

## THE WORK OF SKILLED ARTISTS AND SINGERS FROM NAVOI

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### Abstract

The city of Navoi is not only an industrial and scientific center, but also a city with a rich cultural heritage. In this region, traditional and folk musical folklore such as Shashmaqom, Buxorcha, and Mavrigi, as well as folk songs and lapars, the art of bakhshi performance, and epic storytelling (dostonchilik) have been skillfully performed since ancient times.

During the years of independence, many prominent representatives of culture and art have emerged from this multiethnic region. Among them is cultural and art figure Qodir Jo'raqulov, who professionally performed songs in Uzbek and Karakalpak languages. As a result of his many years of dedicated work, he was awarded the honorary titles "Honored Artist of the Republic of Karakalpakstan" and "Honored Cultural Worker of Uzbekistan." In 1996, he won second place at the Republican stage of the song competition "Uzbekistan – My Homeland." In recognition of his merits, Qodir Jo'raqulov was also awarded one of the highest state honors — the "Shuhrat" (Glory) Medal.

More than 60 of Qodir Jo'raqulov's songs are preserved in the Golden Fund of Uzbekistan Radio. He has also masterfully performed songs of fraternal peoples such as Kazakh, Turkmen, Karakalpak, and Tajik nations. In particular, his songs written to Sadoyi's poems "Ayirmasin," "Uzbekistan," and "Netar"; Gulrukh Shodiyeva's "Diydor Shirin"; O'tkir Rakhmat's "Do'stga zor, dushmanga xor qilma falak"; and Xosiyat Bobomurodova's "Qo'shiq aytay" have gained a special place in the hearts of the people. These works are lovingly and skillfully performed by his students Muqumboy Rajapov, Alijon Mamatqodirov, and Bobur Jo'raqulov.

Another prominent representative of the arts in Uzbekistan is Nurgul Bazarbayeva. Throughout her many years of productive activity, she has left a worthy mark in the field of culture and art. By organizing concert tours in the Republic of Karakalpakstan and, with the support of her mentor — People's Artist of Uzbekistan and Karakalpakstan Tamara Dashumova — mastering the secrets of Karakalpak folk songs, she became a highly accomplished artist. Her work was highly appreciated, and she was awarded the title "Honored Artist of Karakalpakstan" in 1994, the "Friendship" Order in 2008, and the title "Honored Cultural Worker of Uzbekistan" in 2017.

In addition, for her many years of service and contribution to the development of culture and art, Maxbuba Adnayeveva was awarded the badge "Devotee of Culture and Art."

The "Shok" Russian Dance Ensemble, operating at the "Yoshlik" Cultural and Sports Center in Zafarobod settlement, gave its first performance in 1997 during the Automobile Industry Workers' Day celebrations. Since then, the ensemble has regularly participated in concerts organized for residents of Zafarobod — home to representatives of 20 nationalities and over 7,500 people — as well as employees of the 5th Mining Administration, earning wide public acclaim.

The ensemble became the Grand Prix winner of the international children's, youth, and adult creativity festival "Crimea – Rainbow of Talents," a two-time winner of the Republican stage of the "New Generation" Children's Creativity Festival, and a four-time winner of the Republican stage of the "Kamalak Yulduzlari" Children's Creativity Festival. From 1998 to the present, at the annual "Qizilqum

Art Buds” competition among units of the Navoi Mining and Metallurgical Combine, the group has won first, second, third, and Grand Prix awards.

Another ensemble operating at the “Yoshlik” Cultural and Sports Center is the “Zebo” National Dance Ensemble, founded in 1998 by experienced choreographer Ramil Mubarakshin. Initially consisting of nine girls, the group has grown to include 80 young performers. The ensemble’s repertoire includes graceful and captivating dances such as “Tanovar,” “Munojot,” “Dilxiroj,” “Sallamno,” “Classical Dance,” “My Beautiful Homeland,” “Nozanin,” “Buxorcha Dance,” “Toyona,” “Rohat,” “Dutor,” “Afsunginam,” “Surxon,” as well as “Three Beauties,” “Farhod and Shirin,” “Healthy Child,” “Big Game,” and “Popuri” national folk games. Solo dances include “Playful Girl,” “Doira Dance,” “Cup,” “Tulip,” and “White Snow.” The repertoire also features Indian, Korean, Ukrainian, Russian, Kazakh, and Karakalpak dances.

One of the most notable cultural figures from Navbahor district is comedian Sohob Hasanov. He began his career at the “Shirin” Cultural Palace in Navoi. In 1995, together with Tohir Rahimov, Farhod Khalilov, Fakhriddin Davronov, and Khamdam Yormatov, he founded the “Qahqaha” theater studio under Navoi Television.

