise respectability:

1. Demeanour
2. Repertoire
3. Fame/Status
4. Personal integrity

## Strategies employed by female performers to emphasise respectability:

### 1. Demeanour

- Plain or modest dress
- No engagement with song text
- No eye contact with audience

Strategies employed by female performers to emphasise respectability:

## 2. Repertoire

- Romantic rather than erotic texts
- “Serious” rather than “light” music
- Emphasis on devotional nature of texts

सुख कर आई पिया के संग ।  
दौरानी दौरानी सब फूले अंग ॥

*sukha kara āi piyā ke saᅅga*  
*daurānī daurānī saba phūle aᅅga.*

I have come from enjoying with my lover  
My sisters in law all look at me with envy.

सुख कर आई पिया के संग ।  
दौरानी दौरानी सब फूले अंग ॥  
टूटे बाल छुटे मुख पर  
तरखी है अंगिया  
बिखरी है माँग ॥

*sukha kara āi piyā ke saṅga  
daurānī daurānī saba phūle aṅga.  
ṭūṭe bāla chuṭe mukha para  
tarakhī hai aṅgiyā  
bikharī hai māṅga.*

I have come from enjoying with my lover  
My sisters in law all look at me with envy.  
Torn hair loose on my face  
My bodice ripped  
The red powder in my hair scattered.

# Strategies employed by female performers to emphasise respectability:

## 3. Fame/Status

- Imposing conditions as a means of empowerment
- Awards
- Education

## Strategies employed by female performers to emphasise respectability:

### 4. Personal integrity

- Marital status
- Religious disposition
- Seeing music as spiritual practice