In 1998, Sohob Hasanov won first place at the Republican comedians’ competition held in memory of Yusufjon Qiziq Shakarjonov. Later, upon the invitation of People’s Artist of Uzbekistan Ergash Karimov, he became a permanent participant in television miniature shows, and since 2002 has been winning audiences’ hearts through the “Qahqaha” program on the “Yoshlar” TV channel. Together with the “Qahqaha” theater troupe, he has demonstrated his versatility through annual concert programs at the “Friendship of Peoples” Palace. For 25 years, the talented comedian and actor has been bringing laughter and joy to the people, earning a respected place in the art world.

Another important contributor to the development of culture and art is Muqumboy Rajapov, who was awarded the title “Honored Artist of Karakalpakstan” in 2005. Together with his mentor Qodir Jo’raqulov, he has composed music for poems in Uzbek, Kazakh, and Karakalpak languages, making a significant contribution to the arts. To date, he has composed music for more than 30 songs, including “Uzbekistan – My Homeland,” “I Adore My Uzbek People,” and “Konimeximsan,” which have won prestigious awards at national competitions.

Qodir Jo’raqulov, Nurgul Bazarbayeva, and Muqumboy Rajapov, through their performances highlighting the unique features of Uzbek, Karakalpak, and Kazakh art, have gained high respect not only in Uzbekistan but also in Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan. Among those who have made a major contribution to culture and art in Navbahor district is Shuhrat Majitov, a music culture teacher at Secondary School No. 3. Under his leadership, the “Binafsha” choir achieved significant success at the national level. A true devotee of culture, Majitov was one of the first organizers of the B. Zokirov Children’s Music and Art School No. 11 in 1994. He also founded the “Keskanterak” folklore-ethnographic ensemble.

In addition, artists such as Zuhra Sattarova, Alijon Mamatqodirov, Sobit Isabekov, Baqitjan Jusipov, Yesengali Qazaqbayev, Vays and Baysin Jubanov have won prestigious awards at republican festivals and competitions, making a great contribution to the development of cultural life in Konimex district. On May 30, 2018, the “Konimex Navolari” folklore ensemble participated in the “Nurli Navolar” Republican Festival held in Nurota district and won honorable awards. At the “Boysun Bahori” Folklore Festival in Boysun district of Surkhandarya region, cultural department employee Sabit Isabekov

participated in the bakhshi performance category and was awarded the nomination "For Best Participation."

Gulnora Mirzayeva also holds a special place in the development of culture and art in Navbahor district. In addition to her leadership and organizational work, she trained many students. As the leader of the "Xushon-Zamon" folklore-ethnographic amateur ensemble, she achieved notable success. In particular, at the "Nurli Navolar" International Folklore Festival held in Nurota on May 30–31, 2018, the ensemble presented its program "Singing Ancient Traditions," featuring o'lan, lapars, poetic duels, and folk terms, earning wide recognition. Another experienced and progressive educator is Davlat Hamroyev, who has devoted many years to nurturing a well-rounded young generation. Under his leadership, students of the music and art school have successfully participated in various regional and national competitions and festive events.

The "Tarannum" Maqom Ensemble led by Davlat Hamroyev won third place at the Republican stage of the "Ensembles" competition among children's music and art schools in 2018, and second place at the interregional qualifying stage in 2019.

Navbahor district has produced many prominent representatives of national culture and art. One of them is Fazliddin Bo'ronov, a graduate of the Bukhara State Pedagogical Institute's Faculty of Music in 1979, who made a significant contribution to cultural development in the district. With the children's vocal and dance ensemble "Kapalak," he participated in prestigious national events and the Central Asian Children's Festival in 1994, receiving high recognition. In 1996, he was awarded the title "Honored Worker of Public Education of the Republic of Uzbekistan."

Another artist from Navbahor, widely known for her roles in humorous programs such as "Sho'rdanak," "Handalak," "Qahqaha," "Qalpoq," and "Bumerang," is Huvaydo Jumayeva. She began her professional career while still a student at the Tashkent State Institute of Arts. Her first film role was an episodic appearance in the feature film "Ulfatlar." To date, she has appeared in films and TV series such as "Mergan Militsiya," "My Sweet Regret," "Panoh," "Kelgindi Qaynona," "Mehmonjonlardan Aylanay," "House at the Crossroads," and "Traitor." She currently works at the State Satire Theatre of Uzbekistan. In conclusion, during the years of independence, Navoi region has produced many musicians, singers, and devoted figures of culture and art. Through their creative work, they have achieved significant success and contributed greatly to the development of music and vocal art in Uzbekistan. They have played an important role in reviving traditional art forms inherited from our ancestors that were at risk of being forgotten. As a result, folk oral traditions such as lapars, bakhshi performance, epic storytelling, and ancient art forms of various ethnic groups have once again returned to the stage.